

Ecological Consultants Association of NSW Student Research Grants 2026

- ◆ ECA of NSW Conservation Grant (\$5000)
- ◆ Ray Williams Mammal Research Grant (\$5000)

The Ecological Consultants Association of NSW supports ecological research in Australia and would like to award two grants each year to assist researchers to carry out their ecological projects.

Eligibility

To be eligible for either of the grants the applicant and project must fit the following criteria:

- Applicant must be or prepared to become a member of the Ecological Consultants Association of NSW in the year the grant is awarded, including signing the ECA code of ethics. Membership fee will be free to the successful applicants.
- The project must be carried out in Australia and its territories (preference will be given to projects that have application in NSW).
- The project must be an ecological study.
- Applicant may be an enrolled Honours student, a Masters or PhD student. Applications should be submitted by the person proposing to undertake the actual works and not by a project supervisor.
- Applicant must obtain all necessary permits and licences to carry out the project.
- Applicant must be prepared to sign a grant agreement, which includes: the provision of a report on budget usage; a scientific paper for the ECA biannual newsletter *Consulting Ecology* within 2 years of the grant being awarded and/or a spoken presentation at the ECA annual conference within 2 years of the grant being awarded.
- Successful applicants are eligible to reapply in subsequent years, however they must be able to demonstrate that progress has been made with the project.
- Unsuccessful applicants may apply in subsequent years.

Application and Assessment

- Applications must be submitted electronically to admin@ecansw.org.au by **31 March 2026**. You will be notified that your application has been received.
- The same application form may be used to apply for both of the grants.
- Applications must include an application form, accompanied by a current CV or academic transcript. Applications must be supported by two referees, which should include your academic supervisor.

- Applications will be assessed by the Student Liaison and Grants Sub-committee of the Ecological Consultants Association of NSW Council. Applicants will be notified of the outcome by **15th May 2026**.
- The following criteria will be used to assess applications:
 - The value of the project to conservation
 - The quality of the project
 - Justification of how the grant will be used
 - The track record of the applicant and the likelihood of the objectives being achieved
 - The relevance of the project to ecological consulting in NSW

Payment

- Prior to the provision of the grant funds, copies of all necessary permits and licences to carry out the project must be provided to the Ecological Consultants Association of NSW.
- Successful applicants must sign a **Grant Agreement** to receive 90% (\$4500) of the funding.
- The final 10% (\$500) received on provision of the budget report and scientific paper or conference presentation for inclusion in *Consulting Ecology*.
- Grant funds will be paid directly to the student. The ECA of NSW is not registered for GST, therefore if you require gst to be included in the grant, it will come out of the \$500.

Conditions of the Grant Agreement

- Grant funds are to be exempt from organisational administration charges.
- Successful applicant will provide the Ecological Consultants Association of NSW with a report of budget usage and an article for *Consulting Ecology* or a spoken conference presentation within 2 years of receipt of the grant.
- Successful applicant must acknowledge the assistance of the Ecological Consultants Association of NSW and list the award name (i.e. Ray Williams Mammal Research Grant or ECA Conservation Grant) in all documentation or presentation of the research undertaken.
- Academic supervisor/s have been made aware that your application is successful.
- The grant is to be used to fund direct costs of the project.

Extra benefits

- Successful applicant will have the opportunity to present a spoken presentation and receive complimentary attendance at an ECA annual conference within 2 years of the grant being awarded. (Travel costs not included).

Ecological Consultants Association of NSW Student and Research Grants

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APPLICATION FORM

Please complete this form and email to admin@ecansw.org.au by 31st March 2026 and ensure that your application form does not exceed 4 pages.

PERSONAL DETAILS		
Title:	Name:	Date of Birth:
Address:		
Telephone Home:	Email:	
Telephone Work:		
Telephone Mobile:		
Occupation / Tertiary Qualifications / Student Status (degree etc) - summary (please provide a brief CV with your application)		
Institution Name and Address (if applicable):		
PROJECT INFORMATION		
Project Title:		
List names of other people working on the project:		
Name:	Role:	
Date of commencement:	Proposed date of completion:	
Project location:		

List other funding applications and whether they have been successful:

List two referees below (include name, address, phone number and email address). If you are a student one must be your academic supervisor. Referees must have knowledge of your project and be able to comment on it. Academic supervisor or referees must be aware that you have applied for the grant and that they are listed on your application.

Referee 1 (supervisor Y or N)	Referee 2 (supervisor Y or N)
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Project Aims:

Summary of methods and project design, including a timeline (indicate here if project is part of a broader project being undertaken concurrently):

Progress made to date (if applicable):

Outline ecological and conservation significance of the project and how it is relevant to ecological consulting in NSW:

Budget analysis (for entire project)			
Component	List items	Estimated cost	Is this covered by other funding (Y or N)
Equipment			
Consumable items			
Travel expenses			
Other			

Please provide a statement of justification for funding request:

Declaration

I declare that all information provided in this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also agree to the following conditions of the grant agreement, should my application be accepted and I am granted the award.

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- Successful applicant must acknowledge the assistance of the Ecological Consultants Association of NSW and list the award name (i.e. Ray Williams Mammal Research Grant or ECA Conservation Grant) in all documentation or presentation of the research undertaken.
- Academic supervisor/s have been made aware that you have applied and will notify if application is successful.
- The grant is to be used to fund direct costs of the project.

Applicants Name:**Applicants Signature:****Date:****Office Use Only:**

Date Application Received:	Reviewed By:	Decision:	Date:
		Applicant Notified of decision:	Date: