2026 New Colombo Plan Semester Program Proposal

UQ Internal Proposal Form

Submit completed forms to sponsored.students@uq.edu.au by **16 September 2025**

Before submission, please review the 2026 NCP Semester Program Guidelines and Advice to Applicants. Following review of the proposal, the responses to the following will form the basis of the proposal submitted to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Please ensure all questions are addressed in accordance with the relevant guidelines.

Priority Areas

Proposals will be reviewed based on the NCP Semester Eligibility, for locations outlined in Section 5.5.1. of the NCP Semester Program Guidelines. As outlined in Section 2.2.1, preference during selection processes for the 2026 NCP Semester Program will be given to the following:

- Projects that will be undertaken in the priority host locations, languages and sectors outlined in the table below. These areas are consistent with Australia's foreign policy priorities for engagement in the Indo-Pacific region, including as outlined in *Invested: Australia's Southeast Asia Economic Strategy to 2040* and *A New Roadmap for Australia's Economic Engagement with India*. These priorities will be reviewed annually. Applicants may still submit applications for other NCP host locations (listed in section 5.5.1), languages and sectors. Where eligible, these applications will be assessed on their merits in accordance with the assessment criteria at section 6.2.

Priority Host Locations	Of the eligible NCP host locations, applications to the following locations where Australia wishes to expand linkages will be prioritised: • India • Indonesia • Timor-Leste • Vietnam
	Applications for the following host locations, where Australia wants to maintain its strong, existing engagement, will also be considered highly favourably: • China • Fiji • Japan • Republic of Korea • Malaysia • Singapore • The Philippines • Taiwan • Thailand
Priority Asian Languages	The Australian Government is committed to building Australia's Indo-Pacific capabilities and deepening Asia literacy, including in languages. Applications that demonstrate a focus on learning the following Asian languages will be prioritised:

	• Bahasa Indonesia • Malay • Chinese (Mandarin) • Hindi • Japanese • Korean • Vietnamese
Priority Sectors	Australia's prosperity, security and economic future is tied to the Indo-Pacific region. Applications demonstrating a relationship to the following sectors will be a priority: • Economics and Business • Environment, Primary Industries and Natural Resources • Infrastructure, Climate and Energy • Law, Asian Studies, Culture, and Human Development • Technology and Innovation

- Projects where the main focus is for the study of a priority language. In the 2026 round, all NCP programs will have a language target set at 15 per cent. This target builds on the language stream introduced in the 2025 NCP Mobility and Scholarships Programs. For Australian university undergraduate students awarded the NCP Semester Program, one of the following two criteria will apply to meet the language target:

- 50 per cent or more of the planned study program, to be delivered by the host institution and approved by students' Australian home universities for credit towards their Australian home degree, is delivered in an official or commonly spoken language (other than English) of an eligible primary NCP host location where the host institution is located, via face-to-face mode, or

- 50 per cent or more of the planned study program, approved by students' Australian home universities for credit towards their Australian home degree, is to study the official or commonly spoken language (other than English) of an eligible primary NCP host location where the host institution is located, via face-to-face mode.

Project Overview

Project Point of Contact (Project Leader)

The project point of contact will act as a liaison point between project participants and DFAT, including DFAT posts, overseas for NCP event purposes.

Enter Name

Enter Position

Enter Phone

Enter Email

Field of study

*As per ASCED Field of Education - please include both **numbers** and **names***

- Broad: Enter both numbers and names.

- Narrow: Enter both numbers and names.

- Detailed: Enter both numbers and names.

Location/s (City and Country)

Only list more than one country if the same project visits multiple countries in one trip. Similar projects to different countries require separate applications.

Enter City and Country.

Project Title (approx. 10-15 words)

Please give your project a short, informative, and attention-grabbing title. The Project Title should include the host location, discipline/subject, and type of educational activity, for example Vanuatu, Nursing Practicum.

Enter Project Title.

Project Description

Please provide an overview of the proposed project. While this field does not contribute to the project's weighted score, this information helps assessors understand the project's activities.

In the Project Description of the application, the applicant should outline:

- *Project details*

    - *Provide a clear and concise description of the offshore activities to be undertaken by participating students, noting the duration/s of offshore experiences. While a university may require students to undertake some activities in Australia, these do not contribute to the official duration of an NCP project experience.*

    - *If the project includes a secondary host location, please provide the reason. As per Program Guidelines, a secondary host location refers to a host location in which a minority*

component of the project experience is undertaken, outside of the primary host location. Secondary host locations are not alternative project delivery locations.

- *Project partner (host institution or organisation)*
  - o *Describe the role/s of the project partner/s such as teaching, arranging fieldwork, hosting interns.*
  - o *Describe the institutional linkages with local businesses, universities and other organisations, which will result from this project.*
  - o *Describe how linkages (institutional and people-people) will be sustained beyond the project.*
- *Project rationale*
  - o *Explain how the project aligns with the Australian Government's priorities in the Indo-Pacific region.*
  - o *If the project repeats or builds on a previously funded NCP project(s), describe the achievements of the earlier project(s) and how the proposed project will build on these.*
- *Third Party Providers*
  - o *If the project will be implemented through or with the assistance of a Third Party Provider (TPP) (drawing on administration funding or other resources), please name the organisation and the services they will provide. All TPPs must be declared, even if they are only providing assistance with logistics or other project elements.*
- *Justification for the proposed cost **per student** (value with money) including an indicative budget and breakdown of the **per-student costs**, for example:*
  - o *Per student - 1 semester offshore:*
    - ▪ *Travel costs (international, domestic)*
    - ▪ *Living costs (accommodation, meals, daily expenses)*
    - ▪ *Activity costs (host/partner costs)*
  - *Total: $A per student*

Enter Project Description – 500 word limit will be strictly adhered to

Project Type

Choose Project Type.

*If the project is a previously funded NCP Project, please provide the NCP Project Number of the previously funded project. Enter NCP Project Number here.

Length of study (select one)
As per Section 3.2 Grant Period:
The minimum duration of a project is ten weeks (70 calendar days). The maximum project duration is two consecutive semesters.

☐ 1 semester (minimum 70 days)
☐ 2 semesters

Will student recruitment target and support students from diverse backgrounds to participate in the Project?
(Select all that apply)
☐ Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander students
☐ Students from Regional/Remote areas
☐ Students with a Disability
☐ Students across Genders
☐ Students from a Low Socio-Economic Status background
☐ Students who are first in their immediate family to attend university
☐ Students from a non-English speaking background
☐ Female Students studying in non-traditional fields

Will this project have a First Nations focus?
Choose a response.

Will you be using a third-party provider to deliver this project?
Choose a response.

If yes, what is the name of the third-party provider?
Enter third-party provider name.

Qualification level
☐ Bachelor Degree
☐ Bachelor Honours Degree
☐ Diploma

Does the Project include one or more of the following for participating students:
☐ In-country language study
☐ Clinical Placement
☐ Research
☐ Study
☐ Practicum
☐ Internship / Mentorship
☐ Artist Residency

Does the Project meet the language target (see Section 6.1 Priority Areas)
Choose a response

Doest the Project align with a priority sector? If so, please select one.
☐ Economics and Business
☐ Environment, Primary Industries and Natural Resources
☐ Infrastructure, Climate and Energy
☐ Law, Asian Studies, Culture, and Human Development
☐ Technology and Innovation

Does the Project provide credit / count toward the course requirements for the Qualification in which participants are enrolled?

Choose a response

Please explain the credit arrangements that have been made and whether or not this is confirmed.

Enter response.

Faculty, School or specialisation:

Enter response.

Project Partners

Project partners means (the host institution(s), host organisation(s), and/or any other overseas or Australian partner organisations involved in the delivery of a mobility project.

You must include the following details for each project partner involved in the proposed project. If additional partners are needed, please add below.

Partner 1:

Partner Name: Enter Partner Name.
Partnership Status: Enter response.
Partner Type: Enter response.
Please indicate whether the Project Partner is one or more of the following: Enter response.

Partner 2:

Partner Name: Enter Partner Name.
Partnership Status: Enter response.
Partner Type: Enter response.
Please indicate whether the Project Partner is one or more of the following: Enter response.

Partner 3:

Partner Name: Enter Partner Name.
Partnership Status: Enter response.
Partner Type: Enter response.
Please indicate whether the Project Partner is one or more of the following: Enter response.

Project Travel Dates

Enter dates starting & end dates between 01 Jan 2026 and 31 July 2028 (DD/MM/YYYY required). Estimate dates if not yet known. Duration of project is more important at this stage than exact departure dates. If there will be more than one departure date for the proposed project, please include all anticipated project dates. Participating students must have returned to Australia by the end of the Semester program term (that is, by 31 July 2028).

Anticipated travel start date: Enter start date.
Anticipated travel end date: Enter end date.
Host City: Enter Host City/s.

Finances

Student Grants

The student grant is intended to contribute, in the first instance, to the cost of a student's international travel and in-country living expenses during the project.

In the Project Description of your application, you must provide a value-for-money justification for the proposed per-student funding. This should include a draft budget. The amount of a student grant should reflect actual costs at individual locations (for example, cost of living differences between host locations). We suggest the following as indicative student grant amounts:

- up to $15,000 for participation in a project of at least one semester

- up to $24,000 for participation in a project of at least two semesters

Student grants must not be used for administration costs.

You should apply for the number of student grants that you can **reasonably expect to deliver within the 2026 round project term**, taking into consideration any unused student grants you hold from previous rounds. DFAT may offer less funding for a successful project than the amount sought by a university in its application. The grant offered may depend on, for example, the applicant university's implementation of funding from previous NCP rounds.

You must not use funding provided for student grants for administration costs.

Proposed Number of Students	Amount of each grant per student (GST free)	Total amount student grants (GST free)	Administration funding (20% of the total student grants)	Total funding (Sum of student grants and admin funding)

Administration Funding

All recipients of NCP Semester Program funding will receive program support and administration funding (20 per cent of total student grants for the project) to support their role in the NCP. Program support and administration funding may be used to assist universities in developing and expanding Indo-Pacific course offerings, in particular those with a focus on Asian language and expanding or creating partnership arrangements with host institutions. Funding may also be used for general administration costs in managing the NCP Semester grant.

Universities must retain adequate records of administration funding expenditure and be able to provide these on request. Universities must return unspent administration funding to DFAT (together with unspent semester grant funding) once an NCP semester project is completed and financially acquitted.

If you do not use all student grants under a project, you may only retain administration funding equivalent to 20 per cent of grants paid to students who did travel.

Funding cannot be used on core academic staff wages or subsidy of general ongoing administration of an organisation such as non-NCP mobility project administration costs.

Please confirm the above financial information is understood and use of student and administrative funding will be used in accordance with the guidelines.

Choose a response.

Project Contributions

Please document all contributions that will be made toward the proposed project. Evidence of financial contributions must be made by the Home University, Host Institution or Mobility Partner. Please include evidence as attachment to this proposal.

Evidence of in-kind support is optional.

If the project involves a Mobility Partnership, evidence in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), letter, email or contract from the Private Sector Organisation must be included as part of the application.

Contribution 1:

Project Partner (as listed above): Enter name of Project Partner.

Project Contributor: Enter response.

Contribution Type: Enter response.

Value of Financial Contribution: Enter value.

Description of in-kind contributions: Enter in-kind description.

Contribution description (maximum 200 words): Enter contribution description.

Evidence of Financial Contribution is attached: Choose response.

Contribution 2:

Project Partner (as listed above): Enter name of Project Partner.

Project Contributor: Enter response.

Contribution Type: Enter response.

Value of Financial Contribution: Enter value.

Description of in-kind contributions: Enter in-kind description.

Contribution description (maximum 200 words): Enter contribution description.

Evidence of Financial Contribution is attached: Choose response.

Contribution 3:

Project Partner (as listed above): Enter name of Project Partner.

Project Contributor: Enter response.

Contribution Type: Enter response.

Value of Financial Contribution: Enter value.

Description of in-kind contributions: Enter in-kind description.

Contribution description (maximum 200 words): Enter contribution description.

Evidence of Financial Contribution is attached: Choose response.

Selection Criteria

Please refer to Section 6 of the Guidelines. Please provide responses to the Selection Criteria below. It is imperative that you <u>stay within the word count for each question</u>, while showcasing the most important and innovative points of your program.

Criterion 1: Alignment of proposal with the Australian Government's geographic and sectoral priorities in the Indo-Pacific region (40%)

You should demonstrate this by:

- describing how the project aligns with Australia's regional priorities, include how the Indo-Pacific capability of participating students will be developed, and/or

- describing how the project will contribute to Australia's sectoral priorities and the linkages that will be established.

Enter Response to Criterion 1 – 300 word limit will be strictly adhered to.

Criterion 2: Focusing on priority languages (20%)

You should demonstrate this by:

- describing the extent to which the project focuses on and will build proficiency in an Indo-Pacific language, especially in a priority Asian language.

Enter Response to Criterion 2 – 300 word limit will be strictly adhered to.

Criterion 3: Quality of the proposal (30%)

You should demonstrate this by:

- describing how the Project Support and Administration funding will be used to develop and expand Indo-Pacific course offerings, with a focus on Priority Asian Languages, consortium arrangements, and development partnerships with host institutions

- describing how the project relates to existing course content and how the project will build Indo-Pacific capability, including in language

- describing how quality will be assured, and outcomes will be evaluated

- describing how risks will be managed throughout the project.

Enter Response to Criterion 3 – 300 word limit will be strictly adhered to.

Criterion 4: Potential to maintain engagement with the Indo-Pacific region (10%)

You should demonstrate this by:

- describing agreements in place, particularly new and innovative partnership arrangements, with host institutions and proposed joint activities
- outlining the plan for maintaining those links beyond the term of the project.

If the project is being undertaken at an Australian transnational education presence in the Indo-Pacific, the application must demonstrate how the project will be a genuinely immersive experience.

Included in Criterion 4, you must provide evidence of the project partner's support/agreement for the proposed project (for example MoUs, letters of support/agreement).

Enter Response to Criterion 4 – 300 word limit will be strictly adhered to.

Alignment with UQ's Global Engagement Framework

Detail how this project supports UQ's Global Engagement Framework (maximum 150 words). Information on UQ's suite of resources can be found at the link above. A list of UQ's international partner institutions by country, engagement briefs can also be found on the Global Partnerships intranet.

For assistance with this section, please contact UQ Global Partnerships at global.partnerships@uq.edu.au.

Enter Response.

Approval & Declarations

In submitting this proposal for the 2026 New Colombo Plan Program, I declare that:

☐ I have the authority to submit this proposal.

☐ As the Project Leader, I have an ongoing UQ role or contract that exceeds the project duration.

☐ The application complies with the home university's quality assurance processes.

☐ Should this project be funded, it will be implemented and funding will be expended and reported in accordance with the NCP Guidelines and Grant Agreement.

☐ Financial support received from the Australian Government will be acknowledged in all publications, promotional materials and activities.

☐ The School/Faculty/Unit has appropriate strategies and services in place to support student welfare and safety (see Section 2.4).

☐ The School/Faculty/Unit can demonstrate an approach to increasing participation by diverse student groups including but not limited to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander students, students from a low socio-economic status background, students from Regional/Remote areas, students who are first in their immediate family to attend university, students across genders, female students studying in non-traditional fields, students with a disability, and students from a non-English speaking background.

☐ If any personal details of a student or other third party are included in an application or otherwise provided to the Australian Government as part of the project, the student or other third party has given written consent for the collection, use and disclosure of those details for this purpose, and

☐ You acknowledge that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence under the Criminal Code Act 1995 (Cth).

Please type your name to acknowledge that this application is complete and correct:

Project Officer: Enter Name.

Date: Enter date.

Approved by Head of School/Faculty Executive Dean

Name: Enter Name.

Date: Enter date.