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BirdLife Shoalhaven is a branch of BirdLife Australia Limited ABN 75 149 124 774

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## **BIRDLIFE SHOALHAVEN STUDENT RESEARCH GRANT** **GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS**

### **Overview**

BirdLife Shoalhaven (BLS) is a branch of BirdLife Australia with over 1,000 members and supporters, based in the Shoalhaven Local Government Area and Jervis Bay Territory on the NSW South Coast. For more information go to [www.birdlifeshoalhaven.org](http://www.birdlifeshoalhaven.org).

Our charter is to help our members and the wider community enjoy and learn more about birds and to advocate for the conservation of birdlife across the Shoalhaven.

BLS will provide a grant of up to \$4,000 (inc. GST), called the BLS Student Research Grant, to fund research by a student currently enrolled in a higher degree course (Hons or above) at a NSW or ACT university. The grant will be paid to the applicant's university and applied by them in line with the breakdown of expenditure as outlined in this application. The grant must not be used to meet salaries and wages, university administration fees and for work already completed.

The grant must be used to support research, that will improve bird conservation and/or a better understanding of birds in the Shoalhaven, though field work does not need to be carried out within the Shoalhaven. ('Shoalhaven' means the Shoalhaven LGA and the Jervis Bay Territory.) While it is not a requirement, projects focused on threatened species will be highly regarded.

The grant must be used to directly support the project and/or its dissemination, for example on-ground bird conservation work, education programs or materials, project equipment and materials, or travel to relevant conferences.

The applicant is responsible for obtaining all licences and approvals to access private properties required to complete the project.

When the application is part of a larger project, focus on that part you are seeking funding for throughout the application. You may cover the broader aims of the main project to provide a context to your application.

The grant must be used to meet project costs in 2023 and must not be applied to costs already incurred. A breakdown of actual expenditure is to be provided to BLS by 31 March 2024.

Successful applicants must give a presentation on their project at a BLS meeting or other conference, acknowledging BLS's funding support, and submit an article for the quarterly BLS Magazine with a summary of findings at the end of the project.

The applicant must be enrolled in a higher degree (Honours and above) course at a NSW or ACT university for the whole of 2023.

#### **Q6. Project description**

The application will be reviewed by a committee with a range of backgrounds, so pitch your application so that it can be understood by a broad, non-academic readership, while still conveying the significance of your research.

Provide the background of the issue or question that you hope to address, what you will do and why it is important. If the project field work is not going to be carried out in the Shoalhaven, explain how the project will benefit bird conservation and/or a better understanding of birds in the Shoalhaven.

#### **Q7. How you will spend the money?**

Provide a breakdown of the expenditure, being as specific as possible. Explain exactly what the money will be used for and the impact that it will have on your project. Avoid statements like “will assist in the study of..” or “will contribute to production of ..”

#### **8. Expected outcomes and/or outputs**

State the expected outcomes and/or outputs that you expect to arise from your project and how these will benefit bird conservation in the Shoalhaven. It may be a report, refereed publication, knowledge to feed into conservation measures or communications materials.

#### **Q9. Project success**

Detail the factors that lead you to believe your project will be a success, for example your experience /knowledge, partnerships/collaborations with other organisations/experts, support from your university, similar projects that were successful elsewhere. Also detail key uncertainties, caveats or risks to your project’s success.

#### **Q11. Importance of funding**

Provide details of how the funding will enhance your project, for example allow for another site to be surveyed, provide equipment for a volunteer, address an additional discrete aim. State the impacts to your project, if your application for funding is unsuccessful.

#### **Q12. CV**

Your CV should include an overview of any of your prior research that is relevant to this application.

#### **Q13. Letter of support**

Your university supervisor must state their willingness to support your application, indicate what resources will be available to the student and their expectations of the outcomes and/or outputs from the proposed research.