



Northbound Student Exchange Program

9 December 2023 – 20 January 2024

PROGRAM INFORMATION 2023-2024

Study in Indonesia with IndoAustay

IndoAustay's Northbound Exchange Program gives students completing Year 10 or Year 11 in any Australian state or territory the opportunity to experience Indonesia firsthand through a homestay placement and engaging study program in Bandung.

The six-week **Exchange Program** in Bandung, West Java, does not involve formal instruction in Indonesian language, but instead focuses on immersing students in everyday life in Indonesia through placement at a regular high school and staying with a local host family. Through this, students will have a unique cultural experience and an opportunity to improve their Indonesian language through everyday use.

'I found that immersion into the Indonesian way of life was totally less confronting than what I was expecting, and the experience enabled me to rapidly improve my fluency in bahasa Indonesia'

The Student Exchange Northbound program is limited to a maximum of 2-3 participants per school. Students need at least rudimentary competence in Indonesian language in order to fully benefit from attending school and living with an Indonesian family, so applicants will generally be those currently studying Indonesian at school.

Bandung



Known as the "Paris of Java", [Bandung](#) is the vibrant capital of West Java. This cosmopolitan city is about two hours from Jakarta, the nation's bustling capital, and a focal point for the rich Sundanese culture of the area, including *angklung* music, *wayang golek* puppetry and *pencak silat* martial arts. Bandung played an important role in Indonesia's history, particularly in the post-independence era, and is currently the economic centre for its massive textiles industry and an important player in developing geothermal energy. Set amongst the leafy hills of Java's hinterland, the city has a cooler climate than most of tropical Indonesia. In Bandung IndoAustay works with *Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia*, a teaching university that has adopted the Exchange Program as part of its social mission.

Life in Indonesia

‘This program is run at a perfect time for students to attend classes at their delegated host school and discover what drives their passion for the Indonesian culture’

All program participants will be placed in homestay accommodation and live as a member of the family to which each is billeted. Placed with an Indonesian family that has a child of the same gender and of similar age, each student will be given their own bedroom, furnished with a bed, table and fan.

Individual homestay is regarded as an essential element of the program’s language and cultural experience, giving participants the opportunity to get involved in the daily activities of the family. Owing to this close host-student relationship, participants are subject to the rules of the household (and school at which they are placed) and not allowed to leave the immediate neighbourhood without host family permission or on an approved group or school excursion with proper adult supervision.

An information manual detailing all travel, schooling and homestay issues will be supplied to program participants ahead of a cross-cultural information session in November. This session, held in Melbourne, is compulsory for Victorian participants. Alternative arrangements will be made to brief interstate exchangees.

Indonesian Language

Due its size and geographic proximity, Indonesia is perhaps Australia’s most important neighbour in the region. With a burgeoning economy set to eclipse Australia’s by 2030, Indonesia is also a large part of Australia’s future. Being able to speak Indonesian, therefore, will play an important part in the bilateral relationship going forward in this era of globalisation.

Uncomplicated by the tonal distinctions of other Asian languages, and written in the Roman alphabet, Indonesian is one of the most accessible languages in the region. With phonetic spelling and a polysyllabic structure like English, it’s also one of the easiest languages to learn for Australian students.

By taking up an extended in-country experience, Northbound participants are gaining a unique advantage in their language development and a valuable insight into an Asian culture at an influential stage of their scholastic and civic development. The program is also designed to serve as a huge incentive for participants to further their Indonesian language studies beyond high school.

‘Australian students at high school and university, who get to spend some time living and studying in the countries of Asia, come home with invaluable experiences’ – Prime

Minister Kevin Rudd, 2008

About IndoAustay

The IndoAustay Northbound programs are the product of much preparation and thought by volunteer members of the Australian Indonesian Association of Victoria (AIAV) and the subcommittee set up for this purpose, many of whom are secondary school teachers of Indonesian. The program has been running successfully for more than 10 years during the December-January Australian summer holiday period, helping both students and adult learners alike benefit from the in-country experience.

IndoAustay Ltd (ACN 134 369 129) is a public company limited by guarantee of the Australian Indonesian Association of Victoria Inc (A0028347E) and the Australia Indonesia Association of NSW Inc (Y2561228) for the express purpose of operating (a) exchanges between Australia and Indonesia.

IndoAustay is approved by the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) for operating a secondary school exchange program – the only organisation approved so far for Indonesia. The IndoAustay exchange organisers, including coordinating partners in Indonesia, adhere to the VRQA guidelines for the conduct of exchange programs.

The exchange principle is country-to-country, not family-to-family nor school-to-school, with a reciprocal Southbound program in which as many as 30 Indonesian students come to Australia to participate in a six-week placement at a local school and homestay in Melbourne from July to September. The Southbound program is always looking for more schools, together with local families from the school community, to host one or two Indonesian students. Please contact IndoAustay if you would like more information about hosting.

Being a not-for-profit organisation, IndoAustay is always looking for private and business support to help provide merit-based scholarships for both Australian and Indonesian students whose families are unable to afford the exchange program. Any support in this matter would be greatly appreciated. Please contact IndoAustay if you would like more information about sponsorship.

AIAV has operated language classes for adults for the past four decades, fields from among its members the Permai gamelan orchestra, conducts monthly conversation evenings attended by native English and Indonesian speakers, and arranges talks on a wide variety of subjects connected with Indonesian culture and politics, all in furtherance of its aim, common to that of AIA NSW: *To foster and promote friendship, understanding and good relations between the peoples of Indonesia and Australia.*

‘For those contemplating participating in an exchange, I say J UST DO IT! You’ll make some awesome new friends, experience interesting new things, and at the same time totally get ahead with your Indonesian skills –
I don’t think there is a better way to spend the holidays!’

Apply for Northbound Exchange

Please visit our website: www.indoaustay.org

If you have questions or if any part of the application process is unclear, please contact the IndoAustay coordinator at: exchange@indoaustay.org

Program Timeline

Early August 2023	Closing date for applications
Mid August 2023	Notification of acceptance
August / September 2023	Program payments due
Early October 2023	Visas processed in Melbourne for Exchange Program participants
End November 2023	Cross-cultural information session to brief participants
9 December 2023	Exchange Program participants depart for Indonesia
20 January 2024	Program participants return