

Asia Literacy Ambassadors Project: Pilot Work Placement Program

Background to the Pilot Work Placement Program

The Pilot Work Placement Program (PWP) is a key component of the *Asia Literacy Ambassadors* project. Its purpose is to showcase the Asia focus of different workplaces to participating students, with the aim that students will gain a better understanding of how having Asia skills can influence their career prospects and lifestyle aspirations.

The PWP program involves work placements for school students (Years 9-10) in a range of flexible formats that are detailed below.

School and business participants will be selected and matched based on locality, country of focus, and objectives for participating in the PWP program. Rural and regional schools and businesses will be actively sought and engaged in the program.

Reasons to participate in the Pilot Work Placement Program

Benefits for participating businesses

- Each business has the opportunity to showcase its Asia skills and capacities;
- PWP program visits increase brand awareness within student, teacher and wider community cohorts;
- Businesses receive support to run structured and easily deliverable work experience programs – the engagement activities are short, simple, and easy to be involved in;
- Businesses can meet their CSR obligations with a program that occurs within their workplace;
- Businesses have the opportunity to develop Asia skills in the next generation of the Australian workforce; and
- PWP program visits can be counted as Asia Literacy Ambassador interactions.

Benefits for participating schools

- Students have the opportunity to see Asia skills in action in a variety of workplaces;
- Students and staff gain a range of opportunities to visit and interact with a variety of organisation from non-profit organisations to small businesses to major city corporations;
- Schools can develop connections with business;
- Schools can participate in a managed and facilitated process of workplace visits; and
- The program extends and enriches careers activities, business education and language education.

Pilot Work Placement Program models

1) Asia exploration model

This model involves groups of students visiting the workplace for a single short visit with facilitated activities.

- A short overview visit could comprise a welcome presentation, a tour of the facility and an opportunity for students to interview selected staff to gain an understanding of the organisation's Asia literacy, over a period of 2 to 3 hours.
- Alternately, organisations could offer an observation-focussed visit, whereby groups of students visit the workplace to observe specific meetings, presentations or teleconferences to view first-hand how an organisation engages with Asia.

2) Workplace problem model

This model could occur as a short visit or as a single day activity. In preparation for the visit, the participating business proposes a problem or situation pertinent to its Asia-related work. Students research this issue then, as a group, visit the workplace. Activities at the workplace could include a workshop, facilitated by business staff and the students' teachers or interviews with selected staff to find out answers to the problem posed. Following their return to school the students engage in further follow-up activities with their teacher.

3) Traditional model

Similar to a traditional work experience placement, a group of 2-4 students would spend a period of 2-5 days at the participating business, performing conventional work experience tasks. They would also be required to complete a detailed worksheet and questionnaire to explore the Asia focus of organisation (provided by the AEF) and gain a better understanding of the Asia skills required by the staff.

4) Staff-shadowing model

The staff-shadowing model involves 'work shadowing' by school principals or careers practitioners, for a period of 1-2 days, as an alternative to a student work placement. The visiting school principal/careers practitioner would be expected to receive briefings and then attend meetings and presentations with key staff at the participating business to gain an overview of the ways in which the business engages with Asia.