



ASEAN-Australia
Centre

ASEAN-Australia Centre Leadership Program

Are you an early-to-mid-career professional woman navigating the opportunities and risks of digital transformation?

Apply now for the ASEAN-Australia Centre Short Course: AI and Digital Transformation

ASEAN-AUSTRALIA CENTRE

The ASEAN-Australia Centre (the Centre) was announced by the Prime Minister of Australia at the ASEAN-Australia Special Summit in March 2024. Operational since 1 July 2024, the Centre implements key recommendations from *Invested: Australia's Southeast Asia Economic Strategy to 2040* to promote greater Southeast Asia literacy in Australia. The Centre delivers initiatives that strengthens business, education, cultural and community connections between Australia and ASEAN member states.

The goal of the ASEAN-Australia Centre Leadership Program is to build a network of future ASEAN leaders with strong connections to Australia, who will drive positive change across Australia and Southeast Asia.

THE SHORT COURSE

The ASEAN-Australia Centre Short Course: AI and Digital Transformation will strengthen the capacity of 25 emerging and mid-career women leaders from ASEAN member states and Australia to navigate the opportunities and risks of digital transformation, with a focus on AI, Big Tech influence and youth well-being.

The short course will be delivered by the University of Queensland over a period of up to 12 weeks, from the fourth quarter of 2026 to the first quarter of 2027, through a blend of online learning and an 8-day immersion program in Brisbane, Australia. The online component will commence on **5 November 2026**. The in-Australia component will begin with participants arriving on **29 November 2026** and conclude with departures on **6 December 2026**.

Through policy dialogue, applied learning, and engagement with Australian experts, participants will explore how to design and implement

frameworks that harness digital technologies for growth and inclusion—while safeguarding societies against misinformation, exploitation, and inequitable digital power structures.

OBJECTIVES

The short course will support participants to:

- Analyse the growth trajectory and structural dynamics of ASEAN's digital economy, including the role of AI, platform ecosystems, and data-driven business models.
- Evaluate the societal, economic, and ethical implications of Artificial Intelligence and other emerging technologies, including impacts on employment, privacy, competition, and governance.
- Investigate amplifiers and responses to misinformation and disinformation in the AI and digital age and review ASEAN and Australian strategies for building information integrity and public trust.
- Examine policies and frameworks that support responsible AI, digital rights, and protection of youth, women and marginalised groups in online environments, identifying shared lessons across ASEAN and Australia.
- Explore innovations and practical tools for digital literacy, critical thinking, resilience, and ethical technology design, empowering minorities and broader communities to engage safely and effectively in online and AI-mediated environments.
- Identify opportunities for regional cooperation and investment in digital innovation, data governance, and cross-border interoperability aligned with DEFA objectives.
- Develop actionable strategies or policy recommendations to strengthen digital resilience, inclusion, and accountability,

ensuring that digital transformation benefits women and the societies in which they live.

BENEFITS

Short course participants will receive:

- a program of stimulating and interactive sessions delivered by expert facilitators
- a return airfare, accommodation, transport and meals for the in-Australia component
- pre-departure information and virtual briefing
- a tailored in-Australia program of learning, networking and cultural experiences
- 24/7 in-Australia support through a dedicated Welfare Officer.

KEY DATES

Applications open: 10 September 2026

Applications close: 04 October 2026 (11:59 PM AEST)

Please note, applications submitted after the closing date will not be considered.

Candidates will be notified of the outcome of their application by early November 2026.

APPLICATION PROCESS

All applications must be submitted **here:** [ASEAN-Australia Centre Short Course: AI and Digital Transformation Application Form](#).

All applications must include a:

- completed application form
- curriculum vitae (CV)
- current employer referee report in the template provided [here](#).
- a certified copy of bachelor's degree.

For Southeast Asian applicants only:

- a copy of their passport ID page
- evidence of working proficiency in English if available (e.g. English language test or evidence of undergraduate studies undertaken in English)

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to attend an online interview in October 2026.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

All prospective applicants must adhere to the following eligibility requirements:

- submission of a complete application including all relevant documents

- commitment to full attendance throughout the program including the in-Australia immersion week
- be a citizen of and residing in Australia, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar*, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam or Timor-Leste (*Residency requirement does not apply to Myanmar citizens)
- hold a bachelor's degree or equivalent.

Southeast Asia applicants must also adhere to the following eligibility requirements:

- professional working proficiency in English (recommended at least IELTS 6.5)
- hold a valid passport that meets Australian immigration requirements.

Women from diverse backgrounds, including women with disability and those from other underrepresented groups, are strongly encouraged to apply.

Reasonable accommodations and accessibility support will be provided, where possible, to support participation throughout the application process and program.

ASSESSMENT

Applicants will be assessed on the following criteria:

- early-to-mid-career professional women with between five- and ten-years' work experience related to digital technology and transformation
- demonstrated commitment to building networks and leading digital transformation in their sector.

MORE INFORMATION

A virtual information session will be held at 2pm AEST on Thursday 17 September 2026.

Interested applicants can join here: [Information session: ASEAN-Australia Centre Short Course: AI and Digital Transformation](#) | Meeting-Join | Microsoft Teams
Meeting ID: 215 965 780 258 194
Passcode: g5bt7kU3

For more information please contact:
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