Flinders University's long and close association with Indonesia in areas of teaching and research is taking on a new focus, with an increasing level of collaboration between the University and Indonesian higher education institutions and government bodies.

With Indonesia identified as one of the priority nations by the Australian government for the development of stronger and more comprehensive relationships, Flinders is well placed to make a significant contribution to the Asian Century strategy. Greater internationalisation, especially in the dynamic Asian region, is also a key strategic priority of the University.

Links between Flinders and Indonesia, which go back to the University’s inception in 1966, historically have centred on the provision of Flinders postgraduate programs sponsored by both Indonesian and Australian governments. Flinders is the third largest recipient of AusAID-sponsored Indonesian students among Australia’s universities.

Under new agreements, Flinders is intensifying its engagement by extending its range of dual degrees with elite Indonesian institutions, expanding programs of joint research, and building closer relations with its networks of Indonesian alumni. The University is also strengthening links with the Indonesian government to assist in facilitating the nation’s strategic capacity-building and human resource development through a range of specialised short courses and other programs, offered both on- and off-shore.

### Indonesian focus at Flinders

For nearly four decades, Flinders University has been a centre for teaching and scholarship related to Indonesia. The Flinders Asia Centre in the School of International Studies offers South Australia’s only majors specialising in Indonesian culture, society and politics, and also provides the State’s only Indonesian language teaching at tertiary level.

Flinders also has a Javanese pendopo on its campus. The pavilion houses a full set of gamelan instruments, and is a focus for local Indonesian cultural and community activities. The Flinders Asia Centre is a major participant in Adelaide’s annual INDOfest, the cultural festival in which Flinders is a presenting partner in 2014-15.

Flinders has active student mobility programs with two Indonesian universities across disciplines including language, education, engineering, social sciences, business and law.

Flinders students are regular participants in Development Studies programs run by the Australian Consortium for ‘In-Country’ Indonesian Studies (ACICIS) and is engaging in a number of New Colombo Plan proposals around mobility of Australian students.

### Fast Facts

1. In 2014, Flinders has 175 Indonesian students enrolled in courses across all four faculties
2. Flinders has formal partnerships with eight Indonesian higher education institutions
3. Professor Pratikno, Flinders alumnus and Rektor of Gadjah Mada University, was awarded an honorary doctorate by Flinders University in 2013
4. Flinders has five dual or double degree collaborations with Indonesian higher education institutions
5. Flinders has nearly 900 Indonesian alumni
6. Flinders is a presenting partner of INDOfest, Australia’s largest annual celebration of Indonesian culture, which in April 2014 will include a major symposium – Indonesia and Australia: Power of Education and Soft Diplomacy – hosted by Flinders
Partnerships and collaborations

Flinders courses in disciplines such as education, public policy, social work, health sciences, population studies, environmental management, gender studies and international relations all have special relevance to Indonesia and its development agenda.

The University is involved in existing agreements and collaborative projects with several government ministries and agencies: Ministry of Social Affairs; Ministry of Finance; Government of Immigration (Immigrasi); Indonesian Family Planning Board (BKKBN); Ministry of Religious Affairs (MORA); Ministry of Education (DIKTI); Ministry of National Development Planning (BAPPENAS) and the Aceh Provincial Government.

In addition to its long-standing engagement with the Indonesian Family Planning Board, which has produced more than 50 graduates in Population Studies, the University also hosts and delivers gender training courses in Indonesia and Australia for government and NGO staff under the Australian Agency for International Development, and is moving to expand its programs related to disability and social work policy and practice.

The Indonesian government is funding programs to increase the level of qualifications among staff in its higher education system to Masters and PhD level. World Bank SPIRIT scholarships have brought 26 higher degree students to Flinders from Indonesia’s Ministry of Finance and BAPPENAS. Other sponsored students are drawn from the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Religious Affairs, the Government of Aceh and the Talauld Government in North Sulawesi.

Flinders currently has formal partnerships with eight Indonesian higher education institutions and, reflecting Indonesia’s policy of decentralisation, is actively pursuing its relationships with major provincial universities.

Flinders has hosted a number of short ‘sandwich’ programs, with a number of universities sending staff to undertake short term research projects (notably those from Diponegoro University, hosted by the School of Law). The School of Medicine is engaged in ongoing development of clinical education with the University of Nusa Cendana in Kupang (West Timor).

In 2014, Flinders has 175 Indonesian students enrolled in courses across all four faculties. Of the students, 21 are undergraduate and 154 are higher degree.

Flinders is partnered with five Indonesian institutions to provide dual or double degrees: in International Studies with Gadjah Mada University; in Nursing with the University of Airlangga; in International Business with the Institute of Business Management and Technology (IBMDT International University); in Public Administration with the University of Indonesia; and in Business and Accounting with IBMDT and the University of Surabaya.

For more information
www.flinders.edu.au

Research

Director of the Flinders Asia Centre, Dr Priyambudi Sulistiyanto, has a strong and continuing record of Indonesia-based research, specialising in Indonesian politics at the local level.

Dr Caroline Ellison of Disability Studies is engaged in a research project on capacity building for quality disability service delivery in Indonesia.

Sociologist Associate Professor Janet McIntyre is an external collaborator in a project at the University of Indonesia funded by the Ministry of Social Affairs to assist in addressing issues of water governance and adaptation.

Professor Andrew Millington of the School of the Environment has presented development related research at Brawijaya University in Malang and is working with Indonesian postgraduates on projects related to urban expansion, ecosystems, water resources and land tenure.

Professor Paul Ward is leading research in the Discipline of Public Health to investigate the effectiveness of education programs in schools in Aceh related to smoking cessation.

For an Australian Research Council project, Associate Professor Susanne Schech of International Studies is evaluating the impact of international volunteering in Asian countries including Indonesia.

Alumni

Flinders has close to 900 alumni in Indonesia, many of whom hold senior positions in government, academia and the professions. Most are located in Java, with the highest numbers in the cities of Jakarta, Bandung and Surabaya. There are also alumni in regional areas including Aceh and Bali.

Recognising the growing need to service and strengthen the University’s growing network of Indonesian collaborators and alumni, Flinders opened a permanent office in Jakarta in May 2012. In 2013, Flinders also launched its new Flinders University Alumni Network with a function in Jakarta. Its events and activities will be based on local networks.

Among Flinders University’s most prominent Indonesian alumni are:

Professor Pratikno (PhD Soc Sci, 1997). Rector of Gadjah Mada University, was formerly Professor of Political Science and Dean in the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences before his appointment as Rector. He previously served in the Ministry for Home Affairs and on government committees and councils concerned with regional governance and autonomy. He was awarded an honorary doctorate by Flinders in April 2013.

Dr Daniel Sparrinja (PhD SocSc, 1997) is currently Senior Adviser in Public and Political Communication to the Indonesian President. After working in a strategic network to promote democracy, from 1998 he was as a political analyst and also taught at undergraduate and postgraduate level at Airlangga University. Dr Sparrinja received a Distinguished Alumni Award in 2013.

Dr Hetifah Siwandha (PhD SocSci, 2006), Executive Director of the Bandung Trust Advisory Group (B-Trust), is an expert in spatial planning and urban social economy, citizen participation, local politics and policy, and the author of several books. As a consultant, researcher and facilitator in promoting governance reform in the Bandung region, she frequently speaks at national and international forums.

Alignment with Flinders Strategic Plan

Flinders aims to develop sustainable international partnerships to expand opportunities and benefits for staff, students and its communities. Initiatives include increased international opportunities for students through online learning and outward student mobility and support for Flinders International Study Centre.