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NSW RESEARCH ATTRACTION AND ACCELERATION PROGRAM

**SUPPORTING YOUNG SCIENTISTS PROGRAM
2022/23**

GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS

JULY 2022

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NSW Research Attraction and Acceleration Program

Guidelines for Applicants

SUPPORTING YOUNG SCIENTISTS PROGRAM

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 discretionary basis, grants to NSW applicants in the Supporting Young Scientists Program (SYSP). The SYSP offers financial support to NSW high school students, either as individuals or in groups, who seek to further their education in Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics in one of the following ways:
 - through either 'in person' or virtual participation in STEM-related competitions, either domestically or internationally
 - through either 'in person' or virtual participation in STEM-related events, either domestically or internationally
 - through either 'in person' or virtual attendance at relevant prestigious academic courses, either domestically or internationally.

The RAAP is administered by the Office of the NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer (OCSE), Investment NSW within the Department of Enterprise, Investment and Trade ('the Department').

2. Grant funds available

- a. Successful applicants will be awarded funds from a maximum available pool of \$50,000 (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 throughout the year. The maximum funding for a single student will be capped at \$5,000 (ex GST). The maximum funding available to a team will be capped at \$10,000 (ex GST).

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's high school, or the agent of a NSW educational institution or association, and the Department. The high school or agent will then reimburse the student(s) the grant amount in full.

The grant funds must be spent in the following ways: for STEM-related competitions, either essential research or construction components of the entry project, entry fees or reasonable travel and accommodation expenses; for STEM-related events, either essential research or construction components of the event project, entry fees or reasonable travel and accommodation expenses; for attendance at relevant academic courses, tuition fees, or reasonable travel and accommodation expenses.

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. Grants will be available to NSW high school students undertaking STEM-related activities from July 2022 to June 2023.
- b. The STEM-related activities may be located either within Australia or overseas.
- c. The objective of this grant is to support NSW high school students wishing to further their education in STEM-related competitions, events or courses. The grant applicant(s) must provide confirmation of the competition, event or course entry or registration, and established competition, event or course 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 SYSP.
- d. The applicant must be:
 - i. enrolled at a NSW high school and be able to demonstrate support from the relevant teacher or Principal in the application form
 - ii. a relevant teacher or Principal at a NSW high school applying on behalf of a student or group of students
 - iii. a relevant teacher, Principal or agent of a NSW high school or other NSW educational institution or association, in their capacity as organiser of a program which involves entries from more than one NSW high school.
- e. The intended competition, event or course must fall into at least one of the following STEM-related areas:
 - 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 grant application
- g. Any applicant receiving more than 50 per cent of the total amount of estimated funding for the competition from NSW Government agencies other than Investment NSW is ineligible. Expenses from additional sources must be acknowledged in Section B.9 of the Application Form.

5. Selection criteria

- a. In assessing the application, preference will be 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, event or course
 - iii. Ability to demonstrate committed support (e.g. from the applicant's high school, parents, philanthropists or industry partners), which will leverage the Department's investment
 - iv. Benefits to the community arising from the competition, event or course (e.g. outreach to students, teachers, industry)
 - v. Alignment with NSW Premier's Priorities.

- b. The relevant teacher or Principal of the NSW high school where the student/s is/are registered must authorise that the competition, event or course is in a STEM-related area.
- c. The agent of a NSW educational institution or association, in their capacity as organiser of a program which involves entries from more than one NSW high school, must authorise that the competition, event or course is in a STEM-related area.
- d. The NSW Government, including Investment NSW within the Department of Premier and Cabinet at its discretion, may choose not to award or recommend funding under the RAAP.

6. Application process

- a. Applications will be considered on an ad hoc basis for all competitions, events or courses held between July 2022 and June 2023.
- b. Applications must be submitted electronically through the SmartyGrants online grant application platform.
- c. The Supporting Young Scientists Program Application is available in electronic form at chiefscientist.nsw.gov.au/funding/science-education/supporting-young-scientists-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 the individual applicant or at least one member of the team requesting funding for the research project or competition. The application must be co-signed by the relevant teacher or Principal where the student/s is/are registered or by the agent representing the school where the student/s is/are registered.
- 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. For further information, please contact:

Nuala Myatt-Bocarro, Senior Project Officer
Office of the NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer
(02) 6586 7879

7. Funding agreements and reporting requirements

- a. All applicants who are successful under the Supporting Young Scientists 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 competition, event or course 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 applicants or team organisers.
- c. Successful applicants must complete a Final Report detailing outcomes from attending the competition, including a financial acquittal.