2026-27 Maitri Grant Program

About the Program

Thank you for your interest in the Centre for Australia-India Relations' (the Centre) Maitri (“friendship” in Sanskrit) Grant Program.

The Centre provides grants for economic, cultural and policy projects that benefit the Australia-India relationship. The Maitri Grant Program has been developed to deliver grants aligned to the Centre’s strategic objectives and per Australian Government’s Portfolio Budget Statement outcome 1.1.

The Centre provides these grants for economic, cultural and policy projects that benefit the Australia-India cultural and business relationship. We administer the program according to the Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines (CGRGs).

For this grant opportunity, up to $7,000,000.00 is available to be paid in financial year 2026-27 for grant activities to run over three (3) years.

- The minimum grant amount is $75,000.00
- The maximum grant amount is $800,000.00

It is anticipated that most grants will be between $150,000 and $500,000, but this does not preclude some grants being more or less than this amount.

The grants cannot exceed the amount of available funds.

Applications which include an in-kind or cash co-contribution towards the grant activities may be assessed more favourably, as per the assessment criteria. You will need to provide evidence that in-kind or monetary contribution has been secured.

Please refer to the 2026-27 Maitri Grant Program Guidelines when completing your application. Ensure you and your proposed activity meet the eligibility requirements and your activity does not include ineligible expenditure items.

If you have any questions, please email maitrigrants@dfat.gov.au prior to the advertised closing date.

The Centre will host an Information Session in due course. Details will be available on the Centre's website.

Objectives:

Through a program of impactful and innovative projects, the Centre intends to achieve the following **outcomes**:

- Stronger cultural literacy and improved mutual understanding between Australia and India
- Stronger Australian business awareness of, and capability to engage with, economic opportunities in India
- Deeper public understanding of India and a wider pool of experts offering policy solutions relevant to the Australia-India relationship
- Greater recognition of the contribution of diverse Indian-Australian communities to our national story
- Stronger arts, cultural and sporting connections between Australia and India

The Centre is seeking to fund projects that will:

Drive new areas of business engagement between Australia and India in sectors outlined in A New Roadmap for Australia's Economic Engagement with India, including the four superhighways of growth and other key priorities:

- **Clean energy** technology to further advance both countries' energy transitions and deliver supply chain resilience
- Initiatives that promote **education and skills**, including transnational education, research and industry collaboration and foreign branch campus sustainability
- Maximising **agribusiness** opportunities under the Australian-India Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (AI-ECTA) through knowledge sharing, improved productivity and efficiency, and collaboration on innovation
- Initiatives that will promote **tourism** from India to Australia, including business visitation, research of key Indian tourist cohorts, and major events tourism
- Projects that bolster the capacity to increase two-way **investment**
- Identify and provide education and opportunities for businesses without mature existing channels for market access, including **SMEs and First Nations businesses**
- Activities that support sports collaboration to generate economic engagement, including leveraging Australia's experience in delivering Commonwealth and Olympic Games, and align with the India-Australia Roadmap for Sports Collaboration

Deliver high impact cultural, and people to people projects, activities and exchanges that may:

- Build India capability at major Australian cultural institutions to improve mainstream understanding of India and promote institutional linkages
- Leverage the Audiovisual Co-production agreement
- Deepen public understanding of India and offer strategic policy options for the Australia-India bilateral relationship
- Harness diaspora influence to promote the Australian Indian relationship, including the Indian economic opportunity

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We wish you well with your application.

The Maitri Grants Program Team

Centre for Australia-India Relations

Eligibility Requirements

* indicates a required field

To be eligible to apply for this grant you MUST:

- have an Australian Business Number (ABN)
- be registered for the purposes of GST
- be a permanent resident of Australia
- have an account with an Australian financial institution
- be located in Australia

Note: Applicants that are not registered for GST will not have their applications progressed to formal assessment.

2026-27 Maitri Grants Program Application Form
Form Preview

Entity Type

You **MUST** also be one of the following entities.

Select one from the eligible list: *

- ○ A company incorporated in Australia
- ○ A company incorporated by guarantee
- ○ An incorporated trustee on behalf of a trust
- ○ An incorporated association
- ○ A partnership
- ○ A joint (consortia) application with a lead organisation
- ○ A registered charity or not-for-profit organisation
- ○ A publicly funded research organisation
- ○ An individual/sole trader
- ○ An Australian local government body
- ○ An Australian state or territory government body
- ○ A Corporate Commonwealth Entity
- ○ An Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Corporation registered under the Corporations (Aboriginal and /or Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006

ABN Check *

The ABN provided will be used to look up the following information. Click Lookup above to check that you have entered the ABN correctly.

Information from the Australian Business Register	
ABN	
Entity Name	
ABN Status	
Entity Type	
Goods & Services Tax (GST)	
DGR Endorsed	
ATO Charity Type	More information
ACNC Registration	
Tax Concessions	
Main Business Location	

Must be an ABN.

Eligibility Validation

Based on the responses to the questions above, you have been deemed ineligible and are unable to continue with this application. Contact for any questions

Eligibility Validation

This number/amount is calculated.

Contact Details

* indicates a required field

Applicant Contact Details

Entity Type *

○ Individual ○ Organisation

Applicant Name *

Organisation Name

Address *

Address

Address Line 1, Suburb/Town, State/Province, Postcode, and Country are required.

Phone Number *

Must be a valid landline number.

Email *

Must be the official organisation email address.

Website *

Must be a URL.

Twitter/social media handle or hashtags *

Other social media details

National Redress Scheme

Has your organisation, consortia partner or collaboration partner been requested to join the National Redress Scheme? *

○ Yes ○ No

Provide further information *

Has your organisation registered with the National Redress Scheme within 6 months of being asked to join? *

○ Yes ○ No

Provide further information *

Modern Slavery Act

Does your organisation or consortia partner comply with the Modern Slavery Act? *

○ Yes ○ No

Does your organisation have a statement on the Modern Slavery Statements Register? *

○ Yes ○ No

If you do not comply or are listed on the Register we may need to contact you to discuss.

(Modern Slavery Register)

Provide further information *

Australian Government Funding Check

Does the applicant have any outstanding reports, acquittals or breaches relating to any Australian Government funding? *

○ Yes ○ No

Details on outstanding Australian Government funding *

Grant Activity Details

* indicates a required field

Grant Details

Project Title *

Must be no more than 250 characters.

2026-27 Maitri Grants Program Application Form
Form Preview

Provide a brief description of the proposed activity *

Word count:
Must be no more than 50 words.

What is the start date of the activity? *

Must be a date.

What is the completion date of the activity? *

Must be a date and no later than 30/4/2030.

Amount of Maitri funding sought? *

Must be a dollar amount.
What is the total financial support you are requesting in this application?

Explain what your activity will do and what it will achieve *

Word count:
Must be no more than 300 words.

Provide a brief summary of the outputs/ outcomes in quantifiable numbers that w ill be delivered by the activity	**Quantifiable Output**
Must be no more than 200 words.	Must be a number.

Centre's Objectives

What outcome of the grant opportunity will your activity help the Centre achieve? *

○ Stronger Australian business awareness of, and capability to engage with, economic opportunities in India
○ Deeper public understanding of India
○ Recognition of the contribution of Indian-Australian communities
○ Stronger arts, cultural and sporting connections between Australia and India
Please choose one objective

Select a subcategory for the selected objective *

○ Clean Energy
○ Agribusiness
○ Investment
○ SMEs, new market access
○ First Nations business
○ Education and Skills
○ Tourism
Please tick one sub-category

Select a subcategory for the selected objective *

○ Arts ○ Culture
○ Audiovisual co-production agreement ○ Sports
Please tick one sub-category

In which countries will your activities occur in? *

☐ Australia ☐ India
You may tick more than one location

Location/s of Activity

Please ensure that in providing details of your locations below, all stated locations (across Australia and/or India) add up to 100 per cent.

Location/s of Activity - Australia

Activity locations must be within Australia and India. Please fill in this section to break down locations and indicate the % of time in each place. Add more lines as required.

Please ensure that activity location percentages add up to 100 per cent.

Australian State/Territory	City in Australia	Time in Location (%)	Additional Information
		Must be a whole number (no decimal place).	

Location Details in India

Please fill in each location within India and indicate the % of time in each place. Add more lines as required.

Location in India	Time in each location (%)	Where is the closest DFAT Mission?	Additional Information
	Out of 100% Must be a whole number (no decimal place).	The DFAT website lists all Embassies, High Commissions and Consulates.	
		Other:	

Joint or Lead Consortia Partner

* indicates a required field

Will the activities be undertaken with joint consortia partner/lead organisation? *

○ Yes ○ No

The application must identify all other members of the proposed group and include a letter of support from each of the partners.

Project Partners

Provide details of partners

Note: Partner institution letter of support must include:

- details of the partner institution
- an overview of how the partner institution will work with the lead institution and any other partner institutions in the group to successfully complete the grant activity
- an outline of the relevant experience and/or expertise the partner will bring to the group
- the roles/responsibilities of the partner and the resources they will contribute (if any)
- details of a nominated management level contact officer.

Joint or Lead Consortum Partner Name	Partner Details	Letter of Support

Other Supporting Documents (optional)

Please upload any other relevant supporting information (letters of support not included on this section, as uploaded previously in this form). Other supporting information may include: CVs & References that directly support your grant activity.

Upload supporting documents

Attach a file:

A maximum of 3 files may be attached.

Grant Activity Details

Grant Activity Timeline

The maximum grant period is three (3) years. You must complete your grant by **30 April 2030**.

Please provide a timeline of the major stages involved in delivering your grant activity.

Click '+' or 'Add More' to add more rows below

Activity Stage	Anticipated Start Date	Anticipated End Date	Explanatory Notes
Name each stage of your activity	Must be a date.	Must be a date.	Briefly expand on detail for this stage

Risk Management

* indicates a required field

Risk Management

Please identify the project's key risks and detail mitigations in the template provided: Maitri Grants - Risk Register Template.xlsx.

You **must** upload your completed Risk Register below.

Identified risks should only be relevant to your activity and will be unique to your project, sector or collaboration partners. Risks may include:

- Public Risk (Accident, Health and Safety)
- Fraud
- Cybersecurity
- Intellectual property leakage
- Foreign interference
- Co-contribution risk
- Conflict of interest
- Travel restrictions

Upload your Risk Register * Attach a file:

Budget Details

* indicates a required field

Budget instructions

- In the Budgeted Income section, please list all contributors to your project, including contributions by the entity seeking funding (A) and any other contributions by third parties (B). Please include in the comment section an indication of whether each source of funding is confirmed, conditional or pending approval.
- All in-kind contributions should be included and quantified in either section B (if from your entity) or section C (if from a third party)
- The Total Grant Amount section is automated, and it is the sum of the grant program funding sought from the Centre (A), contribution by the entity seeking funding (B), and contributions from third parties (C).
- In the Budgeted Expenditure section, please identify each expenditure clearly.
- The Budget Totals section is automated, it is the sum of total expenditure amount. This should equal the same as the total income (sum of A+B+C).

NOTE: Please provide budget figure amounts EXCLUSIVE of GST.

Ensure you read Section 5 in the 2026-27 Maitri Grant Program Guidelines to understand eligible and non-eligible expenditure.

Funding Amounts

- The minimum grant amount is $75,000.00
- The maximum grant amount is $800,000.00

It is anticipated that **most grants will be between $150,000 and $500,000**, but this does not preclude some grants being more or less than this amount.

The grants cannot exceed the amount of available funds.

Applications which include an in-kind or cash co-contribution towards the grant activities may be assessed more favourably.

Joint or Lead Consortia Partner Contributions

Will you receive joint or lead consortia partner financial or in-kind support? * ○ Yes ○ No

List all joint and lead consortia contributions here. These may be cash or in-kind contributions.

Applications which include an in-kind or cash co-contribution towards the grant activities will be seen favourably.

Click "+' or 'Add More' to add more rows below

Consortium Name	Amount (AUD)	Status	Cash OR In-Kind
Name joint or lead consortia	Must be a dollar amount.	Advise if confirmed, conditional or pending approval	Provide brief details here
	$		

Additional financial contributions or in-kind support

Other Income can include Grants from Australian Federal Government, State Government, Local Government, etc. These may be cash or in-kind contributions.

Applications which include an in-kind or cash co-contribution towards the grant activities will be seen favourably.

Will any other financial contributions or in-kind support be provided from other sources? * ○ Yes ○ No

Click "+' or 'Add More' to add more rows below

Other Income Source	Amount (AUD)	Status	Cash OR In-Kind

Contributor Name	Must be a dollar amount.	Advise if confirmed, conditional or pending approval	Provide brief details here
	$		

Budgeted Expenditure

Grant funding can only be spent on eligible expenditure you have incurred on eligible grant activities. Ensure you read section 5.3 of the Grant Guidelines for information regarding eligible expenditure.

Please ensure total Maitri Funded Expenditure in this budget matches the total amount of Maitri funding sought at the beginning of this application.

Itemise your activity budget in the table below.

Click "+' or 'Add More' to add more rows below

Activity Description	**Basis of Calculation**	**Maitri Funded**	**Joint or Lead Consortia Partner Funded**	**Other Source Funding**	**Total**	**Comment/Notes**
Name the activity	Please itemise	Must be a dollar amount.	Must be a dollar amount.	Must be a dollar amount.	This number/amount is calculated.	Provide brief additional information if required
		$	$	$	$	

Budget Checks

Total Maitri Funded Expenditure

This number/amount is calculated.

Total Joint or Lead Consortia Partner Funded Expenditure

This number/amount is calculated.

Total Other Source Funded Expenditure

This number/amount is calculated.

Total Expenditure Amount

This number/amount is calculated.

Validation [Total Income - Total Expenditure]

This number/amount is calculated.
Must be equal to 0

Assessment Criteria

* indicates a required field

Addressing the (4) Assessment Criteria

You must address all the following 4 assessment criteria in plain English. Note each criteria has a definitive word count for answers.

The amount of detail and supporting evidence you provide in your application should be relative to the size, complexity and grant amount requested.

We will only consider awarding funding to applications that score highly against all assessment criteria.

Criterion 1: How will the project contribute to the intended objectives and outcomes (40%)

You should clearly and plainly demonstrate how your project will support one or more of the objectives and intended outcomes of the program (outlined in Section 2 of the 2026-27 Maitri Grant Program Guidelines). You should:

- Explain at a high-level what your idea is, what your activity will do and who will benefit
- How does your proposed project align with and seek to build on Australian priorities with India – including but not limited to the New Roadmap for Australia's Economic Engagement with India
- Explain why your activity is worth funding ahead of other competitive application
- Tell the story of your idea in simple language and avoid detailed technical jargon

Criterion 1 response: *

Word count:
Must be no more than 400 words.

Criterion 2: How effective and efficient will the applicant be in delivering the grant? (20%)

You should:

- demonstrate your previous track record of delivering similar activities and the outcome
- demonstrate your knowledge and literacy of India and possible impacts on delivering your project in India and Australia
- explain how you will measure success
- detail sophisticated risk management planning for the project
- outline any existing or potential partnerships with any Indian organisations that will help deliver the grant activity

Criterion 2 response: *

Word count:
Must be no more than 250 words.

Criterion 3: How will the activity's impact be maximised and deliver sustainable outcomes beyond funding? (20%)

You should:

- explain how you will leverage your partners to maximise impact
- detail your communications, marketing and media planning
- outline planning beyond the life of the grant agreement and your ability to forge durable institutional linkages over an extended period

Note: demonstrated in-kind or cash co-contributions will be considered favourably.

Criterion 3 response: *

Word count:
Must be no more than 250 words.

Criterion 4: How innovative is the project? (20%)

You should:

- articulate the gaps and opportunities that your project is responding to
- identify any current or recent activities that may appear similar, and clearly articulate how your activity is different
- demonstrate knowledge of the current suite of endeavours to strengthen the Australia-India relationship, and how your activity will complement existing efforts
- articulate the new and/or expanded markets and audiences your activity will reach

Criterion 4 response: *

Word count:
Must be no more than 250 words.

Program Contact Details

* indicates a required field

Primary Contact

Primary Contact Details *

Title | First Name | Last Name

Position *

Phone Number *

Must be a valid phone number

Email *

Must be an official email address

Secondary Contact

Secondary Contact Details

Title | First Name | Last Name

Position

Phone Number

Must be a valid phone number

Primary Email

Must be an email address.
Must be an official email address

Confirmation and Declaration

* indicates a required field

Conflict of Interest

Please advise if you, your organisations personnel or any person or entity connected to your application;

- Has a professional, commercial or personal relationship with a party who is able to influence the application process?
- Has a relationship with an organisation or foreign government?
- Has a relationship with, or interest in, an organisation from which they may receive or be perceived to receive personal gain from this grant funding?

To the best of your knowledge, are there any potential, perceived or actual conflicts of interest relating to this application? * ○ Yes ○ No

Provide details *

Working with Children or other Vulnerable Persons

Successful grantees will be asked to complete a Working with Vulnerable Persons Statement of Compliance as part of the Standard Grant Agreement.

The Commonwealth considers a child to be a person under the age of 18 years.

Will your project involve working with children and/or other vulnerable persons? * ○ Yes ○ No

List of State and Territory Authorities

Each Australian state and territory has its own "Working with Vulnerable People" (WWVP) scheme, requiring individuals working with vulnerable people to undergo a background check and registration.

Below is a list of issuing authorities:

- Australian Capital Territory (ACT): Access Canberra
- New South Wales (NSW): NSW Office of the Children's Guardian
- Northern Territory (NT): SafeNT
- Queensland (QLD): Blue Card Services
- South Australia (SA): South Australia Police
- Tasmania (TAS): Tasmanian Department of Justice
- Victoria (VIC): Working with Children Check (WWCC) unit
- Western Australia (WA): Department of Communities

Note: It is important to note that the specific requirements and processes for each state and territory may vary. Applicants must consult the relevant agency's website for detailed information.

Confirmation and Declaration

Privacy notice about the collection, use and disclosure of personal information

The personal information you provide in this report is collected by the Centre for Australia-India Relations (CAIR) within the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) to financially acquit, evaluate and report on the outcomes of your grant in accordance with Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines. Without this information, we may be unable to finalise your grant payment.

We collect any photographs and audio/visual materials you provide to promote and publicise the work of CAIR and DFAT. These materials may be made public through national and local media, annual reports or via the CAIR or DFAT websites and other social media.

Our privacy policy is available at www.dfat.gov.au/privacy.html and contains information about access to, or correction of, your personal information, and how you may complain about a breach of your privacy and how we deal

with complaints. Grantees/recipients should also note the provisions of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* apply to documents in DFAT's possession.

I, certify that: I have read and understand the above Privacy notice.

Overseas disclosure:

- I understand that information provided in this report, including photographs and audio-visual materials, may be used for publicity purposes.
- By providing information to DFAT, I consent to the publication of my personal information to overseas entities or on the internet. I acknowledge that if other recipients breach the Australian Privacy Principles, DFAT will not be accountable under the Privacy Act and that I will not be able to seek redress under the Privacy Act.

Information about other people

- I have sought the consent of any individual whose personal information I have included in the report (including collaborators and activity partners), to provide their personal information to CAIR and DFAT to collect, use and disclose in accordance with this Privacy notice.
- I have obtained written consent from each photographed person, where required.

Use and disclosure for secondary purposes

- I consent to information provided in this application being stored on a central database to which other Commonwealth and State or Territory government agencies may have access for assessment or similar purposes.
- I consent to information provided in this acquittal, other than personal information, being used for training and testing purposes by DFAT staff.

Grant activity

- The statements in this report are true to the best of my knowledge.
- The grant is being used/was used in accordance with the approved budget as detailed in the Funding Agreement/Deed.
- The above financial statement presents fairly the financial transactions in relation to the CAIR grant received from DFAT (if financial acquittal).

If you have a grant amount that needs to be repaid:

- I understand that DFAT will send an invoice to the organisation funded to recover any unspent CAIR funding.
- I confirm that original receipts and other documentation which account for the expenditure will

be retained for at least five years from the date of this form and will be available upon request.

Declaration *

○ Yes, I have read and agree to the above conditions.

Date of Declaration *

Must be a date.

Name *

Title | First Name | Last Name

Position *

If you are applying as an individual, state "individual applicant".

Statistical Information

* indicates a required field

Where did you hear about the Centre for Australia-India Relations and this Maitri Fellowships Program? *

☐ Australian Embassy/ Consulate
☐ DFAT State or Territory Offices
☐ GrantConnect
☐ Minister Media Release
☐ Social Media - Facebook, X, LinkedIn etc
☐ CAIR Website
☐ Other:

Do you have any feedback regarding the application process which may be used to improve future grant rounds? (Note: any feedback will be treated confidentially and will not affect the assessment of your application).