**Screen-Related 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-Related 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 for the duration of 2024, and in subsequent funding rounds, subject to departmental consultation. | |
|  | 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:   * proposes a worthwhile contribution to the screen use evidence through novel research * fosters innovation by addressing a known problem * through research, develops and trials new ideas or practices to assist teachers or priority populations * foregrounds student voice.   Identified research projects listed in the EOI must address one of the following Statements of Opportunity:   1. We require research that explores the evolving links between screen use, wellbeing and learning. 2. We require research that investigates the impacts of screen use on teaching, and the influence of teaching on screen use. 3. We require research that explores how schools and school communities might use initiatives and interventions to support appropriate screen use and reduce problematic screen use. 4. We require research that can help us define, measure and improve screen use and screen time in education contexts. 5. Other screen use research that strengthens trust and respect for the teaching profession and school support staff, and/or advances equitable outcomes, opportunities and experiences for students. | |
|  | 4.3 Research projects must have ethics approval or be likely to receive ethics approval from a relevant human research ethics committee. | |
|  | 4.4.1 If a research project involves schools, the administering organisation must ensure that the researcher(s) has applied through the NSW State Education Research Applications Process (SERAP) or is able to submit evidence of SERAP approval.  4.4.2 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 more of the 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 AEDT on Sunday 28 January 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-Related 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. | |
|  | 6.5 Unsuccessful candidates may be considered in future funding rounds. | |
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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. | |
|  | 7.3.2 The department reserves the right to exclude particular research projects and/or PhD candidates listed within a successful EOI from receiving funding. | |
|  | 7.4 The timetable for the selection process is as follows: | |
|  | **27 November 2023** | Identified organisations invited to submit an EOI |
|  | **6PM AEDT Sunday 28 January 2024** | Applications close for *Scholarships* stream |
|  | **March – April 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 By the end of CY2026, regardless of whether the project(s) has been completed, the administering organisation must ensure that Screen Fund Scholarship recipients submit a final report. | |
|  | 8.3 The Deed must be signed by an authorised signatory of the administering organisation. | |