



Investment
NSW

NSW Research Attraction and Acceleration Program

Conference Sponsorship Program

Guidelines for Applicants

December 2021

1. Program Purpose

- a. The NSW Government has established the Research Attraction and Acceleration Program (RAAP) to support innovation and continued investment in NSW research and development.
- b. The RAAP is administered by the NSW Office of the Chief Scientist & Engineer (OCSE) within the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet ('the Department').
- c. The Conference Sponsorship Program supports research conferences in NSW in areas of relevance to the [NSW Premier's Priorities](#). Funding is provided on a competitive basis.

2. Impacts from COVID-19

- a. The Office of the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer (OCSE) is committed to responsible management of COVID-19.
- b. If your conference is an 'in-person' event, you must comply with current government mandatory requirements under [NSW public health orders](#).

3. Funding

- a. Funding will take the form of a cash contribution following the execution of an agreement between the applicant and the Department.
- b. Funds can be expended on any aspect of conference organisation occurring in NSW.
- c. Each successful applicant will receive up to \$10,000, at the discretion of the assessment panel.

4. Eligibility Criteria

- a. Sponsorship grants will be available for scientific conferences to be held between January and December 2022. Should an applicant be successful for a conference held in January to February 2022, grant funding will be awarded retrospectively.
- b. A conference is defined as a formal meeting of various people, including researchers, industry and government representatives, and students, whose primary purpose is to share knowledge and collaborate on a particular scientific topic.
- c. The conference must take place in NSW.
- d. The applicant must be from a NSW public sector research institution or 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 research area of the conference must fall into one of the following categories:
 - i. Mathematical, information and computing sciences
 - ii. Physical, chemical and earth sciences
 - iii. Engineering, environmental sciences and renewable energy
 - iv. Biological and biotechnological sciences

5. 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 conference to the community, research sector and the NSW Government, including how the conference will recognise the financial contribution of the Department.
 - iii. Evidence the conference would deliver economic, environmental, social and/or technological benefits to New South Wales.
 - iv. Evidence of engagement and collaboration with established research entities, networks or platforms
 - v. Alignment with NSW Premier's Priorities

6. Application Process

- a. Conference Sponsorship Program application form is available at: <https://www.chiefscientist.nsw.gov.au/funding/research-and-development/conference-sponsorship-program>
- b. Applications are due by 5:00 pm **Friday 28 January 2022**
- c. All applications must be submitted electronically to raap.grants@chiefscientist.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 at least one of the conference organisers.
- f. An assessment panel will consider all eligible applications against the selection criteria.

Short extensions may be granted in extenuating circumstances. Extension requests must be submitted in writing by **Tuesday 25 January 2022** to:

Kristen Mulligan Manager – Science & Research Policy
Office of the NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer
kristen.mulligan@investment.nsw.gov.au
0433 011 904

7. Important Dates

21 December	Round opens
28 January	Round closes
Late February	Applicants will be notified of outcome

8. Sponsorship Agreements and Reporting Requirements

- a. Successful applicants who accept the offer of a grant will be required to enter into a sponsorship agreement with the Department. The agreement will specify obligations, including use of the grant for activities occurring in NSW, return of any unspent grant funds and reporting requirements.
- b. The agreement must be signed by at least one conference organiser or a relevant representative from the institution responsible for organising the conference.

9. Discretionary funding

- a. OCSE reserves the right to support research conferences and/or workshops outside of this competitive grants round.
- b. Funding is provided at the discretion of OCSE and the selection panel, and conditional on strong evidence the conference would deliver economic, environmental, social and/or technological benefits to New South Wales, and that it aligns with the NSW Premier's Priorities.