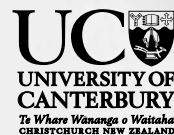




Overview

27 January - 10 February 2018
Melbourne (Australia) & Christchurch (New Zealand)

Organised by



**WHY DOES
#ASEFSU
MATTER?**

The ASEF Summer University (ASEFSU) is a 2-week experiential learning journey and “Interdisciplinary Innovathon” for students and young professionals. Designed to foster cross-cultural exchanges and networks among youth from [ASEM¹ partner countries](#)², it offers opportunities for students and young professionals to broaden their horizons, deepen their knowledge on contemporary issues, and propose concrete solutions to societal challenges.

ASEFSU takes place on an annual basis, each year tackling a different theme of socio-political concern within Asia and Europe. ASEFSU makes a positive impact within ASEM societies as it offers tangible results and daring proposals to innovate and promote sustainable development.

Key characteristics of ASEFSU

Engagement and collaboration of youth from 51 Asian and European countries with local ASEM communities

Fusion of theoretical and practical programme components, leading up to an Interdisciplinary Innovathon and Competition

Youth perspectives and solutions on pressing societal issues, practically contributing to the ASEM process, National Agendas, the UN Sustainable Development Goals and society at large

Watch the exhilarating [visual journey](#) of the previous ASEF Summer University edition: The ASEFSU20 on transportation and connectivity, which passed through 6 cities in China, Mongolia and the Russian Federation.

**WHAT IS
ASEFSU21?**

The 21st ASEF Summer University (ASEFSU21) will take place from 27 January to 10 February 2018 in at Swinburne University of Technology, Melbourne (Australia), and University of Canterbury, Christchurch (New Zealand), on the topic of “Youth with Disabilities: Shaping inclusive ASEM societies”.

The project will bring together a group of over 50 mixed-ability students and young professionals from ASEM countries. Next to an invaluable international and intercultural experience, you will as a participant propose solutions to pressing challenges face by ASEM youth with disabilities. These challenges relate to 8 key areas that have a significant impact on the lives of youth with disabilities:

- 1) Mobility,
- 2) Rights Protection and Legislation,
- 3) Economic Security and Employment,
- 4) Inclusive Education,
- 5) Health and Well-being,
- 6) Participation in Society,
- 7) Access to Information, and
- 8) Attitudes and Perceptions.

These focus areas are directly aligned with and support the priorities set by the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the ASEM Social Inclusion Agenda and the national disability strategies of Australia and New Zealand. The outcomes of the ASEFSU21 will subsequently be presented at high-level ASEM meetings as inputs to the deliberations of policy makers.

Read the Concept Note of the ASEFSU21 [here](#).

¹ The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) is an informal process of dialogue and cooperation bringing together the 28 European Union member states, two other European countries, and the European Union with 21 Asian countries and the ASEAN Secretariat. The ASEM dialogue addresses political, economic and cultural issues, with the objective of strengthening the relationship between the two regions, in a spirit of mutual respect and equal partnership. For more information on ASEM: www.aseminfoboard.org

² ASEM brings together 51 members countries: Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, the Lao PDR, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the United Kingdom and Viet Nam.

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

The ASEFSU21 consists of 3 core educational parts:

1) 2-week Online Training Experience

In this phase the participants will actively take part in an online preparatory phase to familiarise with the topics of the project. This phase will kick-start their preparations for the upcoming on-site phase and will require a couple of hours of work per week.

2) 2-week Interdisciplinary Innovathon

Off we go!:

[Australia \(27 January – 3 February 2018\)](#)

The 1-week programme in Australia offers the participants trainings, workshops, lectures and study visits to develop their understanding of the themes covered by the project.

Reaching the final milestone:

[New Zealand \(4-10 February 2018\)](#)

In New Zealand the participants will go from theory to practice as they are given the opportunity to propose daring solutions to obstacles currently faced by youth with disabilities. The best challenge solutions will also be awarded by the project's partners and presented to ASEM policy makers.

3) Spin-off activities and launching prototypes

All prototypes developed on site – analogue and digital – will be analysed and tested after the project by the relevant stakeholders and communities engaged. The participants play a crucial role in following-up on the initiatives and dissemination information about the lessons learned at the ASEFSU21. In addition, selected participants will be invited to present the outcomes of the ASEFSU21 at highlevel ASEM ministerial meetings and other events.

WHAT DO THE PARTICIPANTS GAIN?

First-hand experience in solving real-life challenge

An opportunity to develop concrete solutions to shape inclusive ASEM societies and enhance the quality of life of youth with disabilities.

Knowledge and skills-trainings linked to SDGs

Inspiration by fresh and practical knowledge on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Agenda: in particular Goals 4 (Quality education), 8 (Decent work) and 10 (Inequality).

Access to an Asia-Europe network

New contacts with youth leaders from 51 Asian and European countries, as well as political and business leaders, and access to the large ASEFEdu alumni network.

OUTCOMES OF #ASEFSU21 FEED INTO

ASEM Ministerial Meetings and ASEM activities:

12th Asia-Europe Meeting Summit (ASEM12), 2018, Brussels, Belgium

[ASEM Cooperation on Disability](#), 2017, Asia

ASEF Projects:

Future editions of the ASEF Summer University (ASEFSU)

3rd ASEF Young Leaders Summit (ASEFYLS3), 2018, Brussels, Belgium

Informal ASEM Seminars on Human Rights

Society at Large and SDG Agendas:

The solutions the participants propose at the ASEFSU21 Interdisciplinary Innovathon will at large contribute to the advancement of local and national authorities', businesses' and civil society organisations' work within the field of youth and disabilities.

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„Glass marbles are celebrated worldwide for their structural simplicity and aesthetic beauty. Although they vary externally in size, structure, design and colour, the very substance which forms them internally is the same. The use of marbles in the designs of the ASEFSU21 is to signify that although each one of us is not the same, the elements that make us human are identical in nature.“