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NSW SPACE RESEARCH NETWORK

STUDENT PROJECT FUND

Guidelines for applicants 2023-24­­

www.spaceresearchnetwork.org.au

### Scheme Purpose

* 1. The SRN Student Project funding scheme is a competitive program that supports student-led, space-related projects at the SRN network of universities. The scheme is administered by the NSW Space Research Network and funded by the NSW Government.
	2. The key objective of the SRN Student Project funding scheme is to identify, nurture and enable space-related projects by teams of students at all of the SRN network of universities.
	3. Student teams are encouraged to work with Industry or Government bodies, and the SRN will accept multiple applications for projects where the work is shared among multiple universities. Eg; two student groups at different universities want to collaborate on a project. Each group applies, proposing their respective halves of the greater project. In this situation, both applications might be awarded for $10k each. (Please make it clear when projects are part of a larger proposal).
	4. The total funding budget for this program nominally supports one project at each of the SRN member universities per financial year (UTS, UNSW, WSU, ANU, MQ, University of Sydney, University of Wollongong, University of Newcastle).
	5. Applications for Student Projects are solicited by formal call-outs posted on the [SRN website](http://www.spaceresearchnetwork.org.au/), associated networks and publications.

### Support available

* 1. Successful proposals can be funded up to $10,000 for projects of 6-12 months duration.
	2. Funding will be paid to the university team in a single tranche. The university team is responsible for the distribution of the funds to Collaborating organisations, if any.
	3. The cash will be used exclusively for the requirements of the project as proposed to the SRN.
	4. The cash may be used to access testing or other equipment owned by the university where required by the project.

### Eligibility criteria

* 1. Projects funded by SRN Student Project Fund must be Space-related.
	2. Project proposals must include a university academic supporting the project – a ‘Supervisor’.
	3. The Supervisor must have a finance account with the university with which to administer the spending required by the project.
	4. The student leader(s) of the project is called the Student Investigator.
	5. Other students on the project are referred to as Participants.
	6. There is no limit on how many projects a student can participate in, however the spirit of the program is to promote broader collaboration and access to space projects. As such, it is preferred that the role of the Student Investigator is shared or alternated in subsequent proposals.
	7. Student Investigators must be an Australian Resident.
	8. Student Investigators currently enrolled at an SRN Member University.
	9. Student participants may be undergraduate or postgraduate level.

###  Use of funds

* 1. Funding from the SRN Student Project Fund Scheme will be in the form of a cash contribution to the identified academic Supervisor. The contracting process will be administrated by the University of Sydney as host of the SRN.
	2. Funds must be used to support the student project described in the application.
	3. All expenses must be itemised in the budget section of the grant application. Grant funds must be spent in accordance with this budget, and any requests for variations must be made to the SRN Operations Manager and approved in advance.
	4. Possible uses of funds can include to pay for usage/time with university infrastructure and equipment, such as might be used for testing or verification, where applicable.

### Application process

* 1. Application for the SRN Student Project Fund is a one stage process.
	2. Applicants must submit an electronic copy of the application by due date, where published, to admin@srn.org.au and CC chris.rizos@srn.org.au.
	3. Student projects that are awarded will be notified of the award by email.
1. **Selection process**
	1. The SRN will assess each application on a competitive basis relative to its funding strategy and the criteria.
	2. The expectation is that there will be one application funded at each of the SRN universities per financial year.
	3. The SRN may request assessment of proposals from subject matter experts. As such, the SRN cannot guarantee confidentiality of the proposals.
2. **Reporting Requirements & Acknowledgement**
	1. A member of the SRN Team will arrange at least one status update meeting with the Lead Student Investigator and Academic Supervisor to ensure that the project is progressing against project milestones.
	2. The Lead Student Investigator will be required to provide a final report to the SRN and must be submitted to admin@srn.org.au and CC chris.rizos@srn.org.au within two months of the project end date.
	3. The final report consists of a project report and Financial acquittal. A template is available on the SRN website.
	4. Publications containing material or research findings from an SRN Student Project must include acknowledgement of the SRN Student Project Fund and the NSW Government in a form: “We thank the NSW Space Research Network and NSW State Government for financial support of this project through grant SRN Student Project grant 2024-xx.”
	5. Successful Student Projects may be published or promoted by the SRN or its funders. Details may include applicant organisation, university, lead student investigator and project details. Applicants may be asked to provide a description of their project, or personal experiences with an SRN Student Project for case studies or press releases.