



NSW Space Research Network

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NSW SPACE RESEARCH NETWORK

STUDENT PROJECT FUND

Guidelines for applicants 2025

www.spaceresearchnetwork.org.au

1. Scheme Purpose

- 1.1. 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.
- 1.2. 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. A key outcome would be the establishment (where they do not already exist) of student teams, clubs or societies that will be able to promote space research and collaboration at the SRN network of universities on a sustainable basis.
- 1.3. Student teams are encouraged to work with Industry or Government bodies, and the SRN will accept multiple applications for projects that span multiple universities.
- 1.4. The total funding budget for this program nominally supports one project at each of the SRN universities per financial year (UTS, UNSW, WSU, ANU, MQ, University of Sydney, University of Wollongong, University of Newcastle).
- 1.5. Applications for Student Projects are solicited by formal call-outs posted on the [SRN website](#), associated networks and publications.

2. Support available

- 2.1. Successful proposals can be funded up to \$10,000 for projects of 4-8 months duration.
- 2.2. Project proposals must include a university academic acting as supervisor or mentor. The academic must have a spending account with the university, with which to administer the spending required by the project.
- 2.3. 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. Eligibility criteria

- 3.1. Projects funded by SRN Student Project Fund must be Space-related.
- 3.2. There is no limit on how many projects an investigator can participate in, however the spirit of the program is to promote collaboration and access to space projects. As such, applications from previous winners as the lead of the project will be at a disadvantage where new participants emerge.

4. Use of funds

- 4.1. Funding from the SRN Student Project Fund Scheme will be in the form of a cash contribution to the identified university lead. The contracting process will be administered by the University of Sydney as host of the SRN.
- 4.2. Funds must be used to support the student project described in the application.
- 4.3. 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.

5. Application process

- 5.1. Application for the SRN Student Project Fund is a one stage process.
- 5.2. 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.
- 5.3. Student projects that are accepted will be notified by email.

6. Selection Process

7. Selection criteria and process

- 7.1. The Student Project Fund scheme is administered by the SRN.
- 7.2. The SRN will collect applications and conduct an assessment for completeness and eligibility.
- 7.3. The SRN will evaluate applications against information and evidence provided concerning these selection criteria: novelty, potential for impact, quality of experience gained, contribution to space capability in NSW, number of students involved.
- 7.4. The SRN will assess each application on a competitive basis relative to its funding strategy and the criteria.
- 7.5. The expectation is that there will be one application funded at each of the SRN universities per financial year.
- 7.6. The SRN may request assessment of proposals from subject matter experts. As such, the SRN cannot guarantee confidentiality of the proposals.
- 7.7. The timeline of the selection process is as follows:

14-Mar-2025	Funding Announcement
30-Apr-2025	Applications due
15-May-2025	SRN Funding Committee Assessment
May-June-2025	Announcement & Contracting
01-July-25	Project Start (nominal)
Nov-25 - Dec-25	Project Final Milestone or Completion (nominal)

8. Reporting Requirements & Acknowledgement

- 8.1. 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.
- 8.2. 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.
- 8.3. The final report consists of a Technical report and Financial acquittal.
- 8.4. All expenditure must be in accordance with the project description and broad structure of the proposed project costs detailed in the proposal.
- 8.5. 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 the SRN Student Project Fund scheme 2025”

- 8.6. 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.