



Department
of Industry

NSW RESEARCH ATTRACTION AND ACCELERATION PROGRAM

**SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING STUDENT COMPETITION
SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM**

GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS

MARCH 2017

1. Program purpose

- a. The NSW Government established the Research Attraction & Acceleration Program (RAAP) to support continued investment in the state's research and development capability, and drive innovation in the economy. The RAAP will provide, on a competitive basis, grants to NSW applicants in the Science and Engineering Student Competition Sponsorship Program (SESCSP). The SESCSP supports high-tech, high-impact research by NSW students attending domestic and international research competitions in areas of relevance to the NSW Premier's Priorities. The RAAP is administered by the Office of the NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer (OCSE) within the NSW Department of Industry ('the Department').

2. Grant funds available

- a. Successful applicants will be awarded funds from a maximum available pool of \$100,000 (excluding GST) with the final amount decided at the Department's discretion. The quantum of funding awarded to successful applicants will depend on the overall quantity and quality of applications received in each round. The funding is available to competition teams NOT individuals (however, an individual can apply on behalf of a team).

3. Use of grant funds

- a. Funding from the RAAP will take the form of a cash contribution following the execution of an agreement between the applicant and the Department.
- b. The grant funds must be spent on the research component of the competition e.g. lab consumables, research materials, outreach and any other research expenditure. The grant funds must not be used on conference registration, travel, accommodation, visas, insurance or any other non-research related expenses.
- c. The applicant will need to provide a financial acquittal with their final report following the competition, demonstrating that grant funds were used in accordance with the above criteria.

4. Eligibility criteria

- a. Sponsorship grants will be available for student competition research projects from July 2017 to June 2018.
- b. The competition may be located either within Australia or overseas.
- c. The objective of this grant is to support competition-related project research by NSW students, so sponsorship applicants must have confirmation of competition registration and established project plans. In situations where timing makes this impossible, interested applicants not yet registered to participate must receive prior written permission from OCSE to apply for the SESCSP.
- d. The applicant(s) must be enrolled or employed at a NSW university, public sector research institution, or be from the NSW communities sector. This includes:
 - i. Non profit organisations incorporated under the Co-operations Act 2001(Cth) as applied in NSW
 - ii. Community groups

- iii. Universities
 - iv. Government associations.
- e. The competition research area must fall into at least one of the following categories:
- i. Mathematical, information and computing sciences
 - ii. Physical, chemical and earth sciences
 - iii. Engineering, environmental sciences and energy innovation
 - iv. Biological and biotechnological sciences.
- f. Any requested expenses must be incurred following approval of the sponsorship application.
- g. Any team receiving more than 50% of the total amount of estimated funding for the competition from NSW Government agencies is ineligible. Expenses from additional sources must be acknowledged in Section B.12 of the Application Form.

5. Selection criteria

- a. Applications will be ranked and preference given according to the criteria outlined below. The application form seeks responses to these criteria:
- i. Ability to demonstrate the necessity for funding through an accurate budget breakdown
 - ii. Ability to prove benefits of the funding and the value it will add to the ability of the applicant(s) to participate in the competition – including sponsorship package benefits to the Department (i.e. recognition or sponsor benefits that the Department will receive upon award of the grant)
 - iii. Ability to demonstrate committed support (e.g. from the applicant's institution, philanthropists, industry partners and/or the Commonwealth), which will leverage the Department's investment
 - iv. Competition benefits to the community and economy arising from the research topics (e.g. outreach to students, teachers, industry); prestige and impact of competition; number of attendees (incl. team and total competition attendance); and partnerships or international opportunities.
 - v. Alignment with NSW Premier's Priorities.
- b. The research organisation must demonstrate that the competition is relevant to one of the following categories:
- i. Mathematical, information and computing sciences
 - ii. Physical, chemical and earth sciences
 - iii. Engineering, environmental sciences and energy innovation
 - iv. Biological and biotechnological sciences.
- c. The NSW Government, including Department of Industry, at its discretion, may choose not to award or recommend funding under the RAAP.

6. Application process

- a. Applications close on **Friday 7 April 2017**.
- b. Application forms must be submitted to [**raap.grants@industry.nsw.gov.au**](mailto:raap.grants@industry.nsw.gov.au)
- c. The Science and Engineering Student Competition Sponsorship Program Application Form is available in electronic form at

[http://www.chiefscientist.nsw.gov.au/investing-in-science/Science and Engineering-Student-Competition-Sponsorship-Program](http://www.chiefscientist.nsw.gov.au/investing-in-science/Science%20and%20Engineering-Student-Competition-Sponsorship-Program)

- d. All questions outlined in the application form must be answered. If they are not applicable, please indicate.
- e. Applicants should clearly identify in their application any information that the applicant requests be treated as confidential (e.g. project subject or plan).
- f. The application must be signed by at least one of the competition attendees or team organisers.
- g. All eligible applicants will be assessed on merit against the selection criteria. However the Department, at its discretion, may choose not to award or recommend funding to applicants under the program.
- h. **Short extensions to the deadlines may be given only in extenuating circumstances and requests must be received by Monday 3 April 2017.** A request for an extension, explaining the need for and length of the extension, should be submitted in writing to:

Ms Jelena Damnjanovic
Office of the NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer
jelena.damnjanovic@chiefscientist.nsw.gov.au
(02) 9338 6819

7. Important dates

15 March 2017	Sponsorship Program applications open
7 April 2017	Sponsorship Program applications close
Late April 2017	Applicants to be notified of outcome

8. Funding agreements and reporting requirements

- a. All applicants who are successful under the Science and Engineering Student Competition Sponsorship Program, and who accept the offer of a grant will be required to enter into an agreement with the Department relating to the grant. The Funding Deed will specify obligations that relate primarily to the recipient's accountability for the grant, including using the grant for research activities, the return of unspent grant funds and reporting on the use of the grant.
- b. The agreement must be signed by at least one of the competition attendees or team organisers.
- c. Successful applicants must complete the Final Report detailing outcomes from attending the competition, including a financial acquittal.