



Singapore
International
Foundation
for a better world

ASEAN Youth Fellowship Factsheet

1 Background

- 1.1 Singapore is committed to playing a key role in leadership development, to foster ASEAN community building at the regional level. The ASEAN Youth Fellowship (AYF), established in 2018 during Singapore's ASEAN chairmanship, is one of Singapore's key contributions to the ASEAN youth agenda.
- 1.2 Strengthening people-to-people ties is essential in creating a close-knit ASEAN community. Through leadership development programmes, youths who will form the next generation of leaders will be given the opportunity to form networks and connections to bring the ASEAN community forward

2 ASEAN Youth Fellowship (AYF) 2026

- 2.1 Into its 8th run, the AYF continues to be an exclusive regional leadership development programme that cultivates and connects emerging ASEAN young leaders from across diverse sectors.

3 Programme Objectives

- 3.1 AYF aims to achieve the following objectives:
 - a. To engage youth leaders in ASEAN through an immersive learning experience;
 - b. To build a strong network among youth leaders from diverse sectors; and
 - c. To expose ASEAN youth leaders to opportunities in the region.

4 Target Audience

- 4.1 The target participants are professionals aged between 27 to 35 years old, who are citizens of ASEAN member states. They should be proficient in English.
- 4.2 The nominated youth leaders must have established track record in their communities of influence, with high potential to take on prominent leadership positions in the future. Past AYF Fellows included department heads in national government bodies, CEOs and founders of national-level start-ups and civil society organisations, or management of private corporations and businesses.

5 Programme Structure

- 5.1 The AYF 2026 will be held from **13 to 20 November 2026** as an in-person programme with two legs – the first half will be held in Singapore, followed by the second half in the Philippines. There would also be a mandatory online pre-programme briefing session on **31 October 2026**.
- 5.2 The programme will feature the following key elements:
 - a. Dialogues with senior policy makers and prominent thought leaders;
 - b. Immersive institutional visits; and
 - c. Exclusive learning journeys to key installations and organisations

Inspired by the Philippines' ASEAN Chairmanship 2026 theme, "Navigating Our Future, Together", AYF 2026 focuses on regional stability, economic development, and community empowerment across ASEAN. ASEAN youth leaders will embark on a journey that equips them to be at the forefront of regional collaboration, paving the way for a more equitable, innovative, and interconnected region.

- 5.3 After the programme, ASEAN Youth Fellows are encouraged to work collaboratively on joint regional or bilateral projects stemming from AYF or in areas of need assessed by Fellows and / or AYF Alumni. Projects scoped in partnership with other organisations could also be considered. Fellows and AYF Alumni can tap on the Singapore-ASEAN Youth Fund (SAYF)¹ or the AYF Impact Fund² to support their collaborative ground-up initiatives. In addition, there will be re-engagement opportunities for the Fellows through various platforms as participants, speakers, moderators, etc.

6 Programme Costs

- 6.1 Expenses for the programme will be borne by the Organisers. These include accommodation, transport and meals. All other personal expenses, including any necessary vaccinations as required by the hosting organisation(s) and prevailing health guidelines of the hosting countries, as well as personal travel insurance will be borne by the Fellows.
- 6.2 Fellows will also bear any additional charges incurred for changes or cancellations to flight bookings or accommodation beyond the deadline stipulated by the Organisers.

¹ The Singapore-ASEAN Youth Fund (SAYF) aims to promote greater interaction among youth in the ASEAN member countries by supporting partnerships among ASEAN youth and youth sector organisations. More information on the SAYF can be found [/www.nyc.gov.sg/programmes-grants/grants---singapore-aseanyouth-fund](http://www.nyc.gov.sg/programmes-grants/grants---singapore-aseanyouth-fund).

² As part of NYC's commitment to support the ASEAN Youth Fellows in creating greater impact in the region, the AYF Impact Fund is available to Fellows after the programme to pursue ground-up initiatives that promote youth development, community building, and other related causes.

7 *Application Submission*

- 7.1 All applicants should complete the online application form at go.gov.sg/ayf-apply by **Sunday, 24 May 2026**. Application instructions can be found at the top of the online form.
- 7.2 Nominating organisations are kindly requested to submit the completed nomination form at go.gov.sg/ayfnominations by **Sunday, 24 May 2026**.
- 7.3 For further enquiries on AYF, please email ayf@nyc.sg.

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Please refer to the next page for some Frequently Asked Questions.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who can apply for AYF?

Professionals aged between 27 to 35 years old, who are citizens of ASEAN member states and are proficient in English can apply.

Applicants should be young leaders with an established track record in their communities of influence, with high potential to take on more prominent leadership positions in future.

2. Is participation at AYF fully funded?

All programme costs including meals, accommodation and flights will be borne by the organisers. However, Fellows will have to bear personal expenses, such as travel insurance, incidentals during hotel stay, mobile data charges, etc.

Fellows will also bear any additional charges incurred for changes or cancellations to flight bookings or accommodation beyond the deadline stipulated by the Organisers, and any costs for necessary health requirements such as mandatory vaccinations as required by the hosting organisation(s) and prevailing health guidelines of the hosting country.

3. Can I sit out for certain segments of the programme due to personal/work commitments?

Given that this is a concentrated one-week programme, Fellows are required to commit to the entire programme duration and participate fully in all activities, including any pre-programme briefing(s). Fellows who are unable to commit to the full programme may not be eligible to continue in the Fellowship, as full participation is essential to ensure a meaningful and cohesive experience for all.

4. How are Fellows selected?

Applicants will be assessed based on their leadership experiences in their professional or community spheres, demonstrate values-driven leadership through their actions, and show commitment to driving meaningful impact in their communities. Applicants should also possess ASEAN awareness through regional experience or future growth plans. An updated curriculum vitae (CV) is required to be submitted at the point of application.

5. Do I need to go for any health check-ups or vaccination to participate in AYF?

Health check-ups are not mandatory, but Fellows will be required to submit a health declaration prior to the programme. The Organisers may request additional documentation such as vaccination certificates and doctor's memos to ascertain that Fellows are fit for participation in all activities. Fellows are also required to have valid tetanus immunisation

to participate in the mandatory team-building activities organised by Outward Bound Singapore (OBS) as part of the AYF Programme.

6. When will the selection results be released?

The selection results for AYF will be released about 2 months before the AYF programme. All applicants will receive an email from the Organisers on the selection results accordingly. Please ensure that the email that you have provided in registration form is accurate and check your junk folder for misdirected email.

7. What is the AYF programme like?

AYF is a week-long residential programme that is held in Singapore and in another major city in ASEAN.

Fellows can expect to participate in dialogues with senior policymakers and prominent thought leaders. In addition, there will be exclusive visits and learning journeys to various organisations, along with numerous opportunities for networking with peers and team-building activities.

Post-AYF programme, Fellows are encouraged to work collaboratively on joint regional or bilateral projects stemming from AYF or in areas of need assessed by Fellows and / or AYF Alumni. Fellows are encouraged to tap on the Singapore-ASEAN Youth Fund (SAYF)³ and AYF Impact Fund⁴ to implement their projects. In addition, there will be re-engagement opportunities for the Fellows through various platforms as participants, speakers, moderators, etc.

8. What do I need to prepare before the programme?

There will be a mandatory online pre-programme briefing that all Fellows must attend, where the Organisers will share programme updates and detailed instructions. This pre-programme briefing will usually be conducted 2 to 3 weeks before the start of the AYF. All Fellows will be added to a WhatsApp group chat for logistical and communication purposes. Please ensure that your passport has at least 6 months of validity for travel.

9. What is the difference between a nominator and a referee?

Nominators are organisations invited by the National Youth Council and the Singapore International Foundation to nominate suitable leaders in their networks to apply for AYF. This includes the National Youth Focal points of each ASEAN Member States, ASEAN

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⁴ As part of NYC's commitment to support the ASEAN Youth Fellows in creating greater impact in the region, the AYF Impact Fund is available to Fellows after the programme to pursue ground-up initiatives that promote youth development, community building, and other related causes.

embassies, High Commissions, Corporate Partners, Non-profit Organisations, and the AYF Alumni. Referees are individuals who can testify in writing on an applicant's character and ability. The Organisers may check in with your referees during the selection process.
