

NCP Semester Application Form

Form Preview

2027 New Colombo Plan Semester Program

IMPORTANT: Please read the information below to assist you in completing your submission.

Before you begin

Welcome to the **New Colombo Plan (NCP)**'s online grant application service, powered by SmartyGrants. If this is the first time you are applying using SmartyGrants, click 'Start a Submission', then 'Register here'.

To access the 2027 Round NCP Semester Program Guidelines – which contain information about eligibility requirements, selection processes and to apply – visit the Current Grant Opportunities page on [GrantConnect](#). If you are new to using GrantConnect, you will need to register to receive a login.

Please direct any questions during the application period to the NCP Secretariat at ncp.secretariat@dfat.gov.au and quote your submission number. Where relevant, responses will be posted on GrantConnect to ensure information is shared consistently with all applicants.

The NCP Secretariat will not respond to questions received after **5 pm AEST on 21 July 2026**.

For technical assistance with the SmartyGrants platform, download the [Help Guide for Applicants](#) or check out the SmartyGrants [Applicant FAQs](#).

Navigating through the form

On every page of the form you will see a Form Navigation panel. This links directly to each page of the form, so you can click a page name to jump directly to the page you want.

You can also click 'Next Page' or 'Previous Page' on the top or bottom of each page to move forward or backward through the form.

Please ensure you save your form as you go.

Saving a draft

Your form will save each time you click 'Next Page', 'Previous Page', or any page name on the Form Navigation panel.

If you wish to leave a partially completed form, click 'Save and Close' and log out.

You can reopen your draft form and continue where you left off. When you log back in and click on the **My Submissions** link at the top of the screen, you will find a list of any submissions you have started or submitted. Click the submission number or the arrow icon to expand the list of associated forms, and click on the form name to continue filling it out.

You can also download any form, whether draft or completed, as a PDF. In the 'My Submissions' area of your account click on the submission number, then click the red PDF icon beside the form you want to download or, while filling out the form, click on the 'Download PDF' button located at the top and bottom of the last page ('Review and Submit').

Submitting your form

You will find a **Review and Submit** page listed at the bottom of the Form Navigation panel. You need to review your form before you can submit it. You will not be able to submit your form until all the required fields are completed and there are no validation errors.

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Once you have reviewed your form and corrected any errors you can submit it by clicking on the **Submit** button at the top or bottom of the screen.

Once you have submitted your form no further editing or uploading of supporting documents is possible.

When you have successfully submitted your form you will see a confirmation page, and you will receive a confirmation email with a copy of your submitted form attached. This will be sent to the email address you use to login, or the owner of the submission if you are collaborating on the form.

If you don't see a confirmation page or receive a confirmation email then you should presume that your form has NOT been submitted.

Hint: also check the email hasn't landed in your spam or junk email folder.

You can return to the **My Submissions** page of your account to view the submission status of the form.

Attachments

You may need to upload/submit attachments to support your application. This is very simple but requires you to have the documents saved on your computer, or on a storage device.

You need to allow enough time for each file to upload before trying to attach another file. Files can be up to 25MB each; however, we do recommend trying to keep files to a maximum of 5MB – the larger the file, the longer the upload time.

Collaborating on your submission

A number of people can collaborate on a submission as long as

1. you have created a SmartyFile Organisation and
2. only one person is working on the form at a time.

Ensure you save as you go.

Session time-out warning

For security reasons, your login session will expire after 20 minutes of inactivity. Saving your form or navigating to another page resets the timer.

You'll be prompted 90 seconds before your session expires, with the option to extend your session or log out. If you don't respond to the prompt in time, your form will be automatically saved before your session ends.

Even so, we recommend saving your form regularly – especially when working on longer responses – to avoid losing any work.

2027 New Colombo Plan Semester Program Overview

Before applying, you must read and understand the 2027 NCP Semester Program Guidelines. The guidelines may be found at [GrantConnect](#). Any alterations or addenda will be published on GrantConnect and by registering on this website, individuals will be automatically notified of any changes to these grant opportunity guidelines. DFAT and/or the services provider may organise industry briefings during the application period for potential applicants.

To apply you must:

- Apply for funding and accept/decline funding through SmartyGrants. Only the applicant's nominated NCP ILO can submit an application in the system
- Provide all the information requested
- Address all eligibility criteria and assessment criteria

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- Include all necessary attachments, and
- Submit your application(s) in SmartyGrants by the closing date and time.

You are responsible for ensuring the application is complete and accurate. All responses provided by an applicant must be in their own words. Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence under the [Criminal Code Act 1995 \(Cth\)](#). We will investigate any false or misleading information and may exclude your application from further consideration. Further terms relating to the termination or cancellation of a project are set out in the grant agreement.

You cannot change your application after the closing date and time.

SmartyGrants will automatically generate an email to acknowledge receipt of an application. You should keep a copy of your application and any supporting documents.

Joint (consortium) applications

We recognise that some universities may want to join together as a group to deliver a project. A university may submit an application on behalf of a consortium of universities. In these circumstances, you must appoint a 'lead applicant'. Only the lead applicant can submit the application form and enter into a grant agreement with the Commonwealth. The application must identify all other members of the proposed group.

If a consortium application is selected, the lead applicant will be required to enter into a grant agreement and will be accountable for meeting legal and reporting requirements on behalf of the consortium. The lead applicant must have a formal arrangement in place with all participating universities prior to execution of the grant agreement. The lead applicant should also ensure that all consortium members' NCP ILOs are aware of the application and the outcome.

You must not apply for funding for the same project in the same round through both an individual and a consortium application.

Grant Opportunity Timeline

Applications must be submitted between the opening and closing dates and times. We cannot accept late applications, including additional information about your application after the closing date and time.

Key dates in the selection and implementation of projects are outlined below. DFAT may amend these dates at any time by posting a notice on GrantConnect.

Expected timing for this grant opportunity

Activity

Indicative Timeframe

Applications open

9 June 2026

Applications close

4 August 2026 at 11:00pm Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST)

Assessment of applications

August – October 2026

Approval of outcomes of selection process

November 2026

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Distribution of grant agreements

November 2026

Notification to unsuccessful applicants

November 2026

Project start

1 January 2027

Project end

31 July 2029

Funding offers to successful applicants will be made prior to the beginning of the project term.

Further Information

Please direct any questions during the application period to the NCP Secretariat at ncp.secretariat@dfat.gov.au. Where relevant, responses will be posted on GrantConnect to ensure information is shared consistently with all applicants.

The NCP Secretariat will not respond to questions received after **5:00pm AEST on 21 July 2026**.

Project Details

** indicates a required field*

Which university are you applying on behalf of? *

Please start typing to select from drop-down list

Does the Project attract credit/count towards the course requirement? *

☐ Yes

☐ No

If 'No', this application is ineligible and therefore will not be able to be submitted.

The proposed Semester project is required to attract credit / count towards the course requirement.

Based on your response above, this application is ineligible and therefore will not be able to be submitted.

The value below cannot be edited and will prevent submission of this form, based on the eligibility noted above.

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The project title should include host location, discipline/subject and type of activity. For example: Indonesia Business Internships or Vietnam Language Studies Exchange Program.

Project Title *

Must be no more than 100 characters.

Main focus of the project *

- ☐ In-Location Language Study
☐ Study
☐ Clinical Placement
- ☐ Internship
☐ Practicum
- ☐ Artist Residency
☐ Research

Does the project involve the formal study of an Indo-Pacific language other than English? *

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

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.

Provide a clear and concise description of the offshore activities to be undertaken by participating students.

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.

*

Word count:

Must be no more than 500 words.

Project Type

Project Type *

- ☐ New project ☐ An existing project funded via alternative funding ☐ A previously funded NCP Project

Length of Study *

- ☐ 1 Semester ☐ 2 Semesters

You cannot submit application with mixed-length of study.

Separate applications should be lodged for projects with different lengths.

Priority Sector

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Does the project align with any priority sectors under the NCP Semester Program? *

☐ Economics and Business

☐ Environment, Primary Industries and Natural Resources

☐ Infrastructure, Climate and Energy

☐ Law, Asian Studies, Culture, and Human Development

☐ Technology and Innovation

☐ Not aligned with any Priority Sectors

Previously Funded NCP Projects

Please enter one project ID per line

Previous NCP ISEO project ID/s: *

Host Location

Only one host location per application is allowed.

If your application is for multiple cities in the same host location please list additional cities in the relevant question.

Host Location *

Please start typing to select from drop-down list

Click "Add More" to include additional host cities.

Host City *

Please start typing to select from drop-down list. Only enter one city per line; add additional lines for multiple cities.

The nearest DFAT post to your host city: *

Enter a host location to find relevant DFAT posts, or use the drop-down list to browse all DFAT posts.

Field of Study

Field of Study *

Please start typing to select from drop-down list

Qualification Level

Qualification Level *

☐ Advanced Diploma

☐ Diploma

☐ Associate Degree

☐ Bachelor Degree

☐ Bachelor Honours Degree

☐ Undergraduate Certificate

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**Faculty, School or
Specialisation ***

Language Focus

* indicates a required field

Please provide details on any structured language learning for this project.

Note: Language exposure outside structured learning should not be included.

Indo-Pacific Language

Language Provider

Other:	

Are you able to provide:

*

- ☐ Estimated average hours per week each student will spend on language learning
- ☐ Percentage (%) of the average student workload that is language learning
- ☐ Both

**Estimated number of average weekly
hours ***

Must be a number.

**Percentage of the overall student
workload (%) ***

Must be a number.

Do not enter the percentage mark (e.g. enter 20 for 20%)

Travel Dates and Participation

* indicates a required field

Project Travel Dates

Please enter all travel dates. Add a new line for each city planned to visit.

City

Travel Start Date

Travel End Date

	Must be a date.	Must be a date.

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Please explain the rationale for your proposed travel dates. *

Word count:

Must be no more than 200 words.

For example travel dates dictated by host university semester commencement date.

Based on the information entered in the Project Travel Dates table above, at least one planned travel period starts after 1 May 2028.

If student travel does not commence by 1 May 2028, you should apply for funding under the 2028 round unless you can reasonably justify such arrangement (section 5.5, 2027 NCP Semester Guidelines).

Justification *

Word count:

Must be no more than 300 words.

For example: travel can only occur during summer breaks.

University Staff Travel

Will any university staff travel with project participants? *

☐ Yes

☐ No

Participation

How does your university plan to actively support participation from a diverse range of students, 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 the genders
- women students studying in non-traditional fields
- students with disability
- students from a non-English speaking background.

Responses to this question are not part of the assessment.

*

Word count:

Must be no more than 200 words.

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Project Partners

* indicates a required field

Project Partner

Please include all partners involved in this project e.g. language training providers, host universities or internship hosts.

Partner	Status	Type	Letter of Support Upload
			Letters of support may also include partnership agreements, MOUs, and emails outlining support.

Is this application on behalf of a Consortium? * ☐ Yes ☐ No

Consortium Details

Name of Consortium *

Is this a new consortium arrangement? * ☐ Yes ☐ No

Consortium Members *

Begin typing a university name to select from the drop-down menu. Please select all members for the consortium.

Third party provider

Will you be using a third party provider to deliver this project? * ☐ Yes ☐ No

Third Party Provider (TPP)

If the project will be implemented through or with the assistance of a Third Party Provider (TPP), 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.

Name	Type	Services to be provided by the TPP
------	------	------------------------------------

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	Please select the type that best describes the services provided by this TPP.	Brief description of the role or services to be performed by the TPP in respect of the project. Must be no more than 100 words.

Finances Overview

* indicates a required field

Proposed Funding Details

Number of students *

Must be a number.

Minimum number of students for viability

Must be a number.

Grant amount per student (\$)

This number/amount is calculated.
As determined in section 5.2.1 of the 2027 Semester Program Guidelines

Grant amount per student (\$)

This number/amount is calculated.
As determined in section 5.2.1 of the 2027 Semester Program Guidelines

Funding Summary

Total student grant sought (\$)

This number/amount is calculated.

Total program support and administration fund (\$)

This number/amount is calculated.

Total funding sought (\$)

This number/amount is calculated.

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Will you be receiving any other contributions (financial or in-kind) to deliver this project? *

☐ Yes

☐ No

Other Project Contributions

Project Contributor	Contributor Name	Contribution Type	Value of financial contribution (\$)	Description
			Provide an estimated market value if in-kind. Must be a number.	Must be no more than 100 words.

Assessment Criteria

* indicates a required field

Criterion 1: Alignment with the Australian Government's objectives in the Indo-Pacific region

Weighting: 40%

Projects to host locations where Australia wishes to expand linkages will be prioritised, and projects to host locations where Australia wishes to maintain existing linkages will be considered highly favourably.

You should demonstrate this by explaining:

a) How the project activities (such as study, internships, language learning or industry engagement) will help participants develop capability, skills and connections in the Indo-Pacific *

Word count:
Must be no more than 300 words.

b) How the project's sectoral focus aligns with Australia's strategic or economic interests in the host location specifically. *

Word count:
Must be no more than 300 words.
You should specifically address all selected priority sector(s) on page 2, or your application may be considered generic in nature.

Criterion 2: Language Focus

Weighting: 20%

You should demonstrate this by describing:

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

Priority in selection processes will be given to projects which meet the language target as per the definition in the Glossary (section 14) of the NCP Semester Guidelines.

Response *

Word count:

Must be no more than 300 words.

Criterion 3: Integrated Indo-Pacific capability development and sustainable delivery

Weighting: 30%

You should demonstrate this by describing:

a) How the proposed Semester project is designed to integrate with, and leverage, existing and/or planned Indo-Pacific capability and Asia literacy development initiatives at an institutional level *

Word count:

Must be no more than 200 words.

b) How the student pipeline at your university (for example course enrolment, student interest, past project experience) will support the recruitment of students and full expenditure of sought student grants *

Word count:

Must be no more than 200 words.

c) How the program support and administration funding will be used to develop and expand Indo-Pacific course offerings, with a focus on priority Asian languages, consortium arrangements, or development partnerships with host institutions. *

Word count:

Must be no more than 200 words.

Criterion 4: Potential to maintain engagement with the Indo-Pacific region

Weighting: 10%

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.

You should demonstrate this by:

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a) Describing agreements in place, particularly new and innovative partnership arrangements, with host institutions and proposed joint activities (including consortium arrangements, if applicable) *

Word count:
Must be no more than 200 words.

b) Outlining the plan for maintaining those links beyond the term of the project. *

Word count:
Must be no more than 200 words.

Risk Management and Project Contacts

* indicates a required field

Risk Management

If successful, a risk management and critical incident plan for the project must be uploaded to SmartyGrants at least 4 weeks prior to the commencement of overseas travel (section 2.4.2, 2027 NCP Semester Guidelines).

Have you considered the risks associated with the delivery of this project, including but not limited to Smartraveller advice? *

☐ Yes

☐ No

Project Point of Contact (such as project leader, head of faculty or school)

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

Name *

Title

First Name

Last Name

Position *

Phone Number *

Must be an Australian phone number.

Email *

Must be an email address.

International Liaison Officer (ILO) Contact (Mandatory)

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Name *

Title

First Name

Last Name

Position *

Phone Number *

Must be an Australian phone number.

Email *

Must be an email address.

Alternative ILO (Optional)

Name

Title

First Name

Last Name

Position

Phone Number

Must be an Australian phone number.

Email

Must be an email address.

Declarations

* indicates a required field

I declare that: *

- ☐ I acknowledge that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence under the Criminal Code Act 1995 (Cth).
- ☐ The proposed project has been endorsed for quality by my university's quality assurance mechanism.
- ☐ My university's projects will be implemented and funding will be expended and reported in accordance with the Guidelines and the Deed and relevant Project Schedule under which funding is offered.
- ☐ My university's projects will encourage and support representation from diverse student groups including but not limited to: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, students from low socio-economic status backgrounds, students from regional/remote areas, students who are first in their immediate family to attend university, students across the genders, women studying

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in non-traditional areas, students with disabilities and students from non-English speaking backgrounds.

- ☐ Financial support received from the Australian Government will be acknowledged in all publications, promotional materials and activities.
- ☐ My university is aware of Smarttraveller advice and has considered these risks before applying.
- ☐ My university has strategies and services in place to support student welfare and safety. My university will ensure appropriate risk management and safety precautions, including critical incident plans, are in place prior to the commencement of the overseas study and upload critical incident and risk management plans to SmartyGrants. Critical incident plans must include emergency contact names, reporting requirements and details of how critical incidents will be handled should they arise.

Consortium

I confirm that: *

- ☐ I have received authorisation from current consortium partners to submit this application and that relevant Institution Liaison Officers at all consortium partners are aware of the application.

Third Party Providers

I declare that: *

- ☐ If any personal details of a third party are included in my university's project applications, the third party has been made aware of, and given permission for those details to be included in the application.
- ☐ Where my university outsources all or part of project implementation to a Third Party Provider, we will ensure that all DFAT policies are adhered to.

If Funded

I declare that, in delivery of the project: *

- ☐ My university will ensure indicative travel dates provided in the application are kept up to date and that student details are entered into SmartyGrants at least 3 weeks before departure from Australia, including relevant diversity data as available.
- ☐ My university will arrange pre departure briefings and ensure all participating students complete DFAT's online NCP pre-departure training modules.
- ☐ My university will ensure that students and staff are made aware of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Harassment (PSEAH) policy and Child Protection policy.
- ☐ My university will ensure students and staff are made aware of the Australian Government's guidelines to

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Counter Foreign Interference in the Australian University Sector.

☐ My university will ensure all students are provided with the NCP Program pre-departure letter and NCP Media and Publication Guidelines and sign and acknowledge the NCP Student Code of Conduct, and NCP Media and Publication Guidelines prior to departure.

☐ My university will ensure students are provided with or obtain travel insurance and travel using only an Australian passport and obtain and comply with appropriate visas for host locations.

☐ My university understands it will be required to submit satisfactory completion reports no later than 4 weeks from the return of the last student.

Person Submitting and Making Declarations

I declare that: *

☐ I have the authority to submit this application on behalf of my university.

Name *

Title	First Name	Last Name

Position *

Email *

Must be an email address.

Date of declaration *

Must be a date and between 8/6/2026 and 4/8/2026.