



Planning,
Industry &
Environment

NSW RESEARCH ATTRACTION AND ACCELERATION PROGRAM

**STEM Student Competition
Sponsorship Program**

Guidelines for applicants

March 2021

1. Program purpose

- a. The NSW Government established the Research Attraction & Acceleration Program (RAAP) to support innovation and continued investment in NSW research and development.

The RAAP is administered by the NSW Office of the Chief Scientist & Engineer (OCSE) within the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment ('the Department').

The STEM Student Competition Sponsorship Program (SSCSP) supports high-tech, high-impact research by NSW students attending domestic and international research competitions.

2. Funding

- a. Funding will take the form of a cash contribution following the execution of an agreement between the applicant and the Department.
- b. The funding amount will be determined by an assessment panel.
- c. Funding is available to competition teams NOT individuals. However, an individual can apply on behalf of a team.
- d. The grant funds must be spent on the research component of the competition, such as lab consumables, research materials, outreach and any other research expenditure.
- e. The grant funds must not be used on conference registration, travel, accommodation, visas, insurance or any other non-research related expenses.
- f. The applicant is required to provide a financial acquittal with a final report following the competition, demonstrating that grant funds were used in accordance with program guidelines.

3. Eligibility criteria

- a. Sponsorship grants will be available for student competition research projects from January 2021 to December 2021.
- b. The competition may be located either within Australia or overseas.
- c. Applicants must have confirmation of competition registration and established project plans or seek written permission from OCSE to apply for the SSCSP.
- d. The applicants 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 *Federal Corporations Act 2001* 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. Teams must not receive more than 50 per cent of estimated funding from NSW Government agencies. Expenses from additional sources must be acknowledged in Section B.12 of the Application Form.

4. Selection criteria

- a. An assessment panel will consider all eligible applications against the selection criteria:
 - i. Demonstrate need for funding through a budget breakdown.
 - ii. Demonstrate value of competition to the participants, institution and the community.
 - iii. Demonstrate support from the applicant's institution, philanthropists, industry partners and/or the Commonwealth Government.
 - iv. Alignment with Government Priorities, being:
 - A strong economy
 - Highest quality education
 - Well connected communities with quality local environments
 - Putting customers at the centre
 - Breaking the cycle of disadvantage

5. Application process

- a. The Science and Engineering Student Competition Sponsorship Program Application Form is available at:
www.chiefscientist.nsw.gov.au/funding/science-education/science-and-engineering-student-competition-sponsorship-program
- b. Applications are due by 5:00 pm **Friday 26 March 2021**.
- c. All applications must be submitted electronically to
raap.grants@industry.nsw.gov.au
- d. The application form must be completed in its entirety to be eligible for consideration. Clearly mark any information that should be treated confidentially.
- e. The application must be signed by a competition attendee or team organiser.
- f. All eligible applicants will be assessed on merit against the selection criteria. The Department, at its discretion, may choose not to award or recommend funding to applicants under the program.
- g. Short extensions may be granted in extenuating circumstances. Extension requests must be submitted in writing by **Monday 22 March 2021** to:

Centine Wilbello
Office of the NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer
Phone: (02) 9338 6784
centine.wilbello@chiefscientist.nsw.gov.au

6. Important dates

26 February 2021	Applications open
26 March 2021	Applications close
Late April 2021	Applicants notified of outcome

7. Funding agreements and reporting requirements

- a. Successful applicants who accept the offer of a grant will be required to enter into an agreement with the Department. The agreement will specify obligations including using the grant for research activities, the return of unspent grant funds, reporting requirements and a financial acquittal.
- b. The agreement must be signed by at least one of the competition attendees or team organisers.