



GLOBAL
NSW

Study NSW Partner Project Guidelines

2021-22



STUDY NSW
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International students completing Global Scope placement with Study NSW.

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An introduction to Study NSW

Study NSW is an initiative of the NSW Government, established to support and grow the international education sector by attracting students to NSW and enhancing the quality of their experience while in the state. The unit represents the international education sector through coordinating policy and advocacy to advance international education in NSW.

Study NSW's functions support the growth of the international education sector and align with the NSW Government's priorities of growing the economy and creating jobs.

Study NSW has four core functions:

- program delivery to improve the experience of international students studying with NSW education providers;
- marketing and promotion to raise the profile of NSW's education, training and research strengths;
- policy and advocacy to enhance the competitiveness of international education in NSW; and
- international market development and support for new technology-enabled models of delivery to maximise NSW strengths in providing offshore and flexible delivery of education and training.

Partner Projects

Each year Study NSW co-funds projects in partnership with industry through Partner Projects to further Study NSW's core functions.

Partner Projects are strategic, innovative, benefit the international education sector and address gaps not currently addressed by the sector.

From 2014 to 2020, Study NSW invested \$2.1 million across 53 partner projects and attracted \$7.9 million in industry contributions. These projects have added value to the international education sector by:

- creating work integrated learning or work experience opportunities for international students to improve their employability prospects;
- integrating international students into their local community;

- addressing safety and health concerns for international students;
- supporting international students in regional study destinations;
- addressing cost of living issues, for example, availability of suitable and affordable accommodation; and
- raising community awareness of the benefits of international students to NSW and its residents.

To explore Partner Project case studies visit www.study.sydney/programs/partner-projects

Applications are made online through the Study NSW website.

Indicative dates

Applications open	March 2021
Applications close	May 2021
Applications assessed	June - July 2021
All applicants advised of outcome	Early August 2021
Successful projects announced	Mid August 2021
Partner projects delivered	August 2021 - June 2022

Note: dates above are indicative and subject to change based on operational requirements.

Eligibility criteria

Funds of up to \$110,000 (incl GST) per project are available.

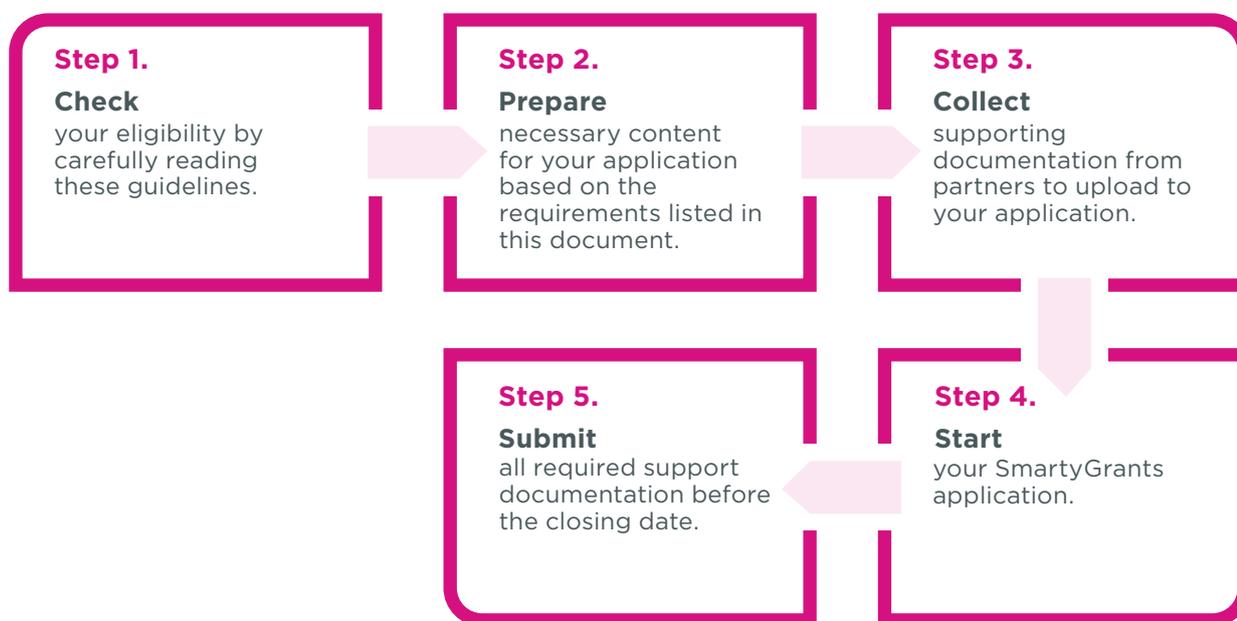
- Applicants must be education providers or other organisations that have a focus on international education.
- Organisations applying for funding must:
 - be a legal entity and operate in NSW;
 - have an Australian Business Number (ABN); or be registered as a not-for-profit organisation or charity;
 - have been operating for at least two years;
 - have appropriate insurance cover for the proposed project activity.
- Applications must include at least one partner (excluding Study NSW).
- Each partner should be integral to the ability to deliver the project.
- All funds must be matched by contributions of the applicant and their partner(s), including through in-kind contributions.
- Applications must be for new projects, or for new elements to existing projects.

Funding is not available for:

- ongoing administration and staffing costs (although funding is available for fixed term administration and staff appointed for the duration of the project);
- infrastructure, capital or the purchase of significant assets;
- social media marketing (including the paid 'boosting' of social media posts);
- projects that have already been carried out or are substantially completed; or
- continuation of a project beyond 30 June 2022 – there is no provision for funding ongoing projects.



Application process



Applications must include:

- a description of the proposed project and rationale of how it will address gaps in the international education sector;
- a note of whether it is a new project or new element to an existing project;
- a description of how the project will benefit the international education sector against the assessment criteria;
- list of specific deliverables linked to Study NSW core functions;
- identification of the project partners and their respective contribution, including a letter of support from each partner detailing their proposed funding and/or in-kind support;
- a budget, indicating an estimate of total project cost, proposed income and expenditure, details of funding level request and other funding/in-kind support that at least matches the contribution sought from Study NSW;
- a summary of how the proposed project demonstrates value for money;
- an indicative timeline, including key milestones for project delivery; and
- a risk assessment.

Assessment criteria

The criteria used to guide assessment, prioritisation and other decision making in relation to partner projects are:

Criteria description	Weighting
Adds value to enhance delivery of Study NSW four core functions	50%
Generates maximum impact within identified resources and effectively manages risk	25%
Provides benefit to more than one entity, and where possible, more than one education sector (e.g. schools, vocational education and training, higher education, English language intensive courses for overseas students)	25%

Favourable consideration will be offered to projects which:

- use digital solutions to increase international student engagement and reach;
- profile and grow international education in regional NSW;
- create work integrated learning or work experience opportunities for international students to improve their employability prospects;
- address international student welfare and wellbeing concerns; and/or
- support COVID-19 recovery efforts for international education in NSW.



Assessment process

1. Eligible applications will be assessed by an independent Partner Project Advisory Committee (PPAC) against the criteria. The PPAC is led by independent representatives with substantial experience in the international education sector and grants assessment. The PPAC will assess applications based on the criteria and will also be guided by the following considerations:

- Do the applicants and nominated partners demonstrate they have capacity to deliver the project?
- Do the applicants have experience with the international education sector and international students?
- Does the application provide evidence that the project is of value to international students?
- Does the proposed project provide long-term benefits for international students?
- Does the proposed project have a plan for sustainability?

- How many international students will benefit from project?
- Where are the students located?
- Are the project rationale, objectives and deliverables clearly articulated in the application?
- Does the application include supporting documentation, including letters of support from representatives within the international education sector?
- Is the proposed project cost effective and does it add value to the international education sector and/or international students in NSW?

2. The NSW International Education Advisory Board (IEAB) will consider and advise on the PPAC's recommended partner projects for funding.

3. The final decision will be made by the relevant financial delegate in NSW Treasury.

Successful applicants

- Study NSW reserves the right to propose amendments to the application prior to accepting to fund the project.
- The funding amount, terms and conditions and project deliverables will be detailed in the funding agreement provided to successful applicants.
- Successful applicants will receive a portion of the funding upon execution of the Funding Agreement, and the remainder upon meeting agreed performance-based milestones. This includes an assessment of all agreed deliverables, which will be outlined in the Funding Agreement.
- Payments to successful applicants may take up to 30 days from the date of invoicing.
- Consortia must identify a lead agency for contracting purposes.
- All media releases and promotion must acknowledge the funding contribution by Study NSW and conform with relevant promotional guidelines.
- All funding is to be allocated by 30 June 2022.



International students in Sydney.

Probity and key principles

Probity

The NSW Government seeks to conduct all its business dealings with integrity. The application assessment must be fair, open and demonstrate the highest levels of probity consistent with the public interest. The application assessment will be conducted through using established probity principles that aim to assure all parties of the integrity of the decision-making processes. These principles are outlined in this section.

Maintaining impartiality

Fair and impartial treatment will be a feature of each stage of the assessment process. The process will feature a clearly defined separation of duties and personnel between the assessment and approval functions.

Maintaining accountability and transparency

Accountability and transparency are related concepts. The demonstration of both is crucial to the integrity of the assessment.

Accountability requires that all participants be held accountable for their actions. The assessment process will identify responsibilities and require that all activities and decision-making be appropriately documented.

Transparency refers to the preparedness to open a project and its processes to scrutiny, debate and possible criticism. This also involves providing reasons for all decisions taken and the provision of appropriate information to relevant stakeholders.

Managing conflicts of interest

In support of the public interest, transparency and accountability, the government requires the identification, management and monitoring of conflicts of interest. Participants will be required to disclose any current or past relationships or connections that may unfairly influence or be seen to unfairly influence the integrity of the assessment process.

Maintaining confidentiality

The application assessment requires a high level of accountability and transparency. However, there is also a need for some information to be kept confidential, at least for a specified period of time. This is important to provide participants with confidence in the integrity of the process.

Obtaining value for money

Obtaining optimal value for money is a fundamental principle of public sector work. This is achieved by fostering an environment in which proponents can make attractive, innovative proposals with the confidence that they will be assessed on their merits and where government appropriately considers value. In order to demonstrate that optimal value for money will be achieved, an “open book” approach to negotiations is to be adopted. Government will also consider whole-of-government impact and cost.

Other information

Getting support

- Resources to assist with applications are available at www.study.sydney/programs/partner-projects
- NSW Treasury staff are available to support applicants with questions. Email study.nsw@treasury.nsw.gov.au or call 02 6586 7879 for assistance.
- Applicants may wish to seek advice from their legal, business and financial advisors to determine the suitability of the Program before applying.

Complaints

Any concerns about the Program or individual applications should be in writing to study.nsw@treasury.nsw.gov.au. If you do not agree with the way the NSW Treasury handled the issue, you may wish to contact the NSW Ombudsman via ombo.nsw.gov.au.

Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (NSW)

Applicants should be aware that information submitted in applications and all related correspondence, attachments and other documents may be made publicly available under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (NSW). Information that is deemed commercial sensitive will be withheld.

The Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (NSW) makes government information accessible to the public by:

- Requiring government agencies to make certain sorts of information freely available.
- Encouraging government agencies to release as much other information as possible.
- Giving the public an enforceable right to make access applications for government information.
- Restricting access to information only when there is an overriding public interest against disclosure.



International students at Interchange in Sydney.

www.study.sydney/programs/partner-projects



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