

Gambling Research Capacity Grants 2025

Funding submission guide



Call for applications

The Office of Responsible Gambling (the Office) invites applications for PhD scholarships or post-doctoral fellowships through the Gambling Research Capacity Grants program.

About the Office

The Office leads programs and initiatives to prevent and reduce gambling harm in the NSW community and provides policy advice to the NSW Government. Research plays a key role in the work of the Office, by providing the evidence base to design prevention, intervention and support initiatives.

The Office's work is funded through the Responsible Gambling Fund (RGF), which is established under Section 115 of the *Casino Control Act 1992*. Expenditure from the fund is approved by the Minister for Gaming and Racing, based on the recommendation of RGF Trustees.

You can find out more about the Office's work by visiting:
<https://www.gambleaware.nsw.gov.au/>.

Gambling Research Capacity Grants 2025

The RGF is offering funding for two full-time PhD scholarships and one full-time post-doctoral fellowship.

Objectives

The Gambling Research Capacity Grants program aims to build capability and capacity for gambling research in Australia, and to improve the quality, diversity and impact of Australian gambling research. The objectives of the program are to:

- Fund talented and committed researchers to build a career in gambling studies
- Encourage the development of gambling research skills within supportive academic environments
- Promote cross-disciplinary research opportunities
- Fund projects that bridge the gap between research, policy and practice to support research that impacts on gambling harm prevention and minimisation.



Priority research themes

Applications should address at least one of the following research themes from the Office's [Strategic Plan 2024-27](#):

- Understanding and tracking changes in gambling behaviour and attitudes across the population and in specific groups
- Understanding and monitoring emerging technologies and trends, and their impacts on people and communities in NSW
- Understanding issues affecting different groups and communities across NSW, particularly vulnerable populations, and how to respond to these issues.

There are multiple and diverse groups and communities affected by gambling, including but not limited to:

- Young people
- People from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
- Aboriginal people
- People who are impacted by another person's gambling (also known as affected others)
- People experiencing co-morbidities such as mental health issues, substance abuse, homelessness, suicide and domestic violence
- People from professions at higher risk of gambling harm such as veterans, first-responders, fly-in fly-out workers and people working in the gambling industry.

Research that directly contributes to gambling harm prevention and minimisation in NSW will be prioritised.

Collaborative partnerships and cross-disciplinary approaches will be viewed favourably.

Applicants are encouraged to consider partnerships with other organisations to enhance research outcomes, increase the likelihood of project success, or increase the potential for research findings to be implemented. Specific partnerships do not need to be confirmed at the time of application, but any plans for collaboration should be outlined. Any perceived or actual conflicts of interest of applicants, supervisors or partnering organisations will need to be declared as part of the application.

Types of funding

Two categories of funding will be available:

PhD scholarships (two available)

Up to \$60,000 per year for three years per candidate, including \$50,000 per year for stipend and up to \$10,000 per year for research costs.¹

Post-doctoral fellowship (one available)

Up to \$160,000 per year for three years per candidate, including \$150,000 per year for salary and on-costs and up to \$10,000 for research costs.

Submission dates

The submission dates are as follows:

- Opens – Friday 29 November 2024
- Closes – Friday 28 February 2025
- Awarded – April - May 2025



1. Alternatively, top-up scholarships are available for PhD candidates who receive another full-time scholarship, such as a Commonwealth Research Training Program (RTP) scholarship. Top-up scholarships are up to \$30,000, which includes a \$20,000 stipend and up to \$10,000 per year for research costs.

Eligibility



PhD scholarships

- Applicants must be Australian citizens or permanent residents of Australia and be intending to undertake their PhD at an Australian university.
- Applicants must have completed their honours year or hold/expect to hold a master's degree in the same discipline by the closing date of the program.
- The project must align with at least one of the program priority research themes (outlined above).
- Applicants must meet all eligibility requirements for the PhD they intend to pursue or have confirmation of an enrolment offer.
- Applications must be supported by at least one academic staff member of the University who will act as their supervisor.
- Applicants must have a confirmed associate supervisor. The associate supervisor may hold a position in a different discipline or different institution to their supervisor.
- The primary supervisor is not required to have gambling expertise. In these instances, gambling expertise should be provided by an associate supervisor.
- Applicants who are in the early stages of undertaking a PhD may apply.

Post-doctoral fellowship

- Applicants must be early career researchers who were awarded a PhD less than seven years ago.
- Applicants who are currently enrolled in a PhD may apply, if they expect to submit their PhD before the submission closing date.
- The project must align with at least one of the program priority research themes (outlined above).
- Applicants must be Australian citizens, permanent residents of Australia or have an appropriate working visa and be intending to be based at an Australian university.



How to apply

To apply, or for more information on the program and frequently asked questions, visit the NSW Government Grants and Funding Finder website [Office of Responsible Gambling grants and funding](#).

PhD scholarship and Post-doctoral fellowship

Applicants will be required to submit the following documents via the portal:

- a covering letter outlining their motivation to conduct the proposed research, their relevant educational and research experience and how the scholarship will facilitate and enhance their research career development
- a research proposal, including key research questions, objectives (including how the research will advance the knowledge base and have an impact on policy and practice), theoretical context and relationship to other research, research scope, methodology, relevance to NSW, stakeholder engagement, deliverables and indicative timeframes
- a curriculum vitae including qualifications and completed research activities
- a statement of support from the proposed supervisor/s confirming their involvement and outlining their role and the support that they will provide for career development and research outcomes
- the curriculum vitae of the proposed supervisor/s providing evidence of their research expertise
- a statement from the head of the school (or equivalent) confirming that the details in the application are correct and that the host institution will provide the necessary oversight and support
- a declaration of any perceived or actual conflicts of interest and sources of other funding received, including any gambling industry funding received in the past, for the applicant, supervisor/s and for any partnering organisations
- a proposed budget, using the online form provided.



Assessment criteria

Applications for the PhD scholarships and post-doctoral fellowship that meet the eligibility criteria will be assessed against the assessment criteria detailed below. It is recommended that applications articulate how each of the criteria will be addressed.

The assessments will be undertaken by an independent panel. Assessors are required to identify any conflicts of interest and sign a conflict-of interest declaration. Conflicts of interest will be handled in accordance with the Department's Conflict of Interest policy.



Merit (35%)

The extent to which the applicant:

- possesses the necessary qualifications, skills and academic ability required for the proposed research
- demonstrates an interest and commitment to building their career in gambling studies.

The extent to which the proposed project:

- is relevant to at least one of the priority research themes outlined above
- is likely to impact policy and practice to address gambling harm
- involves collaboration or cross-disciplinary approaches
- includes plans to partner with external organisations, where appropriate.



Viability (35%)

The extent to which the application:

- outlines a feasible research scope, methodology, deliverables and timeframes
- includes supervisor/s with appropriate knowledge, experience and skills to support learning and research outcomes
- will be managed by an organisation with a sound track record in undertaking similar research
- outlines an appropriate and feasible plan for stakeholder engagement relevant to the objectives of the research
- will result in future practical applications to benefit the people of NSW.



Career development (20%)

The extent to which the application:

- addresses how the candidate or fellow will be supported by the supervisor/s and host organisation to develop their skills, knowledge, confidence, networks and overall academic career
- outlines an appropriate plan for how the applicant will be involved in communicating and disseminating the results of the research, including potential publications and conference presentations.



Budget (10%)

The extent to which the proposal:

- offers value for money and appropriate use of government funds
- is based on realistic estimated costs
- includes details of how any additional anticipated costs are covered by confirmed sources.

Applications that include funding co-contributions from academic institutions or other funding bodies will be considered favourably.

Funding will not be provided for capital expenditure.

Funding decisions

Funding decisions will be made by the Minister for Gaming and Racing, based on the assessment of the applications by an independent panel and advice from the RGF Trustees. Decisions made by the Minister are final and there is no right of appeal.

The Minister records their decision in writing, including any reasons for the decision and any departure from the recommendation of the RGF Trust.

After the assessment process is completed, applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application by email.

Applicants who are not successful may apply for feedback and may update their applications and reapply in a future round.

Information about the grants awarded will be published on the NSW Government Grants and Funding Finder no later than 45 calendar days after the grant agreement takes effect.

Funding conditions

If you are approved for funding you will be required to:

- sign a [Program Agreement](#) including standard terms and conditions that covers your obligations
- comply with reporting requirements outlined in the program agreement
- demonstrate satisfactory progress is being made via six-monthly progress reports
- publicise the funding from the Office of Responsible Gambling in relevant publications, media or other material.

Information provided in grant applications is confidential and will not be shared outside of the assessment process.



Get in touch

Contact the Office of Responsible Gambling Grants team for assistance:

P: (02) 9995 0992

E: info@responsiblegambling.nsw.gov.au

W: gambleaware.nsw.gov.au

Translating and interpreter service: 131 450

Relay Service: 133 677 (TTY) or 0423 677 767 (SMS relay)