

ESSA Research Grants 2023: Description and Requirements

Call for applications for research to be conducted in 2024

Exercise & Sports Science Australia (ESSA) is the leading professional organisation committed to establishing, promoting, and defending the career paths of tertiary trained exercise and sports science practitioners.

In alignment with ESSA's vision and purpose for all Australians to use exercise and sports science to improve their health and performance; and to provide industry leadership through advocacy, research, education, and regulation to support exercise and sports science professionals and the Australian community in becoming a more active nation, ESSA will fund two projects of up to \$50,000 for research commencing in 2024.

Grant applications addressing one of the following research priorities are invited:

1. **Economic evaluation research:** The impact of funding mechanisms on AEP, AES or ASpS services and workforce participation **OR** understanding the cost-effectiveness for practice (eg in new models of aged care or other scenario) using case-studies and using business cases. *(A multidisciplinary research team approach and lead by AEP could be useful (including health economics, business)).*
2. **Sports science research:** Research about any aspect of participation in sport and the role of the sports scientist **OR** the evaluation of the impact of major sport events (that demonstrate the services and value of sports scientists). *(A multidisciplinary research team approach and lead by ASpS or AHPM, could be useful (including performance outcomes, economics, business)).*

Proposals must address applied research in the fields of exercise physiology, exercise science or sports science and must support translation from research to practical applications for the ESSA practitioner community and to the benefit of their clientele. It is intended that the project would commence in early 2024 and be completed by 31 December 2024, however, the time frame may be adjusted subject to agreement by ESSA.

Funding administration and requirements:

Grant funds are not transferable and are for the explicit use of supporting the research proposal that has been presented to and agreed by the ESSA Research Committee (ERC). Any changes to the project

once awarded must be submitted to and approved by ESSA before any change is implemented by the recipients.

Eligibility:

The ESSA Research Grants are open to all Australian-based investigators. The research must be conducted in Australia. At least one investigator must be confirmed as a financial member of ESSA prior to the application close date. An investigator may only be named as Principal Investigator on one application. There is no limit to the number of applications on which an investigator may be named as an Associate Investigator. Undergraduate and HDR students are not eligible to be Principal Investigators. The expectation is that the successful project will be administered by a university/research institute although not all members of a research team are expected to be university/research institute employees.

Budget:

ESSA will fund two projects of up to \$50,000

The budget must be presented exclusive of GST and fully justified. Applications will be judged on quality irrespective of budget so please submit the budget that matches the project.

Funds may be used for any purpose associated with achievement of the aims of the project including staff costs. This includes travel and accommodation, and fees (maintenance costs) for the project to be undertaken in the proposed facility. Successful grants will be disbursed as follows:

- 80% total funds at execution of the agreement, and
- 20% total funds awarded on receipt of the final report.

The grant may not be used to fund any expenses associated with presentation of any aspect of the project at a conference or for publication. Funds are not to be used for the purchase of capital expenditure of any kind including computer hardware, office furniture or clinical machinery. The grant may not be used to fund indirect research costs.

The budget may be used to support research in association with another project, but the research must be discreet and standalone. ESSA must receive acknowledgement for research conducted with ESSA funds.

Co-funding and/or in-kind support pledged by university/research institute or other organisation will be highly regarded.

Funds awarded will be transferred to the recipient on evidence of obtaining human research ethics approval or after contract execution where HREC approval is not required.

Selection criteria:

Criterion	Considerations	Weight %
Significance and impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project is aligned with the identified ESSA research priority • The research addresses a notable problem (e.g., highly prevalent, burdensome, under researched, gap in knowledge, etc) • There is high likelihood of, or a clearly articulated pathway to translation of findings to practice • There is high likelihood of benefit to ESSA members • Evidence of impact of any existing preliminary work 	15

Background and rationale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The rationale for the project is clearly identified and justified with the relevant literature • The aims and objectives are clearly stated and related to the project rationale • There is evidence of novelty and a theme for sustainability in the project goal, methodology and/or outcomes 	15
Research methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The research design is appropriate to the aims and objectives • The methods are appropriate and comprehensive • The sample size is appropriate, feasible and adequate • The outcome measures are valid and sufficient • The proposed data variables are relevant and there are no key gaps • The data analysis and data management is appropriate • Research integrity is addressed 	25
Feasibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The deliverables are clearly stated • Adequate facilities, infrastructure, and support from the administering university and participating partners/collaborators are available to complete the project • There is a detailed timeline demonstrating timeframe feasibility (e.g., realistic participant flow, etc) 	15
Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The funds requested are essential, adequate, and appropriate to achieve the work described • The proposal represents good value for money • Co-funding and/or in-kind support has been pledged 	10
Investigator team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The investigator team has the skills, expertise and capacity to undertake and complete the project as described • The composition of the team is appropriate, and all roles are outlined • Relevant partners/collaborators are included in the team and contributions are pledged 	20

Reporting:

Recipients will provide a progress report to ESSA at six months and a final report to ESSA describing deliverables, outputs, budget including any co-funding, project expenditure (personnel, consumables, maintenance, survey, travel) and outcomes relating to the original aims outlined in the application. Recipients will submit their Final Report and project acquittal no later than three months after the agreed end date of the project.

All grant recipients are also strongly encouraged/ required to disseminate any findings through publications, conference presentations (eg ESSA's Research to Practice Conference) (and acknowledging ESSA) and/or to influence policy review or decisions or program development, review or implementation change.

Acknowledgement of ESSA:

The support of ESSA, in whole or in part, must be acknowledged on all publications, presentations, workshop materials and media reports that result from the research being undertaken.

Application process:

- Provide all details required via the ESSA Research Grants application form.

- Save the application form Word file along with ALL other supporting documentation as one (1) MSWord file in this order: Application form + CV of Principal Investigator + CV of Associate Investigator/s
- MSWord files should be saved using the nomenclature Surname of Principal Investigator_ESSA RG 2023 e.g., *Smith_ESSA RG 2023*
- Application files should be submitted by email to research@essa.org.au.
The email subject should be the same as the file name e.g., *Smith_ESSA RG 2023*

All enquiries regarding the ESSA Research Grants should be directed to research@essa.org.au

Timeline for Submission of Applications:

Applications open: Monday, 10 July 2023

Applications close: Friday, 1 September 2023 at 5pm (AEST)

Late applications WILL NOT be accepted.

Winners announced: By 8 December 2023