



Planning,
Industry &
Environment

NSW RESEARCH ATTRACTION AND ACCELERATION PROGRAM

**Science and Engineering Student Competition
Sponsorship Program**

Guidelines for applicants

March 2020

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 Science and Engineering Student Competition Sponsorship Program (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.

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 July 2020 to June 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 SESCSP.
- 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 NSW Premier's Priorities.

5. Application process

- a. The Science and Engineering Student Competition Sponsorship Program Application Form is available at: [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-and-Engineering-Student-Competition-Sponsorship-Program)
- b. Applications are due by 5:00 pm **Wednesday 8 April 2020**.
- 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 **Friday 3 April 2020** to:

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

6. Important dates

16 March 2020	SESCSP applications open
8 April 2020	SESCSP applications close
May 2020	Applicants to be 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.