

Teaching of Indonesian in Victoria

Learning another language fosters students' ability to think and reflect about the workings of language, and to develop mental flexibility and problem-solving strategies. It also increases opportunities and abilities to develop interpersonal skills and cultural awareness.

Indonesian has been studied in Victorian schools since the 1960s. Many schools provide strong, innovative Indonesian programs, including Indonesian-English bilingual programs. Across Victorian schools, Indonesian is one of the most widely offered languages, with one in four government primary schools and one in three secondary colleges offering Indonesian. The Indonesian Consulate in Melbourne coordinates an active cultural program easily accessed by schools.

Indonesian continues to be a popular study at Year 12 level, with over 900 students studying the language annually.

Indonesian is also taught by the Victorian School of Languages (VSL) at four centres, and through Distance Education. For details, see <http://www.vsl.vic.edu.au/>

Resources are available on loan from the Languages and Multicultural Education Resource Centre (LMERC), at <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/studentlearning/programs.htm>

Students can also make use of interactive Indonesian resources through *Languages Online*. This site offers free access to multimedia activities, print resources and teacher support materials, at www.education.vic.gov.au/languagesonline/

Information

For assistance in establishing and developing an Indonesian language program contact:

The Indonesian Advisor
Telephone: 9637 2064
9474 0578

LOTE Unit
Student Learning Programs Division
Department of Education
Telephone: 9637 2041
Fax: 9637 2040
Website: <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/studentlearning/teachingresources/lotte/default.htm>

Further

Languages other than English project officers are located in each region to assist schools. To find contact details for your region, please go to:

Website:
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/studentlearning/teachingresources/lotte/default.htm>

Victorian Indonesian Language Teachers' Association (VILTA)
Telephone / Fax: 98724043

Visit the MLTAV website:
<http://www.mltav.asn.au/>



Why learn Indonesian?



What is Indonesian?

Indonesian is the national language of the Republic of Indonesia. It is closely related to Malaysian which is the national language of Malaysia. Indonesian and Malaysian are spoken by more than 250 million people in Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei and Southern Thailand.

Indonesian, however, is a relatively new language, derived from Malay which was used as a lingua franca or trading language for thousands of years.

During Dutch colonial times, Malay was used as the language of administration and trade. In 1945, when Indonesia declared its independence, the status of Indonesian as the national language was confirmed. Although most Indonesians also speak a regional language, Indonesian is the language of government, the media and education.



You know some Indonesian already

You may not realise that you already know a lot of Indonesian words. English has been an important source for the Indonesian language.

If you visit Indonesia you will need a *paspor*, a *visa* and a *tiket*.

You might see a *film* on the plane and take a *taksi* to your hotel. On arrival you are sure to enjoy an *es krim*, watch *televisi* and drink some *teh* or *kopi*.

Similarly, Indonesian and Malay words have entered the English language with slightly changed spelling.

On a trip to Indonesia you might order a *satay* and eat a *mango* while sitting in a *rattan* chair. You might wear a *sarong* and you will see lots of *paddy* fields. If you are lucky you might even glimpse an *orang utan* through the *bamboo*!

Why learn Indonesian?

Indonesian language skills can open doors to a wide range of employment opportunities in areas of government, education, business, tourism, travel, translating and interpreting, the military, medicine, law, engineering and journalism.

South-east Asia has undergone enormous change over the past thirty years and as Australia's nearest Asian neighbour Indonesia is a fascinating and affordable country in which to travel, study or work.

It is interesting to know that Indonesian and Malaysian are a little easier for English speakers to learn than some other Asian languages. They use the Latin script and are non-tonal languages so English speakers can pick them up quickly.



On top of these advantages Australia has a growing Indonesian community, including more than 35,000 Indonesian and Malaysian students attending Australian schools and universities. So students of Indonesian will never have any difficulty finding someone to practise with.

Indonesia-Australia links

Australia and Indonesia have worked together in the past, and the two countries maintain a good working relationship. For example Australia supported Indonesia's struggle for independence in the United Nations in the late 1940s.

Australia and Indonesia are close neighbors enjoying many links including political, security, commercial, cultural and people-to-people connections. In fact recently, agreements on education, defence, development, counter-terrorism and economic cooperation have been signed.

There are as many as 400 Australian companies operating in Indonesia, including BHP Billiton, Telstra and Transfield. Australian education institutions, including leading universities, are also involved in many projects in Indonesia and have accredited courses delivered there.

The Australian government promotes greater understanding between the two countries by supporting the Australian-Indonesia Institute.

