**Screen Use and Addiction Research Fund – Priority Grants**

**Guidelines for Applicants**

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| 1.0 Program purpose | 1.1 The NSW Department of Education has established a Screen Use and Addiction Research Fund (Screen Fund) to investigate screen use in NSW schools. |
|  | 1.2 The Screen Fund is Administered by the Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE) within the NSW Department of Education (the department). |
|  | 1.3 The Screen Fund is made up of three grant streams:  a) Leveraging Grants  b) **Priority Grants**  c) Scholarships. |
|  | 1.4 The Priority Grants stream supports novel, multi-disciplinary projects aligned to the department’s Screen Fund Statements of Opportunity (see 4.1). |
|  | 1.5 The Priority Grants stream aims to translate research into policy improvements, new policy initiatives and practical outcomes for NSW education settings by increasing research investment and collaboration between the department and Australian research institutions through the funding of novel, worthwhile screen use research. |
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| 2.0 Funding available | 2.1 Up to $500,000 (for up to 2 years) per successful project. |
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| 3.0 Use of  grant funds | 3.1 Funding for Priority Grants will take the form of a cash contribution following the execution of a funding deed between the administering organisation and the department. |
|  | 3.2 The grant monies should be used primarily on research resources and activities within NSW. Details must be included in the application about how funding will be spent and if any part of the research will occur outside NSW. |
| 4.0 Eligibility criteria | 4.1 The aim of the Screen Fund is to build the evidence base of screen use effects in NSW schools to inform future policy development and practice by funding research that:   * through research, develops useful interventions or tools to assist education settings * proposes a worthwhile contribution to the screen use evidence through novel research * foregrounds student voice.   Applications must address one of the identified Statements of Opportunity and demonstrate how the funding will benefit NSW public education contexts.  The Statements of Opportunity are:   1. We require research that investigates the effects of screen use for learning in schools and at home on students’ learning and behaviour outcomes. 2. We require research that investigates the effects on students of problematic and addictive screen use outside of school hours. |
|  | 4.2 Applications are open to projects led/owned by Australian public universities, selected research institutions and non-government organisations. |
|  | 4.3 Research projects must have ethics approval or be likely to receive ethics approval from a NHMRC-registered human research ethics committee. |
|  | 4.4.1 The project team must apply through the NSW State Education Research and Partnerships (SERAP) or submit evidence of SERAP approval with their application.  4.4.2 Researchers may be asked to complete a Research Protocol/Data Analysis Plan and to preregister their projects with the Open Science Framework (OSF) as part of their SERAP application.  4.4.3 Researchers may be asked to submit an article detailing their project’s methodology to peer-review. The department will facilitate submissions through a journal special edition.  4.4.4 Proposed research will not be funded if a SERAP application is not approved. |

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| 5.0 Assessment Criteria | 5.1 Applications will be assessed according to the following criteria.  a) Alignment to the Screen Fund research priorities (25%)   * Clearly defined proposal to address one or more of the Statements of Opportunity (as defined in section 4.1) * Demonstrated understanding of the project requirements and the extent to which the expected outcome(s) will effectively address the project scope and deliver the project objectives.   b) Project quality and innovation (35%)   * The extent to which the approach to the project and the proposed methodology are demonstrated to be appropriate, feasible and robust. * The extent to which the evidence provided, including the background and references, substantiate the proposed approach. * Demonstrated capacity of the project to make a significant contribution to the current evidence base. * The extent to which the project will create resources, in the form of deliverables, for education settings.   c) Capacity to deliver (20%)   * The extent to which the project team demonstrates the experience, expertise and capacity to deliver the project  as described. * The extent to which the project demonstrates a realistic plan (including clear milestones, timeframes and key performance indicators) for delivering the desired project outcome(s) as required and on time. * The extent to which the risk management strategy is comprehensive and appropriate across the lifetime of the project (including the development, implementation and ongoing management phases).   d) Value for money (20%)   * The extent to which the proposed budget is appropriate, clearly justified, and transparent. * The demonstrated potential to achieve the project outcomes in a high quality and cost-effective manner. * Justification of the cost related to the time and effort of department staff and students, as participants or  co-investigators (if involving schools or other education sites). | |
|  | 5.2 The application will be assessed against the criteria by a selection panel to determine whether to award funding to the applicant, and how much funding to award. | |
|  | 5.3 The department reserves the right, at its absolute discretion, to adopt any strategy in assessing applications received. | |
|  | 5.4 The department may choose to negotiate for additional project conditions or elements beyond those outlined in a submitted proposal. | |
|  | 5.5 The department may choose not to award funding under this program. | |
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| 6.0 Application process | **6.1 Applications for this round of *Priority Projects* grants close at 6PM AEST on Saturday 31 August 2024.** | |
|  | 6.2 Applicants are required to submit an electronic copy of the completed application form to: screenfund@det.nsw.edu.au with the subject line **“Screen Use and Addiction Research Fund Priority Application”**. | |
|  | 6.3 Applications must be signed by the lead researcher and endorsed by the research office (or equivalent) at the administering organisation. | |
|  | 6.4 The research office (or equivalent) of the administering organisation should be copied on the application email. | |
|  | 6.5 Late applications will not be accepted. | |
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| 7.0 Selection process | 7.1 A selection panel will:   1. Assess and rank grant applications according to the Priority Projects’ eligibility and selection criteria; and 2. Determine which applicants, if any, should receive grants, and the amount of those grants. 3. Determine if negotiations for project additions or amendments will be required. | |
|  | 7.2 The panel will assess each application on a competitive basis relative to the criteria and other applications. | |
|  | 7.3 An applicant may be contacted to clarify their application. | |
|  | 7.4 All applicants will be informed of the outcome of the decision on their applications. Applicants may not make any public announcements about the outcome of their application until they have department approval. | |
|  | 7.5 The timetable for the selection process is as follows: | |
|  | **31 July 2024** | Applications open for *Priority Grants* |
|  | **6PM AEST Saturday 31 August 2024** | Applications close for *Priority Grants* |
|  | **October – November 2024** | Successful applicants notified |
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| 8. Funding agreements and reporting requirements | 8.1 All successful applicants who accept the offer of a Priority Grant will be required to enter into a formal funding deed (“the Deed”) with the department. The Deed will specify obligations that relate primarily to the recipient’s accountability for the grant, including using the grant for activities occurring in NSW, the return of unspent grant monies and reporting on the use of the grant. | |
|  | 8.2 The administering organisation of the successful applicant will be awarded funding subject to the project meeting grant reporting requirements and the terms of the Deed. | |
|  | 8.3 The Deed must be signed by an authorised signatory of the administering organisation. | |
|  | 8.4 Collaboration and data sharing between project teams will be facilitated where possible. | |
|  | 8.5 Project deliverables and outcomes will be published in an online resource hub operated by the department. | |
|  | 8.6 In the final year of Priority Grant funding, regardless of whether the project has been completed, the funding recipient will submit a final report and a presentation on the outcomes of the funding. | |