



## STATE SUPER ESG FOR IMPACT SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES 2024

### About the Scholarship

The State Super Academic Scholarship was established as a legacy to acknowledge the organisation's 100-year anniversary. Applications are now open until 8 December 2023.

The scholarship provides funding support for successful applicants to pursue research in fields related to ESG issues and Responsible Investment, Public sector employees and their retirement, Pensions or Superannuation.

The scholarship will support those seeking to complete research at a post-graduate level – either **Honours/Masters** (with a research component) or **Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)**.

### Who should apply?

Any post-graduate student at a university in NSW who has a desire to contribute to a vision for the future of ESG, responsible investment, superannuation or retirement and has demonstrated academic excellence in their field.

Applicants must be Australian citizens or permanent residents.

### What fields of research are applicable for the scholarship?

Your proposed research should contribute to the knowledge base for future planning in one of State Super's priority areas:

- **Environment** - Greenhouse gas (GHG) footprint, Air and water pollution management, Waste management, Water resource management, Natural disasters and climate risk
- **Social** - Human rights, Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion (DEI), Fair wages, Community impacts and philanthropy, Data security and privacy, Labour conditions/modern slavery

- **Governance** - Board composition, Conflicts of interest, Bribery and corruption, Political contributions and affiliations, Whistle-blower protections
- **General/Data analytics** - ESG and data analytics, Net Zero data analytics, ESG and Risk

Research that includes our more traditional topics of **public sector** employees and their **retirement, pensions** or **superannuation** will also be accepted for consideration.

What is included in the State Super Scholarship?

The successful applicants will receive financial support for a period of 12 months as follows:

<b>Study</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Number of scholarships</b>
Honours/Masters (by Research) Scholarship	\$16,000	4 per year
PhD Scholarship	\$36,000	1 per year

Successful applicants may apply for the scholarship in subsequent years.

Career and academic support may include the following:

- Work experience within State Super in Sydney
- Secondment opportunities within aligned government agencies in NSW
- Media support and guidance to publish and disseminate the research findings
- Invitation to attend relevant Australian conferences.

Eligibility criteria

Applicants must be accepted to undertake full-time Honours/Masters (by Research) or PhD at one of the eligible NSW universities and be enrolled at their chosen university for the duration of the scholarship period.

Applicants must be Australian citizens or permanent residents and the research must be conducted in Australia.

Applicants from diverse backgrounds are encouraged to apply.

### Which universities are participating?

All NSW Universities that are scheduled employers in State Super:

- The University of Sydney
- University of New South Wales
- Macquarie University
- The University of Newcastle
- Southern Cross University
- University of Technology Sydney
- University of New England
- Western Sydney University
- University of Wollongong
- Charles Sturt University

Students from regional or emerging Universities are encouraged to apply.

### Key dates

Applications open	1 October 2023
Applications close	8 December 2023
Scholarships awarded	9 February 2024

### Application process

1. Submit your application on the form supplied to State Super by 8 December 2023
2. Applications will be considered by a scholarship review panel using a standardised assessment process
3. Selected applicants recommended by review panel to State Super
4. State Super selects final successful applicants before 9 February 2024

### Scholarship review panel

The review panel consists of four members, with representatives from the following organisations:

- State Super
- NSW Treasury
- NSW Department of Education
- A retired NSW academic

### Selection criteria

Selection will be based on the candidate's ability to articulate how the proposed research will contribute to the future of superannuation in the NSW public sector.

The panel may consider the following specific criteria:

- Does the research directly address the topic of ESG, responsible investment, public sector retirement, pensions or superannuation?
- Is the proposed framework innovative and original?
- Will the research produce significant new knowledge?
- Is there adequate academic, senior-level supervision of the proposed research?
- Is there evidence of past academic performance of the applicant?

### Supporting documentation required

1. Academic resume
2. Academic letter of reference
3. Letter of support from the Academic Supervisor or Dean of the Faculty or Head of School (or equivalent).

### Communication and promotion

By submitting an application, consent is being given to be contacted for public relations opportunities and for your name and other relevant details to be included on websites, media releases and Ministerial announcements.

Communication of the findings of the research through conferences, forums and communication with State Super will be expected.

Wherever possible, academic journal publications of the research will be encouraged.

### Reporting requirements

Scholarship recipients will be required to provide State Super with progress reports quarterly and a final report on the research findings as follows:

- Quarterly Progress Reports as agreed between State Super and the Academic Supervisor

- Annual Progress Reports are to be submitted one month prior to the annual anniversary of the Scholarship commencement date
- Final Report – a final report is to be submitted to State Super within three months of completing both the Honours/Masters or PhD

### Application

Email your enquiry to [scholarship@statesuper.nsw.gov.au](mailto:scholarship@statesuper.nsw.gov.au) to receive your application form or contact Louise Moody, State Super Marketing Manager at [louise\\_moody@statesuper.nsw.gov.au](mailto:louise_moody@statesuper.nsw.gov.au) for more information.

Or visit the State Super website <https://www.statesuper.nsw.gov.au/about-us/scholarship>