

Space Innovation Fund - Scholarship Program

Applications for: Space Scholarship
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APPLICATION FOR SCHOLARSHIP

1. Invitation

The South Australian Space Industry Centre (“Principal”) is inviting applications seeking financial assistance in the form of a scholarship (“Applicants”) from entrepreneurs and innovators with relevant tertiary qualifications. The Scholarship Program is part of the South Australian Space Innovation Fund. The aim of the scholarships is to improve the knowledge and develop skills of potential founders for space-related enterprises.

2. Background

In September 2017, the South Australian Government created the South Australian Space Industry Centre (SASIC) and the Space Innovation Fund to drive innovation, research and entrepreneurial skills targeting the space industry.

South Australia benefits from the latest technological developments given our:

- significant capabilities across a range of space-related activities, including ground infrastructure and the processing of spatial information
- innovation ecosystem that includes private enterprise, university and research organisations and investors
- willingness to engage with international markets, research expertise and investors to grow our pool of entrepreneurial and technical talent.

South Australia’s vision and mission for the space industry is outlined in the [South Australia Growth State Space Sector Strategy](#). Details of South Australia’s space-related capabilities are in the [South Australian Space Industry Directory](#).

The objectives of the Space Innovation Fund are to:

- support aspiring space industry entrepreneurs to develop their ideas into innovative, high growth commercial ventures
- strengthen the prospects of new space technologies and services to achieve global commercial success from South Australia’s burgeoning space industry

- support the space innovation ecosystem in South Australia through the attraction and growth of dynamic and innovative new space ventures, investors and mentors.

About the Space Innovation Fund

The Space Innovation Fund aims to support potential entrepreneurs and start-ups providing a pathway for post-graduate innovators and entrepreneurs to:

- develop expertise and build knowledge in specialist space related fields of study
- develop entrepreneurial ideas in order to bring them to market
- rapidly develop their technology, build channels to market and pitch for investment by tapping into global networks of mentors, investors, and corporate partners.

The Space Innovation Fund will help entrepreneurs and promising early-stage companies to seize commercial opportunities in the US\$400 billion a year global space industry.

Space Innovation Fund - Scholarship Program

The four-year scholarship program aims to support the development of space entrepreneurship in South Australia. The Space Scholarship Program will provide an annual allocation of \$100,000 over four years (2018-21).

The program will award successful applicants with funding of up to \$20,000 AUD to assist the recipients to develop their leadership skills, experience and knowledge in the space sector through education, and/or training at best practice workplaces or educational institutions. The scholarships support individuals who can demonstrate their interest in improving their knowledge and skills as potential founders of successful space-related enterprises.

The range of knowledge and skills that could fund a potential entrepreneur includes post-graduate programs in science, technology, engineering, law, medicine, IT, economics and business or inter-disciplinary master's degrees in space studies or similar fields. Shorter professional development courses and internships in space-related organisations could be considered.

The scholarship program aims to support potential entrepreneurs and innovators with relevant tertiary qualifications to attend either a formal academic program, or a period of supervised industrial experience.

The acquisition of the necessary knowledge and skills is expected to precede the decision to establish a new enterprise, therefore the selection criteria will take into account the potential benefit of the proposed study or industrial experience in relation to the applicant's longer term entrepreneurial plans.

The scholarship recipients will also be strongly encouraged to apply for the Space Incubator program, [Venture Catalyst Space](#), which provides additional support and training for the successful establishment of new businesses delivered by the University of South Australia's Innovation and Collaboration Centre. However, it is recognised that a recipient may decide that they would derive additional benefit from a period of employment with an established organisation before attempting to start their own business.

The funds awarded under the program will be paid to the student, or possibly as income support during a period of industrial training (where that kind of support is not available by the host organisation).

3. Applicant Requirements

General Selection Principles

The Scholarship Program does not restrict the type of training or experience opportunity for which funding might be sought, or the location in which it will be undertaken, and there is no restriction on the age, racial background, creed, disability or gender of applicants.

The Scholarship Program is only open to Australian Citizens or Permanent Residents residing in South Australia with a current and valid South Australian Drivers License.

The Scholarship Program is to benefit South Australia, and candidates must provide detail in their application on how they will ensure that the knowledge or experience they gain through Scholarship Program funding will benefit South Australia. It is the responsibility of all candidates to demonstrate that their proposal will cost effectively achieve the aims of the Scholarship Program.

Successful applicants can receive up to 90% of funds granted prior to the commencement of their study, with the remaining 10% paid at the completion of their study program within four weeks of receipt of an Outcomes Report (see “specific requirements”).

Specific Requirements

Successful applications must provide a written Outcomes Report within four weeks of the completion of their study or industrial experience, detailing the outcomes achieved through the Scholarship.

The Outcomes Report should be in a form suitable for publication on the SASIC website and the recipients will be required to make themselves available to share their experiences at an Australian Space Forum if requested.

The Outcomes Report should address:

- the recipient’s objectives
- an outline of the learning opportunity
- an explanation of the benefit derived including how the applicant proposes to apply the learnings and knowledge gained
- how others might similarly benefit from this knowledge
- how the successful applicant intends to further benefit from and apply the knowledge acquired.

The period of study or training must commence no later than 12 months from the date of announcement of successful recipients.

4. Indicative timeline

- 31 March 2021 – Applications open
- 17 May 2021 – Applications close (must be received by midnight CST)
- 18 June 2021 – Successful recipients notified

5. Submission content and format

The application form can be download from the [SASIC](#) website. The application must include details of current qualifications, proposed qualifications as a result of the Scholarship (if applicable), purpose of study or training, entrepreneurship plan and motivation.

To be valid, applications must be delivered electronically to spaceoffice@sa.gov.au and received by **midnight CST on 17 May 2021**.

6. Selection process

A selection committee will review and short-list recipients. The selection committee will consist of representatives from South Australian Government departments and the commercial space sector.

7. Publicity

SASIC reserves the right to publish information about successful applicants as set out in the personal application documents.

MORE INFORMATION

For further information or enquiries, please email spaceoffice@sa.gov.au or phone 08 8463 7140.