



GALESS Melbourne Conference August 2026 – A research study of minority group(s).

Information Letter

Welcome to the 2026 edition of the GALESS TiltShift Challenge Melbourne. This letter provides you with detailed information about the TiltShift Challenge – a research study of minority group/s to be held in Melbourne, Australia on August 18-21, 2026, organised by the Melbourne and Beyond Gifted Network (MBGN), a voluntary schools/teacher professional network offering programs for students of high ability and potential, and GALESS (Global Alliance of Leading Edge Schools). This conference will have the domain research area of *Minority groups*.

We are envisaging a Conference opening in the afternoon of Tuesday 18th August 2026 and continuing for three full days concluding on Friday Aug 21st. The MBGN will provide comprehensive information for visiting schools including optional local activities for the weekend.

There will be places for four teams available from international schools, with the remainder of participating schools coming from Australia. Applications

from international schools are collected by way of the GALESS front desk:

info@galeless.org Australian schools can apply directly via:
galelessmelbourne2026@gmail.com

The TiltShift Challenge Conference will take place in three MBGN host schools and a city of Melbourne location. As the title reveals, this conference student research on minority groups in society. This has been deliberately chosen to provide a broad scope for research. Student teams may explore any one or a combination of the following:



- Inequality and the representation of minority groups in your society.
- Exploration of the challenges and opportunities faced by minority groups.
- The impact of social systems on minority communities.
- Representation, access, equity and justice for minority groups.
- How society shapes the experiences of minority groups
- A topic of their own choice related to one or more minority groups.

Teams are advised to focus on a group or groups in their country and offer one example from another country in their analysis.

Research should have a local and international focus relevant to the participating school. (see chapter TiltShift Challenge 2026)

The research project is based within schools with a school team of 4 students and at least one Teacher-Mentor to guide them through the process. Schools are encouraged to make connections with experts and others with an interest in the conference topic, from your school, local community and/or region, to serve as living libraries. Schools are asked to provide information about these connections for sharing on the GALESS website.

Starting with virtual challenge preparation activities, involvement in the project is from December 2025 to August 2026. The required deliverables consist of a written report and oral presentation with accompanying slides. The written report must be submitted by August 5th, 2026. A few optional interactive sessions will be provided via the organizing network in Melbourne throughout the challenge period. These will focus on design thinking, academic writing and minority groups. Information about these will be provided early 2026.

This TiltShift Challenge aspires to develop awareness about complex questions relating to the research domain- looking for sustainable and responsible analysis from our young generation in each part of the world.

Following registration, a timeline of activities, conference program and website information will be provided, with appendices about delivery, including judging/assessment elements, and feedback criteria.



Certificates for each team participating in the TiltShift Challenge are awarded at the end of the challenge.

GALESS Melbourne is a co-operative, engaging, rigorous and non-competitive research opportunity for students with a rich conference program that supports the sharing of research and ideas as well as cross-cultural interactions. Conference participation is limited and will be allocated in order of application, so avoid disappointment please get your application in as soon as possible.

GALESS Research Setting

TiltShift Challenge

The TiltShift Challenge is meant to enthuse students to undertake action to 'catch their future' through a process of contemplation, research and creativity. Students are asked to complete academic assignments or tasks and will then be presented with group challenges among various schools all over the world. We invite students to engage in the larger problems facing them, their school, their community and beyond, thus enticing them to extend their learning boundaries beyond their classroom-walls, with challenges that are invariably more complex.

Structure of TiltShift Challenges



There are three basic features that characterise these challenges:

- The challenge presents the task, the question, or the issue which the students will address and contribute to solve. The overarching challenge is presented by way of a Thesis from either a well-known politician, a specialist, a practitioner or expert team. See “TiltShift Challenge 2026 – Thesis”.
- Students complete the project in groups of 4 guided by a Mentor/Teacher
- Well-known politicians, specialists or practitioners from their immediate living environment, whose function can be described as a ‘living library’, should be available for advice and consultation.
- The solutions or tasks completed will be presented twofold. First, there a written description/account of the solution or task is completed. Secondly, the solution/task completed is presented to other teams. A group of experts act as jury, asking probing questions and providing feedback. The written accounts of all teams involved in the same challenge are published in a GALESS Challenge year-book as well as on the GALESS and Melbourne Network websites. There are examples of past year books on the GALESS website.

TiltShift Challenge 2026 - Thesis

The Melbourne Conference will focus on Minority groups in society.

Choose a perspective which is of interest, using the [Three Pillars of Sustainability Framework](#) as a guide - social, environment and economic. You may wish to use the [Design Thinking Process](#) (DTP) to guide your research.

There are three aspects to address in the one research paper:

Thesis :

1. Focus your research on a minority group in your society. What are the challenges faced by this minority group in your society. Involve a “voice” from this group in your considerations and research-result,
2. Minority Rights as an international question. The United Nations’s International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) Article 27. The ICCPR profile of our country looks like this...



Thesis: The protection and promotion of minority rights is essential for building stable, inclusive, and prosperous societies.

Written Report, basic layout

- Word length 2500-5000.
- References and all other sources must be acknowledged in a bibliography using [APA formatting](#). Additional small format adaptations in research-reports are required for the GALESS Yearbook. More information will be published in Information Pack 2
- Word length of the written report must be shown clearly on the report. Reports that are 10% **over** the permitted word length will not be accepted.

More information about the layout of the report will be published in **Information Pack 1**.

Pre-Registration

Please use the pre-registration form for basic registration details and send it in as soon as possible to info@galeless.org.



Final Registration

Details for final full registration will be collected by the GALESS desk : info@galeless.org We require student-name details for certificate-registrations only by the end of January, 2026.

Melbourne Conference information:

- The total conference fee Melbourne for foreign, non Australian-schools/students is estimated at **USD 220** per student / guiding teacher(s) (GALESS CA fee included, see leaflet for the full conference program.)

The conference fee consists of two parts to be billed separately::

- Schools will be billed by the GALESS frontend for -the GALESS CA fee – of - **USD 50-** per student/guiding teacher directly after full registration,
 - MBGN will send six weeks before the conference a bill with a fee of -**USD 170** - per student/guiding teacher..
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- MBGN will publish times of virtual workshops during the course of the year and schools participating are welcome to login at these times,
 - During the conference in Melbourne: Accommodation for students are *not* included in the fee. MBGN will advise you about suitable accommodation options in Melbourne. at the latest in March 2026.



- Foreign visitors: We strongly recommend that you obtain insurance which will cover your obligations regarding the trip to Melbourne, including the payments due to cancellation by yourself or your team members.

It is your responsibility to ensure that the insurance coverage you purchase is adequate for your private needs

- The organiser is:

MBGN , Michele Linossier

Organizing Schools:

Camberwell Grammar School

Camberwell Girls Grammar School

Ivanhoe Grammar School.

Mailcontact:

galessmelbourne2026@gmail.com

Timetable for Melbourne Conference:

February 15th 2026

Closing date for school team pre-registration

Publication Information Pack 1

February 28th 2026

Final Delivery Research Abstract

March 15th 2026

Full Registration procedure. Publication list
participating schools. Information Pack 2

February – July 31st 2026: virtual seminars about “Minorities”, as well as the Design Thinking process. Dates will be announced later.



July 15, 2026	Information Pack 3. Conference Week Agenda & Activities
July 28 th 2026	Team intro video sent to MBGN contact
August 1, 2026	Final date research report delivery - research reports to be sent to GALESS (info@galeless.org)
August 18-21, 2026	Conference Week <i>Tuesday 18th</i> 3 – 6pm (TNC) @ Ivanhoe Grammar School – Welcome and activity. . <i>Wednesday 19th</i> Camberwell Grammar School, presentations <i>Thursday 20th</i> Camberwell Girls Grammar School, presentations <i>Friday 21st</i> City of Melbourne workshop day.
January 1, 2027	Publication research reports – GALESS yearbook 2026