

**21st ASEF Summer University (ASEFSU21)**

“Youth with Disabilities: Shaping Inclusive ASEM Societies”  
27 January–10 February 2018. Melbourne, Australia & Christchurch, New Zealand.

**Open Call & Overview**

# WHY DOES ASEFSU MATTER?

The ASEF Summer University (ASEFSU) is a 2-week experiential learning journey and “Interdisciplinary Innovathon” designed to foster cross-cultural exchanges and networks among youth from [Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/)[[1]](#footnote-1) [Partner countries](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/members).[[2]](#footnote-2) The project offers you the unique opportunity to deepen your knowledge on contemporary issues and propose concrete solutions to societal challenges.

ASEFSU takes place annually, each year tackling a different theme of socio-political concern within Asia and Europe. By participating in the ASEFSU you will make a positive impact within ASEM societies as your contributions will offer tangible results and daring proposals to pressing societal affairs.

**ASEFSU**

* Provides you with a vibrant platform to engage and collaborate with students and young professionals from 51 Asian and European countries and local ASEM communities.
* Gives you the opportunity to experience an innovative fuse of theoretical and practical programme components, including an Interdisciplinary Innovathon and competition.
* Offers you a venue to propose new perspectives and solutions on pressing societal issues, practically contributing to the ASEM process, National Agendas, the UN SDGs and society at large.

[Click here to read about the previous ASEF Summer University edition](http://www.asef.org/projects/themes/education/3728-20th-asef-summer-university-asefsu-): 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 on 27 January – 10 February 2018 in Melbourne (Australia) and Christchurch (New Zealand) exploring the topic of Youth with Disabilities. [Click here to read the ASEFSU21 Concept Note](http://asef.org/images/docs/ASEFSU21_ConceptNote.pdf) – an in-depth introduction to the theme of the project.

By participating in the ASEFSU21 you will for 2 weeks join a group of 51 mixed-ability students and young professionals from all ASEM countries. Next to an invaluable international and intercultural experience, you will be given the opportunity to concretely contribute to pressing challenges faced by ASEM youth with disabilities.

These challenges relate to 8 key areas that have a significant impact on the lives of youth with disabilities, namely:

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.

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

# PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

The ASEFSU21 consists of 3 core educational parts:

1. 2-week Online Training

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

1. 2-week Interdisciplinary Innovathon

* *Off we go!: Australia*

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

* *Reaching the final milestone: New Zealand*

In New Zealand you will go from theory to practice as you 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.

1. 4-week Online Post-project Phase and Spin-off activities

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 the project’s best-performing participants will be invited to present the outcomes of the ASEFSU21 at high-level ASEM ministerial meetings and other events.

# WHAT DO YOU GAIN?

First-hand experience in solving real-life challenges

* By joining the ASEFSU21 you will have the chance to develop concrete solutions that contribute to shaping ASEM societies and enhance the quality of life of youth with disabilities.

Knowledge and skills-trainings linked to SDGs

* Get acquainted and inspired by fresh knowledge on the practical implementation of the SDGs: in particular Goals 4 (Quality education), 8 (Decent work) and 10 (Inequality).

Access to Asia-Europe networks

* Make new contacts with young leaders, peers, business representatives and political leaders from 51 Asian and European countries, and join 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](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/events/asem-cooperation-disability), 2018, 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 you 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.

# FAST FACTS

WHEN & WHERE?

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

FOR WHOM?

* Citizens of any of the 51 ASEM partner countries
* Students and young professionals between 18-30 years
* Strong command of English (verbal and written)

SELECTION

51 mixed-ability participants selected through an Open Call.

The Open Call and the screening process will adopt a non-discriminative approach ensuring a balanced geographic representation, gender balance and fair access to all.

OPEN TO ALL

The ASEFSU21 is accessible to all ASEM youth.

Would you need any special assistance? Contact us – we will do our utmost to accommodate any special needs.

COSTS

Neither registration nor participation fee for the invited participants. Accommodation, meals and a travel subsidy will be provided.

KNOW MORE!

Do you feel inspired & up for the challenge to shape inclusive ASEM societies for all? Then, join us early 2018 for the ASEFSU21!

[**CLICK HERE TO APPLY!**](http://bit.ly/asefsu21-open-call)

For further information, please check out the [Frequently Asked Questions document (FAQ)](http://asef.org/images/docs/ASEFSU21_FAQ.pdf).

For other questions, drop us an email at [asefsu@asef.org](mailto:asefsu@asef.orgo) or call us at [+6568749714](Tel:+6568749714).

**ORGANISERS OF THE ASEFSU21**

**Asia-Europe Foundation**

The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) promotes understanding, strengthens relationships and facilitates cooperation among the people, institutions and organisations of Asia and Europe. ASEF enhances dialogue, enables exchanges and encourages collaboration across the thematic areas of culture, education, governance, sustainable development, economy and public health.

ASEF is an intergovernmental not-for-profit organisation located in Singapore. Founded in 1997, it is the only institution of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM).

ASEF runs more than 25 projects a year, consisting of around 100 activities, mainly conferences, seminars, workshops, lectures, publications, and online platforms, together with about 125 partner organisations. Each year over 3,000 Asians and Europeans participate in ASEF’s activities, and much wider audiences are reached through its various events, networks, and web-portals.

For more information, please visit the [website of the Asia-Europe Foundation](http://www.asef.org).

**Swinburne University of Technology**

**University of Canterbury**

**IN PARTNERSHIP WITH**

[European Disability Forum](http://www.edf-feph.org/)

[SDP Singapore](https://www.spd.org.sg/)

**SUPPORTED BY**

[European Students’ Forum (AEGEE-Europe)](http://www.aegee.org/)

[International Association of Political Science (IAPSS)](https://www.iapss.org)

[Erasmus Student Network (ESN)](https://esn.org)

[European Students’ Union (ESU)](https://www.esu-online.org/)

1. The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) is an informal process of dialogue and cooperation bringing together the 28 European Union member states, 2 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, please visit the [ASEM Infoboard website](http://www.aseminfoboard.org). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
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. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)