

Premier's Department

NSW Research Attraction and Acceleration Program: STEM Student Competition Sponsorship Program

Program Guidelines

January 2026

Grant Program Details	
Opening date and time	Friday 23 January 2026 13:00 AEST
Closing date and time	Monday 2 March 2026 10:00 AEST
Application outcome date	May 2026
Activity delivery timeframe (for successful applications)	June 2026 - December 2026
Decision-maker	Minister for Innovation, Science and Technology or delegate
NSW Government Agency	Premier's Department
Type of grant opportunity	Open, competitive
Grant value (total available funding for the grant and the available individual grant amounts, excluding GST)	Total available funding: \$100,000 Team grant amounts: \$10,000
Enquiries	Email: raap.grants@chiefscientist.nsw.gov.au

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1 Overview of the grant

1.1 Background

The NSW Government established the annual Research Attraction & Acceleration Program (RAAP) in 2012 to support innovation and continued investment in NSW research and development. The RAAP is administered by the Office of the NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer (OCSE) within the NSW Premier's Department ('the Department').

The STEM Student Competition Sponsorship Program (Program) is funded through the RAAP and aims to support high-tech, high-impact research by NSW university students attending domestic and international research competitions, that align with the 20-Year NSW R&D Roadmap (the Roadmap): https://www.chiefscientist.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/1512/FINAL-Report-20-Year-NSW-R-and-D-Roadmap_WEB_DPS.pdf, the NSW Industry Policy and the NSW Innovation Blueprint.

In 2022, the NSW Government released the Roadmap, a key evidence-based policy that identifies an array of technologies and applications where NSW has a competitive advantage, presenting opportunities to translate leading capabilities from one sector to another, and to develop more complete capabilities across supply chains in NSW. The Roadmap also identifies capabilities that NSW needs for strategic reasons, such as areas where local capacity is needed to manage risks and maintain or increase sovereign capability.

The Program supports goals and action areas under the NSW Innovation Blueprint, through leveraging innovation, developing talent, promoting diversity, equity and inclusion, and building students' understanding of commercialisation, deep tech and the broader innovation ecosystem.

It provides benefits to NSW's future in added educational opportunities, network-building and professional experience for tertiary students while also promoting innovative research and increasing the visibility of NSW research and its value within Australia or internationally.

Teams of student researchers attend competitions to increase their skills in real-world applications; to improve collaboration with international colleagues; and to create interest and excitement about their fields with the community, industry partners and fellow students. Exposing students to competitions that address high impact problems also encourages them to consider graduate studies, to pursue higher degrees and Honours programs in science and engineering.

Funding is provided on an open competitive basis. Applicants will have approximately 5 weeks to complete and submit their application. The Assessment Panel will have approximately 2.5 weeks to assess applications.

The Program is administered according to the *NSW Grants Administration Guide* and the *Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines (CGRGs)*.

1.2 Purpose and objectives

The objectives of the Program are to:

- support university students who are participating in STEM research competitions
- provide opportunities for STEM student researchers to:
 - increase their skills in real-world applications
 - improve collaboration with international colleagues
 - consider graduate studies in STEM
 - build understanding of commercialisation and deep tech opportunities, as well as the broader innovation ecosystem

- profile STEM competition participation to create interest and excitement about STEM research fields with the community, industry partners and fellow students

The intended outcomes of the Program are to:

- increase participation of NSW university students in STEM fields
- improve essential skills development for STEM university students in teamwork, collaboration, creativity, communication, and technical science and engineering knowledge
- increase engagement between STEM student researchers and the community, industry partners and fellow students
- help STEM students and graduates successfully contribute to NSW's scientific community.

1.3 Your responsibilities when applying for a grant

The Program Guidelines (the Guidelines) contain information about the Program, whether you are eligible to apply, and how you can make an application.

You must read these Guidelines before applying for the grant.

This document sets out:

- the purpose of the Program
- the eligibility criteria
- the assessment criteria
- how applications are assessed
- how recipients will be monitored and evaluated
- responsibilities and expectations in relation to the Program

These Guidelines may be updated by OCSE at any time. If this occurs, the revised guidelines or any addenda will be published on <https://www.chiefscientist.nsw.gov.au/funding/science-education/science-and-engineering-student-competition-sponsorship-program>.

1.4 Grant value

- The NSW Government, through OCSE, has announced a total of \$100,000 (excluding GST) to be allocated over 12 months for the Program, with the final amount decided at the Department's discretion.
- Funding will take the form of a cash contribution following the execution of an agreement between the applicant and the Department.
- Each successful applicant can apply for and receive up to \$10,000 (excluding GST).
- The quantum of funding awarded to successful applicants will depend on the overall quantity and quality of applications received. You may be part-funded if there is insufficient funding available for the application or where only a component of the application budget is considered suitable.
- You are required to provide a financial acquittal with a final report following the competition, demonstrating the grant funds were used in accordance with program guidelines.
- OCSE reserves the right to support applications outside of this competitive grant round if the competition takes place in 2026 **and** falls outside of the activity delivery timeframe indicated in the table above. These would be evaluated via the assessment criteria in Section 4 on an ad-hoc basis and follow the same process.

2 Selection criteria

2.1 Stage One - Eligibility criteria

OCSE cannot consider your application if it does not satisfy all the eligibility criteria.

2.1.1 Who is eligible to apply?

1. To be eligible for the Program applicants **must** be enrolled or employed at a NSW university or public sector research institution.
2. The applicant's organisation must have an Australian Business Number (ABN). While university clubs are welcome to apply, the funding agreement must be between the applicant's organisation and the Department.
3. Applicants can only apply once per funding round.

Where an application is identified as not meeting the above eligibility criteria, the application may be set aside from further consideration at the absolute discretion of the Department. The Department may also seek clarification from any applicant in relation to its application, including seeking further information on the eligibility or assessment criteria.

2.1.2 Who is not eligible to apply?

You are not eligible to apply for the Program if you are:

- insolvent;
- an individual;
- a partnership;
- an unincorporated association; or
- a Commonwealth, state, territory or local government agency or body excluding government corporate entities.

OCSE, at its sole discretion, may decide that an application is ineligible for funding. This may include any person or business activity that could cause reputational and/or other risks to the NSW Government.

2.1.3 Eligible grant activities

1. For a grant activity to be eligible it **must** be a STEM research competition.
2. The competition research area must fall under at least one of the following categories:
 - Mathematical, information and computing sciences
 - Physical, chemical and earth sciences
 - Engineering, environmental sciences and energy innovation
 - Biological and biotechnological sciences.
3. Grants will be available to university student teams attending competition research projects between June 2026 and December 2026.
4. Applicants must provide confirmation of the competition registration. In situations where timing makes this impossible, applicants not yet registered to participate must receive prior written permission from OCSE to apply for the Program.

2.1.4 Eligible locations

The competition may take place in Australia or overseas.

2.1.5 Eligible costs

Funds must be spent on the research component of the competition. Examples include (but are not limited to):

- Lab consumables
- Research/Project materials
- Outreach
- Any other research expenditure

If your application is successful, we may ask you to verify the project cost and request evidence of costs such as supplier contracts, quotes and invoices. We may request financial reports and credit checks from independent third-party service providers.

You must demonstrate value for money by ensuring project costs are reasonable and reflective of market rates. We may use industry cost benchmarks to assess whether costs are reasonable.

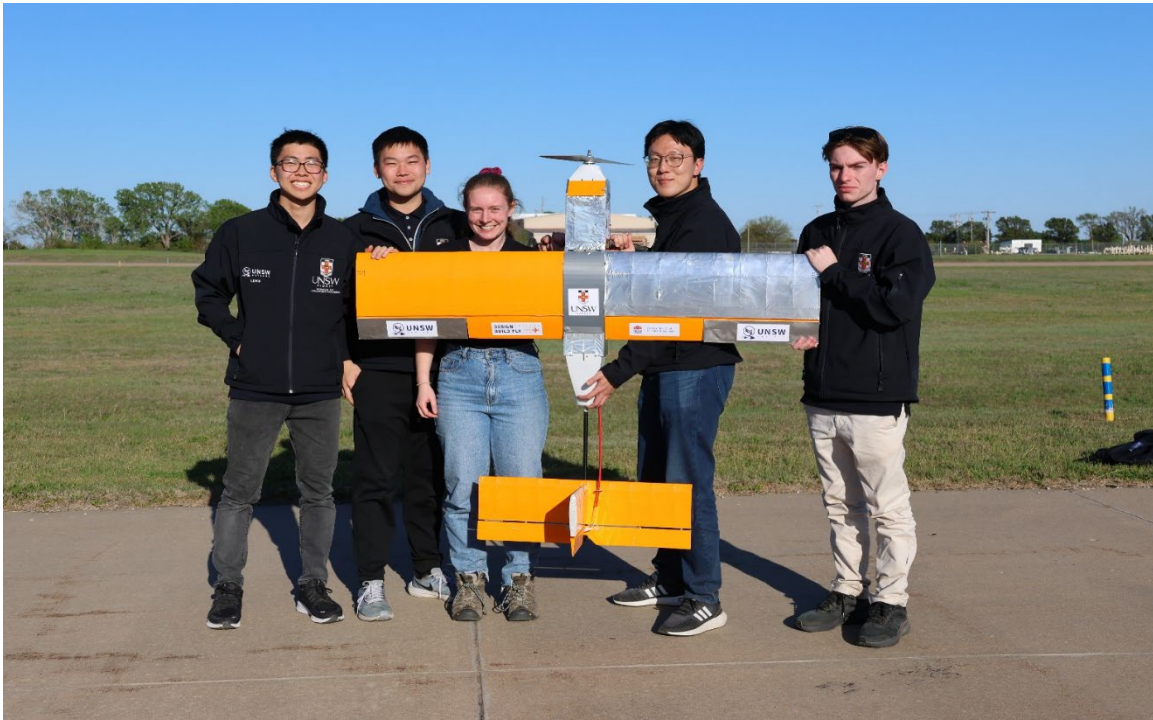
The Department will make the final decision on whether the claimed cost is eligible or reasonable (and only pay the reasonable amount).

All eligible costs will be paid inclusive of GST.

2.1.6 Ineligible costs

The grant cannot be used on the following activities:

- competition registration
- travel
- accommodation
- visas
- insurance
- salary
- infrastructure, capital or the purchase of significant assets (including the creation of digital assets or software)
- any other non-research related expenses



UNSW Sydney, 2024 Design/Build/Fly

2.2 Stage Two - Assessment criteria

Stage Two assessments will be conducted by an Assessment Panel comprising qualified and experienced representatives from the STEM education and industry sector.

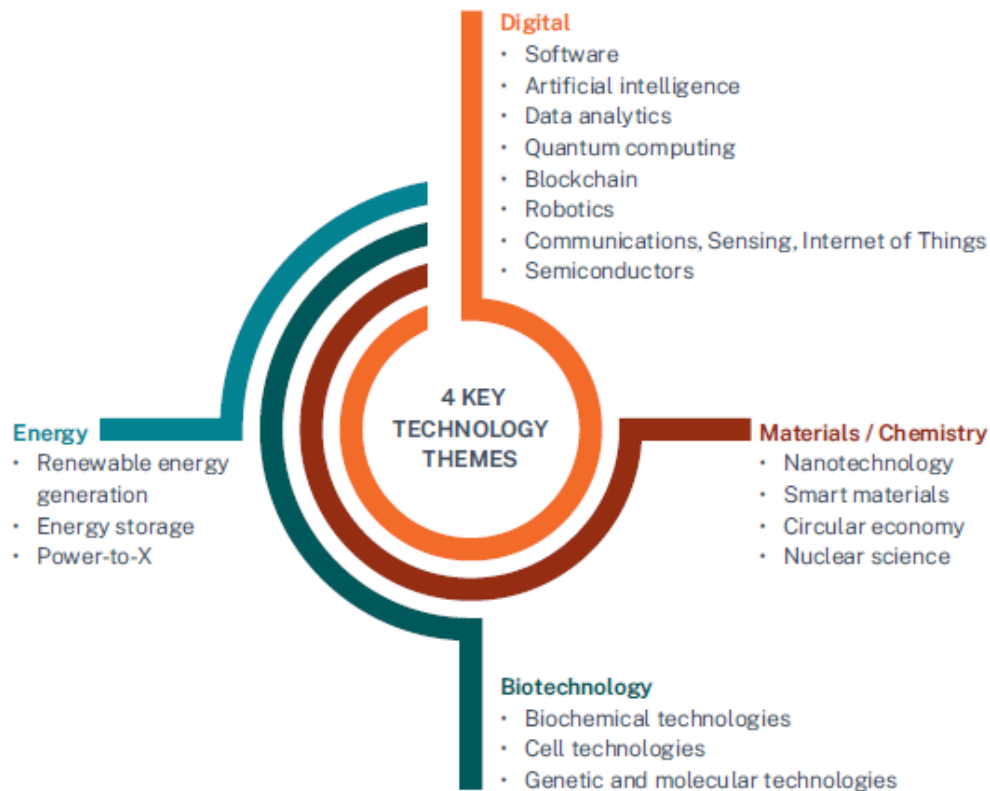
If you proceed to Stage Two, your application will be assessed by the Assessment Panel for funding against the following assessment criteria:

Criteria	Description	Weighting
Criterion 1: Value of competition	Demonstrate value of competition to the participants, institution, and the community.	20%
Criterion 2: Evidence of support	Demonstrate support from the applicant's institution, philanthropists, industry partners and/or the Commonwealth Government.	20%
Criterion 3: Alignment with NSW Government strategic priorities	Demonstrate how the Competition aligns with outcomes and objectives identified in the 20-Year NSW R&D Roadmap (the Roadmap), the NSW Industry Policy and the NSW Innovation Blueprint. This includes demonstrating how participation in the competition fosters a greater understanding of the translation and commercialisation of deep tech.	20%
Criterion 4: Diversity, equity and inclusion	<p>Demonstrate how diversity, equity and inclusion will be considered and implemented in the participation and preparation of the competition.</p> <p><i>Note:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>diversity metrics can include gender, age, ethnicity, cultural and linguistic background, Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, neurodiversity, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, religious beliefs, socio-economic background and geographical location.</i> <i>this assessment criteria will be a two-part question in the application form.</i> 	20%
Criterion 5: Budget	<p>Demonstrate need for funding through a budget breakdown, including matched or co-funding contributions/support (e.g. from the applicant's university or industry partners), which will leverage the Department's investment. The budget breakdown should include your cash and in-kind contributions to the competition.</p> <p><i>Note: Check examples and how to calculate in-kind contributions on this website: <u>Tips for valuing 'in-kind' contributions in grant applications - Next Dimension Accounting</u></i></p>	20%

The Assessment Panel will assess each application on its merits against the assessment criteria and compare it to other eligible applications before recommending which applications are to be awarded a grant.

20-Year NSW R&D Roadmap

The Roadmap identifies four technology themes (with 39 applications) across 13 sectors (e.g. defence, healthcare, manufacturing) where NSW has competitive advantages. Refer to the Roadmap document for more information: <https://www.chiefscientist.nsw.gov.au/industry-development/reports/nsw-20-year-r-and-d-roadmap>



University of Wollongong Mechatronics Engineering Society Rover Team, 2024 Australian Rover Challenge

3 Application process

3.1 How to apply

Before applying, you must read and understand these Guidelines.

These documents may be found at <https://www.chiefscientist.nsw.gov.au/funding/science-education/science-and-engineering-student-competition-sponsorship-program>. Any alterations and addenda¹ will be published on <https://www.chiefscientist.nsw.gov.au/funding/science-education/science-and-engineering-student-competition-sponsorship-program>. You will be notified of any changes by email. The Grants Administration Guide <https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding/grants-administration-guide> is the authoritative source for grants information for the NSW Government.

To apply you must:

1. complete the SmartyGrants online application form at <https://www.chiefscientist.nsw.gov.au/funding/science-education/science-and-engineering-student-competition-sponsorship-program>
2. provide all the information requested
3. address all the eligibility criteria
4. address the assessment criteria set out in Section 2.2
5. include all necessary attachments indicated in Section 3.3
6. submit your application by the timelines outlined in Section 3.2 Key dates.

Note:

- The application must be completed in its entirety to be eligible for consideration.
- You must clearly mark any information that should be treated confidentially.
- The application must be prepared by a student who is a competition attendee or team organiser, on behalf of a team, and co-signed by a suitable university staff member. Funding is available to competition teams NOT individuals.
- 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.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) can assist in many aspects of the grant application process. However, it should be used to complement, not replace human expertise and judgment. While the use of AI is not prohibited, applicants are advised to use it appropriately. Keep in mind that assessors are seeking authentic responses to the selection criteria and often recognise when AI tools have been used ineffectively.

You are responsible for ensuring your application is complete and accurate. Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence under the *Crimes Act 1900 No 40 (NSW)*. We will

¹ Alterations and addenda include but are not limited to: corrections to currently published documents, changes to closing times for applications, Questions and Answers (Q&A) documents, and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) documents.

investigate any false or misleading information and may exclude your application from further consideration.

Applicants must not lobby the NSW Government on an issue related or seen to be related to the Program that may or may be perceived to give an unfair advantage to the applicant. Applicants are required to comply with all applicable laws including the [NSW Lobbyists Code of Conduct](#).

If you find an error in your application after submitting it, you should contact us immediately at raap.grants@chiefscientist.nsw.gov.au. We do not have to accept any additional information, nor requests from you to correct your application after the closing time. You cannot change your application after the closing date and time.

If we find an error or information that is missing, we may ask for clarification or additional information from you that will not change the nature of your application.

You should keep a copy of your application and any supporting documents.

We will acknowledge that we have received your application after you submit through the online portal.

One application per applicant will be assessed. If more than one application for the same Program is submitted, only the latest application will be considered unless otherwise determined through consultation with the OCSE Secretariat.

3.2 Key dates

You must submit an application between the published opening and closing dates.

Applications received after the closing date and time will be deemed to be a late application. At the discretion of the Director, Science & Research Programs, the Office of the NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer, or their delegate, reserves the right to accept a late application under exceptional circumstances beyond the applicant's control and where they are satisfied that its acceptance will not compromise the integrity nor competitiveness of the process.

Table 1: Expected timing for this Program

Activity	Timeframe
Applications open	13:00 AEST Friday 23 January 2026
Applications close	10:00 AEST Monday 2 March 2026
Notification of outcome	May 2026
Allocation of funds	By 30 June 2026
Earliest start date of the competition	1 June 2026
End date of the competition	31 December 2026

3.3 Attachments to the application

- You must attach supporting documentation to the application form in line with instructions provided within the online form.
- You should only attach requested documents.
- We will not consider information in attachments we do not request.

We require you to provide either **one** of the following documents with your application regarding the team's competition registration:

- proof of competition registration, or
 - proof of written approval received from OCSE to proceed with your application.
-

3.4 Support available to applicants

If you have any questions during the application period, please contact us at raap.grants@chiefscientist.nsw.gov.au. OCSE will endeavour to respond to questions within three working days.

4 Assessment process

4.1 Assessment of grant applications

The assessment of applications will be led by the Department. Your application will be considered based on a two-stage process. Where the Department considers an application unsuitable or unsatisfactory against any criteria, we may exclude that application from further evaluation. Only eligible applications will move to the next stage. We consider eligible applications through an open competitive grant process.

Stage 1: Eligibility Assessment

The OCSE Secretariat will conduct an initial eligibility screening for all applications according to the published eligibility criteria in *these Program Guidelines* that are set out in Section 2.1: Eligibility Criteria.

Only applications which meet all eligibility criteria will progress to assessment against the assessment criteria.

Stage 2: Assessment by the Assessment Panel

The membership of the Assessment Panel (Panel) will be determined by the Department in its sole discretion and may include independent assessors from the broader NSW public sector.

The Panel will assess each application on its merits against the assessment criteria and compare it to other eligible applications before recommending which applications are to be awarded a grant.

On behalf of the Panel, the Department may seek additional information about you or your application.

The Panel has the discretion to recommend that an applicant receive a smaller amount of funding than indicated in their application.

The Panel members are expected to assess all eligible applications unless they have a declared conflict of interest for a certain application(s).

Panel members will individually assess all eligible applications against each criterion set out Section 2.2: Assessment Criteria. All criteria have equal weighting.

When making their recommendations, the Assessment Panel may take the following into consideration:

- The total funding available for the STEM Student Competition Sponsorship Program 2026 round;
- The assessment criteria outlined in the STEM Student Competition Sponsorship Program Guidelines;
- The requested amount against the scope of the project i.e. could the applicant effectively deliver the proposed competition with less funding. Advice may be sought from applicants to understand the potential impact if a decision was made to award less funding than was applied for;
- Whether the requested funding amount is too large compared to the competition;
- Whether a reduction could pose significant risks to the success of a competition;
- Whether applicants have sufficient or additional resources or avenues available to raise capital other than this grant that could assist with the success of their competition;
- Whether a decrease in funding will impact achieving the overall aim of the STEM Student Competition Sponsorship Program.

The Assessment Panel may seek advice from an external probity advisor if required.

4.2 Who will approve the grant?

The Panel will provide advice to the NSW Government on the suitability of each proposal for funding.

The Minister for Innovation, Science and Technology or their delegate, will consider recommendations from the Panel and determine final grant funding approvals.

The Minister for Innovation, Science and Technology or their delegate's decision is final in all matters, including:

- the approval of the grant
 - the grant funding amount to be awarded
 - the terms and conditions of the grant.
-

4.3 Notification of application outcome

We will advise the outcome of your application via email.

Unsuccessful applicants will be notified via email of the outcome of their application within 20 business days from the assessment panel meeting and will be offered feedback if requested.

If unsuccessful you can submit a new application in the next funding round. Your submission must meet the eligibility criteria and should include new or additional information to address any feedback from your previous application.

The OCSE Secretariat will liaise with ineligible applicants with the final determination made by the Assessment Panel.

4.3.1 Feedback on applications

Unsuccessful applicants may request a feedback session, which will be delivered by the Department. To register for a feedback session, please contact: raap.grants@chiefscientist.nsw.gov.au.

4.4 Publication of grants information

The Grants Administration Guide (**Guide**) requires that certain information is published in relation to grants awarded no later than 45 calendar days after the grant agreement takes effect (see section 6.5 of the Guide and Appendix A to the Guide). This information is also open access information under the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* (NSW) (**GIPA Act**), which must be made publicly available unless there is an overriding public interest against disclosure of the information.

In accordance with these requirements, relevant information about the grants awarded will be made available on the NSW Government Grants and Funding Finder as soon as possible after the grant funding is approved or declined.

All records in relation to this decision will be managed in accordance with the requirements of the *State Records Act 1998* (NSW).

5 Successful grant applications

Successful applicants will be notified via email. If you are successful, we will advise you of any specific conditions attached to the grant. This could include a request to keep the grant confidential for a specified period due to an announcement being made by the NSW Government in relation to this Program and your award.

5.1 Grant agreement

Successful applicants who accept the offer of a grant will be required to enter into an agreement with the Department.

The NSW Government (including the Department) makes no binding funding or other commitment to the applicant unless and until both parties have signed a funding agreement. The funding agreement will require the successful applicant to provide a copy of all relevant insurances and any other relevant supporting documentation as requested by the Department. You should not make financial commitments reliant on this Program until the Department have formally advised that you are successful, and a funding agreement is signed and executed.

- The agreement will specify obligations that relate primarily to the recipient's accountability for the grant, including use of the grant for research activities, return of any unspent grant funds and reporting requirements.
- A template of the Funding Agreement can be found here: <https://www.chiefscientist.nsw.gov.au/funding/science-education/science-and-engineering-student-competition-sponsorship-program>
- The agreement must be signed by a university officer authorised to sign an agreement with the NSW Government.
- 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.
- While the competition must take place throughout June 2026 to December 2026, funds must be allocated to the grantee by 30 June 2026.

If you become aware of a breach of terms and conditions under the funding agreement, you must contact us immediately.

5.2 Grant payment

The grant will be paid and distributed in a single tranche to each successful applicant.

Invoices for grant payments will be submitted and paid within two months of agreement execution.

Grants are assessable income for taxation purposes, unless exempted by a taxation law. We recommend you seek independent professional advice on your taxation obligations. We do not provide advice on your particular taxation circumstances.

All payments are inclusive of GST.

5.3 Variations to the grant agreement

You must submit any variations to the funding agreement, including competition scope or activities, location or timeframes outlined in the application form and Grant Guidelines for approval from the Department. Failure to do so may result in the withdrawal of the grant offer.

The Department has the discretion to approve or reject any variation request from a grantee where the grant agreement has already been executed.

All requests for a variation must be submitted in writing to the Department. To submit a variation request, email raap.grants@chiefscientist.nsw.gov.au.

5.4 Unspent funds

Organisations must not use the money provided for the competition, nor any interest earned on the money, for any other purpose beyond what is specified in the approved submitted application and grant agreement. Organisations must not carry over funds provided for the approved competition, to other programs, events or organisational operating budgets.

In extenuating circumstances, the Program may allow for you to request to use the funds to extend the scope of the competition if it continues to align with the objectives of the Program.

You will need to provide supporting information with your request, which will be assessed by the Secretariat. The Director, Science & Research Programs, Office of the NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer or delegate will decide on whether to approve your request.

5.5 Indicative reporting and acquittal requirements

Within 30 days after you complete the competition, you must submit a final report. You will be provided with a report template from the Department, which is to be completed by your authorised officer. We will expect you to report on the following areas:

Competition Summary

- main outcomes of the competition
- number of student attendees
- diversity, equity and inclusion summary

Financial Acquittal Report

- expenditure of the grant and copies of relevant receipts

Media Profile

- competition overview
 - competition highlights
 - testimonial
 - photographs
-

5.6 Acknowledgment

All recipients of NSW Government funding should acknowledge this financial support in accordance with the Funding Acknowledgement Guidelines for Recipients of NSW Government Rebates available at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/branding/sponsorship-and-funding-acknowledgment-guidelines>.

You must seek our written consent prior to any significant public announcement, marketing, press announcements, or official launch in relation to the Program.

The applicant must agree to provide the following benefits to the Department, if requested by the Department:

- Publish the Department logo and preferred Department URL link on the team website, social media, or any associated online collateral if applicable;
- Department logo featured on team uniforms or equipment if applicable;
- Acknowledgement in interviews, news articles, reports, publications or any other material the Grantee deems appropriate; and
- One invitation to any post-event briefings or presentations.

5.7 Evaluation

The Department will evaluate the Program to measure how well the outcomes and objectives have been achieved. We may use information from your application and reports for this purpose. We may also interview you or ask you for more information to help us understand how the Program impacted you, and to evaluate how effective the Program was in achieving its outcomes.

We may contact you up to three years after you receive your final grant payment associated with the Program for more information to assist with this evaluation.

The Department and the NSW Audit Office reserve the right to undertake an audit of Program funding and support within seven years. Tracking and reporting will be a requirement of the funding agreement.



USYD Rocketry Team, International Rocket Engineering Competition 2025

6 Additional information and resources

6.1 Complaint handling

Any enquiry you have about the assessment process or the outcome of your application for this Program should be sent to raap.grants@chiefscientist.nsw.gov.au.

If you do not agree with the way the Department has handled your enquiry or complaint, you may wish to contact the NSW Ombudsman. The NSW Ombudsman will not consider a complaint unless the matter has been first raised directly with the Department.

The applicant must lodge a complaint with the Department in writing and submit it to raap.grants@chiefscientist.nsw.gov.au.

Complaints must be first lodged in writing to the Department. If the applicant is unhappy with the response, they may escalate their complaint to the NSW Ombudsman.

6.2 Access to information

Applicants should be aware that information submitted in applications and all related correspondence, attachments and other documents may be made publicly available under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (NSW). Information that is deemed to be commercially sensitive will be withheld.

The Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (NSW) makes government information accessible to the public by:

- requiring government agencies to make certain sorts of information freely available
 - encouraging government agencies to release as much other information as possible
 - giving the public an enforceable right to make access applications for government information
 - restricting access to information only when there is an overriding public interest against disclosure
-

6.3 Ethical conduct

The Department will administer the grant in accordance with the published Grant Guidelines and the principles and processes set out in the NSW Grants and Administration Guide.

The Department will implement measures and controls to enable a fair and transparent process and incorporate appropriate safeguards against fraud, unlawful activities, and other inappropriate conduct.

6.3.1 Probity

The Department will make sure that the grant opportunity process is fair, according to the published guidelines and incorporates appropriate safeguards against fraud, unlawful activities and other inappropriate conduct.

6.3.2 Privacy

We treat your personal information according to *the Department's Privacy Management Plan* available at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/premiers-department/contact-us/privacy> and the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (NSW)*. This includes letting you know:

- what personal information we collect
- why we collect your personal information
- who we give your personal information to

Your personal information can only be disclosed to someone for the primary purpose for which it was collected unless an exemption applies.

The Department may also use or disclose information about applicants and recipients under this Program for reporting purposes.

We may share the information you give us with other NSW Government entities for purposes including government administration, research or service delivery, according to Australian and NSW laws.

As part of your application, you declare your ability to comply with the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (NSW)* and impose the same privacy obligations on officers, employees, agents and subcontractors that you engage to assist with the activity, in respect of personal information you collect, use, store, or disclose in connection with the activity. Accordingly, you must not do anything that would breach your obligations under the Act.

6.3.3 Conflict of interest management

Where a conflict of interest is identified, the Program Manager will be responsible for following the procedures set out in the Project probity, risk and assessment plan 2026 and implementing appropriate management actions.

6.3.4 Confidentiality

Other than information available in the public domain, you agree not to disclose to any person, other than us, any confidential information relating to the grant application and/or agreement, without our prior written approval. The obligation will not be breached where you are required by law, Parliament or a stock exchange to disclose the relevant information or where the relevant information is publicly available (other than through breach of a confidentiality or non-disclosure obligation).

We may at any time, require you to arrange for you, your employees, agents or subcontractors to give a written undertaking relating to non-disclosure of our confidential information in a form we consider acceptable.

We will keep any information in connection with the funding agreement confidential to the extent that it meets all of the three conditions below:

1. you clearly identify the information as confidential and explain why we should treat it as confidential
2. the information is commercially sensitive
3. revealing the information would cause unreasonable harm to you or someone else

We will not be in breach of any confidentiality agreement if the information is disclosed to:

- the Assessment Panel and other NSW Government employees and contractors to help us manage the program effectively
- employees and contractors of the Department so we can research, assess, monitor and analyse our programs and activities
- employees and contractors of other NSW Government departments or agencies for any purposes, including government administration, research or service delivery
- other Commonwealth, State, Territory or local government agencies in program reports and consultations
- the Auditor-General, Ombudsman or Privacy Commissioner
- the responsible Minister or Secretary
- a House or a Committee of the NSW Parliament

The funding agreement may also include any specific requirements about special categories of information collected, created or held under the funding agreement.

6.4 Copyright

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