

# LANGUAGE BRIDGES

## Creating A Sustainable Community: Building Connections through University Language Bridges Program

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Recognizing the diverse tapestry of our global community, Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar is proud to showcase the Language Bridges Program — a unique initiative designed to empower service providers of different backgrounds and nationalities with varying levels of English proficiency.

### Introduction

The Language Bridges Program is a unique initiative aimed at fostering a supportive environment for service providers (Learners) of different nationalities like India, Pakistan, Philippines, Nepal and other countries.

The program provides our low income service providers the tool to improve their communication and help them navigate the linguistic challenges they may encounter in their roles whether managing customer interactions, collaborating with colleagues, or engaging in professional development.

### Related SDGs



In a rapidly globalizing world, effective communication across linguistic boundaries is paramount for fostering sustainable development and achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

However, language barriers often impede the exchange of knowledge, ideas, and resources, hindering progress towards these critical goals.

In response, the Language Bridges Program (LBP) emerges as an innovative initiative aimed at bridging these divides through a multifaceted approach that intertwines sustainability principles with the SDGs.

### Strengths of The Program

The curriculum is developed by English language teachers who have deep insight into the workers' lives, and the classes are taught by university staff and students through a volunteer system.

Understanding that the service providers come from diverse linguistic backgrounds and have varying levels of English proficiency, the program offers a flexible and adaptive approach to language learning.

The classes available are for different levels of proficiency: Basic, False Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced.

The learners have explored cultural nuances, etiquette, historical backgrounds, personal challenges, and communication styles, enabling them to engage in conversations more with trust and confidence.

### Bridging The Gap Between Communities

- Increased interaction between students and workers
- Reduce social segregation
- Raise awareness about human rights
- Raise awareness about migrant workers and their challenges

#### Outcome for learners:

- Ability to speak up when needed
- Adaptation and resilience
- Resourcefulness
- Empowerment and personal advancement

#### Outcome for volunteers:

- Better appreciation of life
- Improvement of life comes from education
- Acquire different perspectives
- Patience and empathy
- Leadership and responsibility
- Communication
- Sense of purpose

