



Government of **Western Australia**  
School Curriculum and Standards Authority

# **INDONESIAN: SECOND LANGUAGE**

---

General course

**Year 12 syllabus – What’s changing: Rationale and Aims  
For teaching in 2027**

## **Acknowledgement of Country**

Kaya. The School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority) acknowledges that our offices are on Whadjuk Noongar boodjar and that we deliver our services on the country of many traditional custodians and language groups throughout Western Australia. The Authority acknowledges the traditional custodians throughout Western Australia and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We offer our respect to Elders past and present.

## **Background**

As part of the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) Refreshment for reviewing the nomenclature of courses, the Authority has updated the rationale and aims of each syllabus.

The revised rationale and aims are aligned with the mapping of the general capabilities to provide clear connections between the rationale, aims and syllabus content. The rationale outlines what the subject is about and why it is important. It describes what students can expect to study in the course, along with the knowledge, skills and understandings they will develop throughout the course. It also explains how these can be applied in everyday life and references potential future pathways, outlining how students might connect what they learn in the course to further education, training and employment opportunities.

## **Important information**

### **WACE Refreshment: Reviewing the nomenclature of courses**

This document contains information that will be included in the syllabus effective from 1 January 2027.

Users of the syllabus are responsible for checking its currency.

Syllabuses are formally reviewed by the Authority on a cyclical basis, typically every five years.

### **Copyright**

© School Curriculum and Standards Authority, 2025

This document – apart from any third-party copyright material contained in it – may be freely copied, or communicated on an intranet, for non-commercial purposes in educational institutions, provided that the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority) is acknowledged as the copyright owner, and that the Authority's moral rights are not infringed.

Copying or communication for any other purpose can be done only within the terms of the *Copyright Act 1968* or with prior written permission of the Authority. Copying or communication of any third-party copyright material can be done only within the terms of the *Copyright Act 1968* or with permission of the copyright owners.

Any content in this document that has been derived from the Australian Curriculum may be used under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International licence](#).

## Rationale

The Indonesian: Second Language General course connects students with a language that has approximately 290 million speakers throughout the Indonesian archipelago. Indonesian is the official language of Indonesia and a working language of Timor-Leste. In addition, Indonesian, or *Bahasa Indonesia*, has closely related dialects of the same language, usually called *Bahasa Melayu*, which is used in Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei and southern Thailand. The languages of the Indonesian archipelago have been used in Australia since contact several centuries ago between the peoples of the islands now known as Indonesia and the Aboriginal peoples of northern Australia. The ties between Australia and Indonesia continue to develop, with Indonesia hosting Australia's largest overseas diplomatic presence, and increasing numbers of Australians living and working in Indonesia and Indonesians living, working and holidaying in Australia.

The course provides students with a rich, challenging experience of the linguistic and cultural diversity of Indonesian-speaking communities. Through Indonesian, students explore their personal world, the perspectives of others and the effect of change in the global community. Within these contexts, students reflect on their daily life, being a teenager, why Indonesians visit Australia and the importance of cultural connections. They explore Indonesian cultures and lifestyles, consider future pathways and the effects of communication on culture and language.

Students engage with a variety of texts and continue to develop skills, knowledge and understandings to communicate in Indonesian, in a range of situations. As well as enabling communication, the study of Indonesian enhances students' literacy skills and awareness of their own language. Students gain further insight into the culture, fostering a sense of intercultural awareness and empathy. They practise their critical thinking skills by engaging with a range of spoken and written texts in Indonesian and with Indonesian cultural practices and learn to approach global issues from diverse perspectives.

Through the course, students engage with the linguistic and cultural diversity of our interconnected world, reflecting on their role in society and how they interact with others across various social contexts. Language learning is a powerful tool for personal growth and broadens students' worldviews. Australia's cultural and linguistic diversity provides many opportunities to hear and use Indonesian in real-life situations as well as through Indonesian media, and to make actual and virtual connections with Indonesian-speaking communities throughout the world.

Australia has strong personal, cultural, political and trade connections with Indonesia and the study of Indonesian provides a foundation for future study of the language and leads to vocational opportunities in a wide range of sectors, and careers in areas such as tourism, travel, health care and hospitality. Ultimately, the course offers students valuable linguistic and intercultural skills, fosters personal growth and empathy, and enhances future academic and career prospects.

## Aims

The Indonesian: Second Language General course builds on students' skills and understanding of Indonesian and knowledge about the cultures of Indonesian-speaking communities. It enables students to:

- interact with others to exchange information, ideas, opinions and experiences in Indonesian
- engage with a range of texts in Indonesian to comprehend, and interpret meaning
- apply the skills they have acquired to produce texts in Indonesian to convey information and express ideas and opinions and experiences for specific audiences, purposes and contexts
- strengthen their intercultural communication skills in both the Indonesian and English languages
- demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of language as a system
- reflect on the relationship between language and culture.