

Honours Research Support Scholarship

Expression of Interest for the 2026 academic year



Details and rationale

Honours students conduct important research that can contribute to the environmental, social, and economic resilience of landscapes, agriculture, and communities. Successful honours completion is a critical pathway into Higher Degree programs. Experience has shown that financial support for students through their honours year can increase the quality of their final research thesis.

Southern NSW Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub's Honours Research Support Scholarships program is a way that students can access financial support to complete their studies to a high standard and extend their research beyond the university.

About the program

The Southern NSW Innovation Hub will offer financial support to a limited number of Honours students commencing in session 1, 2026. The scholarship may be used at the student's discretion; it is not intended to be used for operating costs of the project. A total of \$5,000 is available per student, with four scholarships available.

Specific measurable outcomes

The Hub will measure and report on the outcomes of the program using the following metrics:

1. Number of successful honours completions
2. Project outcomes that contribute to one or more of the Hub's six key impact areas
3. Number of honours students who continue to work or research in an area related to drought and climate resilience

Who is eligible?

- The applicant must be, at the time of the award, enrolled/accepted in a Charles Sturt University Science honours course, or in the final year of a course with Integrated honours and enrolled in the dissertation subject.
- Please note that applications can be made before acceptance; however, the scholarship will not be awarded until acceptance and commencement can be demonstrated.
- The applicant's proposed project must align with the Hub's key impact areas (i.e. investment planning priorities).

Alignment with the Hub's investment planning priorities

Underpinning the Hub's future operations and commitment to fostering resilience and sustainability across southern NSW are our six key impact areas. These investment priorities align closely with environmental, social, and economic themes, creating a comprehensive approach to address the multifaceted challenges faced by farmers, First Nations, and rural communities – in the context of building resilience to drought and climate variability.

Southern NSW Innovation Hub's key impact areas

- Enhancing and Preserving the Natural Environment: Advancing efforts to ensure sustainable ecosystems for future generations.

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- First Nations Social and Cultural Resilience: Fostering the cultural, economic and social wellbeing of Aboriginal people in the face of climate change.
- Resilient Farming Systems and Decisions: Farmers navigate drought and climate challenges and make informed decisions that build farming system resilience and profitability.
- Rural Communities Social and Cultural Resilience: Strengthening rural and regional communities and fostering both economic and social wellbeing.
- Soil Resilience: Prioritising soil health and fertility to enhance agricultural productivity and environmental sustainability.
- Water and Water Use: Promoting responsible water resource management for a sustainable water supply and ecosystem health.

How to apply?

Please send a succinct written application to southernNSWhub@csu.edu.au addressing the following criteria (no more than 100 words per question, except for the project synopsis). Please ensure your entire statement against the criteria does not exceed one A4 page. Please arrange your response using the selection criteria as headings. We will accept applications up until the close of business on **Friday 16th January 2026**.

Selection criteria

1. Name and Student Number
2. Name of School
3. Title of proposed thesis/project
4. Name of principal supervisor
5. Synopsis of proposed research (200 words)
6. Statement of relevance to one or more of the Hub's Key Impact Areas
7. Statement of how the project's operating costs will be met e.g. from a supervisor or an industry body
8. Statement on post-honours career aspirations, e.g. paid employment, Master's, PhD, other

NB. Applications that do not adhere to the requirements above will not be considered further. This includes applications longer than one A4 page.

Key points to note

- Limited to one application per student.
- Students undertaking honours at institutions other than Charles Sturt University are ineligible to apply.
- Applications are welcome from students in all faculties if their project aligns with the Hub's Key Impact Areas.
- The student will be required to submit a brief (one-page) report upon submission of the thesis (a template will be provided).
- Applications will be assessed by the Executive Director, Southern NSW Innovation Hub and/or a broader selection committee if deemed necessary, based on the number of applications received.
- Enquiries should be directed to southernNSWhub@csu.edu.au.
- Successful applicants will be notified by early March 2026.