**Screen Use and Addiction Research Fund – Scholarships**

**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 Research Fund is Administered by the Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE) within the NSW Department of Education (“the department”). | |
|  | 1.3 The Research Fund is made up of 3 streams:  a) Leveraging Grants  b) Priority Grants  **c) Scholarships** | |
|  | 1.4 The Scholarships stream supports high quality doctoral research aligned to the department’s Screen Fund Statements of Opportunity (see 4.2). | |
|  | 1.5 The Scholarships stream will contribute funding to research projects receiving Commonwealth Research Training Program (RTP) stipends to increase the translation of research project outcomes, outputs and impacts to screen use in NSW public education. | |
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| 2.0 Support available | 2.1 Up to $10,000 per PhD candidate. | |
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| 3.0 Use of grant funds | 3.1 Funding from the Screen Fund 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 are to be administered by the administering organisation in the form of a top-up to RTP stipends (‘Screen Fund Scholarships’).  The department must approve all Screen Fund Scholarship recipients. | |
|  | 3.3 The Scholarship monies should be used primarily on research resources and activities within NSW. | |
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| 4.0 Eligibility criteria | 4.1.1 Scholarships are open to PhD candidates at Australian public universities (the administering organisation).  4.1.2 Research projects listed in the administering organisation’s expression of interest (EOI) must be led by a PhD candidate who is:   1. enrolled at the administering organisation 2. in receipt of RTP funding throughout 2025. | |
|  | 4.2 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 additional funding will extend the project and/or its impacts to 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. | |
|  | 4.3 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 administering organisation must ensure that the researcher(s) can apply through the NSW State Education Research and Partnerships (SERAP) or is able to submit evidence of SERAP approval.  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 Proposed research will not be funded if a SERAP application is not approved. | |
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| 5.0 Selection Criteria | 5.1 The research projects listed in the EOI will be assessed according to the following criteria.  a) Alignment to the Screen Fund Statements of Opportunity   * Clearly defined project description that addresses one or both Statements of Opportunity (as defined in section 4.2) * 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. | |
|  | 5.2 The department reserves the right, at its absolute discretion, to adopt any strategy in assessing EOIs received. | |
|  | 5.3 The department may choose not to award funding under this program. | |
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| 6.0 EOI process | 6.1 **EOIs for this round of *Scholarships* close at 6PM AEST on Saturday 31 August 2024.** | |
|  | 6.2 Universities are required to send an email to [screenfund@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:screenfund@det.nsw.edu.au) with the subject line **“Screen Use and Addiction Research Fund Scholarship EOI”** containing the following information:   1. A list of eligible Screen Fund Scholarship candidates; and 2. A brief description of each candidate’s research project, including how it aligns to the Screen Fund Statements of Opportunity (300 words per project). | |
|  | 6.3 EOIs must be sent by the research office (or equivalent) of the administering organisation. | |
|  | 6.4 Late EOIs will not be accepted. | |
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| 7.0 Selection process | 7.1 A selection panel will:   1. Assess and rank grant EOIs according to each PhD candidate’s eligibility and selection criteria; and 2. Negotiate with universities as to which candidates, if any, should receive grants. | |
|  | 7.2 The panel will assess each EOI on a competitive basis relative to the criteria and other candidates. | |
|  | 7.3 The department reserves the right to exclude particular research projects and/or PhD candidates listed within a successful EOI from receiving funding. | |
|  | 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** | Identified organisations invited to submit an EOI |
|  | **6PM AEST Saturday 31 August 2024** | Applications close for *Scholarships* stream |
|  | **October – November 2024** | Successful applicants notified |

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| 8. Funding agreements and reporting requirements | 8.1 All successful universities who accept the offer of Scholarship funding 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 Deed must be signed by an authorised signatory of the administering organisation. |
|  | 8.3 Project deliverables and outcomes will be published on a research database operated by the department. |
|  | 8.4 By the end of 2026, regardless of whether the project(s) has been completed, the administering organisation must ensure that Screen Fund Scholarship recipients submit a final report. |