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Overview

Tasmania is currently home to more than 12,000 international students, who make an outstanding contribution to economic, social and cultural activity within the state. International education contributed \$533 million to the Tasmanian economy in 2018, making it our fourth largest export.

The Tasmanian Government is committed to hosting a truly global education hub in Tasmania and in 2017 released the *Global Education Growth Strategy* to support this commitment. The strategy has six core goals:

- Goal 1: Market Tasmania as a study destination.
- Goal 2: Strengthen quality industry partnerships and pathways.
- Goal 3: Enhance student experience.
- Goal 4: Develop connected communities.
- Goal 5: Support ongoing investment by the sector.
- Goal 6: Deepen connections with the global alumni network.

The goals of the *Global Education Growth Strategy* are being delivered by Study Tasmania, an organisation which sits within the Department of State Growth.

Commitment to enhancing student experience

Through the *Global Education Growth Strategy*, Study Tasmania has a commitment to enhance the student experience in Tasmania and provide a safe, welcoming and supportive environment for all students living away from home.

This commitment has driven Study Tasmania to establish the Enhancing Student Experience (ESE) Grants Program, to support student associations, community groups and organisations within Tasmania to deliver initiatives to enhance the international and interstate student experience.

The program signifies the strong emphasis the Tasmanian government places on promoting student wellbeing and the positive integration of students within the community. Providing students with a positive experience in Tasmania will empower them to be ambassadors in spreading Tasmania's reputation as a leading destination to visit, study, live, work and invest.

What enhances student experience?

There are many different factors which contribute to a positive student experience in Tasmania, including:

- feeling connected with other students and the local community
- being aware of support services and knowing how to access them
- opportunities to learn and practice English

- understanding Australian workplace and community culture
- feeling safe and welcomed
- obtaining voluntary or paid part time employment
- robust mental health
- being physically fit and healthy
- equal opportunities in learning and employment
- easy access to public facilities and accommodation
- opportunities to explore Tasmania
- feeling a sense of belonging and value in Tasmania
- celebrating a student's own culture within their new Tasmanian community.

About the program

What is the Enhancing Student Experience Grants Program?

The ESE Grants Program supports activities, initiatives and partnerships that promote the wellbeing of international and interstate students and enhances their experience of living and studying in Tasmania.

As part of the *Global Education Growth Strategy*, the Program supports enhancing the experience of all interstate and international students – those studying at universities, vocational colleges, schools and other registered training organisations.

Program objectives

The ESE Grants Program aims to empower and enable student groups and other motivated organisations to enhance:

- the level of connectivity amongst students and their local community
- the mental, physical and emotional well-being of international and interstate students
- international and interstate students' awareness of and access to support services
- the employability of international and interstate students both during and after studies
- community understanding of the economic, social and cultural value interstate and international students provide to Tasmania.

To be eligible for grant funding, any proposed initiative will need to support two or more of these program objectives.

Funding

The ESE Grant program provides grant of up to \$5000 to student or community groups, associations, education providers, businesses and non-for-profit organisations to deliver activities that enhance student experience and develop connected communities for interstate and international students.

Who can apply for the ESE Grant Program?

To qualify for funding, your organisation must be either a student or community group, association, education provider, business or non-for-profit that:

- operates in Tasmania
- has an Australian Business Number (ABN) or can be supported by an auspice organisation that has an ABN and can accept funding on the applicant's behalf. The Auspice organisation also has the responsibility of ensuring the activity is completed in accordance with the conditions of funding.
- has been operating for at least one year
- has appropriate insurance cover in place for the proposed activity.

Additionally,

- Organisations which apply for funding over \$1000 must provide a co-contribution of funds that is equal or greater than the level of funding being applied for. This can be made up in cash or in-kind contributions from the applicant which could be, but are not limited to: administration costs, materials, promotional work, equipment and facility hire.

What will not be funded by the ESE Grants Program?

Activities which will not be funded include:

- activities that do not align themselves with the objectives of the program
- any activity that will take place outside of Tasmania
- staff salaries
- budget deficits
- purchase of equipment for individuals
- activities designed to raise funds for the organisation
- alcohol purchases
- illegal activities
- legal fees and insurance costs
- political activities
- activities that already have been completed before the start of a funding agreement.

Key Dates

Activity	Date
Grant Applications open	November 2019
Grant Applications close	30 November 2019
Grant Applications assessed	January 2020
Notification of decisions	February 2020
Relevant paperwork is completed	February 2020
Acquittal of grants Report submitted to Study Tasmania	4 weeks after the event/ activity has occurred
Events/activities must be completed by	December 2020

How to Apply

Order	Activity	Further Details
Step 1	Check that your organisation qualifies for funding	Read <i>Section 2. About the Program</i> for information on eligibility.
Step 2	Check the conditions of funding	Read <i>Section 7. Conditions of Funding</i> to make sure your organisation can abide by the conditions of the grant.
Step 3	View the key dates and plan your application	Make sure you won't miss the deadlines.
Step 4	Register for Smarty Grants	<p>Smarty Grants is the online portal through which you apply for funding.</p> <p>An account is easy to set up.</p> <p>Visit Department of State Growth website and follow the prompts to complete an online application.</p>
Step 5	Write Application	Study Tasmania recommends that you draft your responses to the questions in a separate document, then copy your answers into the Smarty Grant Portal. This reduces the risk you could lose your progress. Make sure you address each question in full.
Step 6	Attach Evidence	<p>Evidence supports and strengthens your application. Some examples of optional evidence include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proof you have insurance for the event • A project or business plan • Letters of support • Proof of international and interstate student membership or engagement
Step 6	Submit	<p>Submit your application online before the closing date. You will receive an email notification if your application has been received.</p> <p>Late applications will not be accepted.</p>

Selection process

Applications will be assessed using the four-stage process below. It may take 8 to 12 weeks from the closing date for applications until a formal funding agreement is signed.

Stage 1: Application Assessment by Study Tasmania

Study Tasmania staff will review applications to assess eligibility and determine if the proposed activity sufficiently meets the goals of the ESE grants program.

Stage 2: Assessment by International Education Expert Panel

Applications which are judged as eligible will then be reviewed by a judging panel comprising experienced members of the Tasmanian international education industry and representatives from government departments. The Panel will determine an order of merit.

Stage 3: Approval

The Department of State Growth will conduct final administrative steps to approve the applications chosen by the Panel, subject to the amount of funding that is available.

Stage 4: Notification of result

All applicants will receive a response on the outcome of their application. Successful applicants will receive a Letter of Offer.

Successful applicants will then have two weeks to accept the offer to enter into a legal funding agreement with the Department of State Growth.

Selection criteria

All applications will be assessed against the following four criteria.

1. **Suitability:** The extent to which the activity meets the program objectives
2. **Impact:** The short and long term benefits for international and interstate students
3. **Reach:** the number, diversity and location of students and other Tasmanians who will benefit from the activity
4. **Delivery capacity:** The capacity of the applicant to deliver the project, manage funding and report on progress

Study Tasmania and the Panel will consider each application on its individual merits. This is a competitive application process and not all eligible applications will receive grant funding.

Conditions of funding

The letter of offer will set out the agreed terms and conditions, how and when you will receive the funding and what you will be expected to achieve in return for the funding.

You will have two weeks to sign and return the letter of offer, which will enter your organisation into a legal funding agreement with the Department of State Growth.

ESE Grant recipients must abide by the following conditions.

1. If the activity does not occur within the timeframes in the funding agreement, the funding must be returned to the Department of State Growth.
2. Grant recipients must promote the activity on their social media networks and through the community, with the explicit acknowledgement that the event is supported by Study Tasmania.
3. Grant recipients must display promotional material such as Study Tasmania banners at their event or activity.
4. The usage of the Study Tasmania brand will be limited to the specific event/initiative which the grant was approved for.
5. Four weeks after the event or activity, grant recipients must provide a written evaluation report including photographs which are able to be used by Study Tasmania, and return copies of any non-disposable promotional materials at the request of Study Tasmania.
6. Grant recipients will acknowledge that the Tasmanian Government accepts no liability for the event or activity, notwithstanding the funding provided to support the activity.
7. Grant recipients will be required to maintain sufficient public liability insurance.

Contact

A member of the ESE Grants Program team can be contacted by emailing:

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