2026 NSW State Emergency Service Volunteers Association President and Vice President scholarships

Scholarship Guidelines – President's & Vice President's Scholarships

Purpose

The NSW SES Volunteers Association (NSW SESVA) started in 1998 to support and grow the members of the NSW SES. We remain committed to enhancing the professional and personal development of our members, not only for individual benefit, but for the advancement of the NSW State Emergency Service (NSW SES) and the wider community.

A major objective of the NSW SESVA is to assist members to further their knowledge and skills to improve career development, strengthen volunteer capability, and provide a high level of service to the community of New South Wales.

The NSW SESVA scholarships are intended to benefit not only the recipient but also other volunteers and the broader emergency services community.

Applications will be assessed on both the value of the proposed scholarship and the applicant's ability to share the knowledge, skills and experience gained.

Strong applications will demonstrate multiple, structured and practical ways of sharing learnings, ensuring the benefits extend beyond the individual recipient and reach NSW SES volunteers, relevant organisations and the wider community.

Examples include:

- Articles for the NSW SESVA Magazine or professional publications.
- Presentations at NSW SES units, regional forums, training activities and conferences.
- Sharing findings through government, NSW SES or industry working groups.
- Videos, webinars, educational resources or online presentations.
- Public speaking, mentoring and supporting future scholarship applicants.
- Presenting research, findings or recommendations at relevant industry events, with reasonable costs included in the scholarship budget.

Scholarships Overview

- **President's Scholarship**
    - Value: Up to **$10,000 per year**
    - 2026 Theme: *If you are successful with this scholarship, how will it improve the NSW State Emergency Service?*
- **Vice President's Scholarship**

- Value: Up to **$5,000 per year**
- 2026 Theme: *If you are successful with this scholarship, how will it improve the member experience for members of the NSW State Emergency Service?*

Applicants may apply for one or both scholarships, however only one will be awarded.

Eligibility

- Applicants must be current members of the NSW SES Volunteers Association.
- Applicants must agree to the terms and conditions of the scholarship scheme.
- Scholarships can be for tertiary education, professional development programs, courses, internal or external, programs or study tours. Scholarship can be requested to cover costs of internal SES programs and courses.
- Scholarships are awarded prior to course commencement, but payments may be made progressively as reimbursement following proof of course completion.
- Scholarships cannot be applied for retrospectively.

Application Process

1. Applications must be submitted by email to: office@nswsesva.org.au
2. Applications open 1 November 2026 and close 21 November 2026
3. Successful applicants will be announced on 1 December 2026.
4. The application process has been simplified from previous years however, strong applications must include the following information:

Personal & Membership Details

- Full name, address, and contact details (phone, email).
- Year joined the NSW SES and the NSW SESVA.
- SES ID number and SES unit.

Funding & Study Details

- Details of any previous funding, scholarships, or grants from the SESVA (excluding Welfare Fund).
- Details of any other scholarships or grants received in the past five years.
- Course/study details including provider, costs, and timeframes.
- Itinerary and proposed completion date for the study, learnings, or program.
- Whether funding represents full or partial course coverage.
- Associated costs (tuition, textbooks, course fees, travel, etc).
- Rounded or rough costs will not be accepted.

Impact & Benefits

- A personal statement addressing the relevant scholarship theme.
- How this scholarship will benefit you personally.
- How this scholarship will benefit the NSW State Emergency Service.
- How this scholarship will benefit your local or broader community.

Background & Experience

- Your experience within the intended area of study or program.
- Any consultation or prior involvement you have in this area.

Other Considerations

- Any additional information you feel is relevant to support your application.
- How will you acknowledge NSW SESVA's support and share the knowledge and benefits gained through your scholarship to the SES/emergency services community?
- Outline your proposed communication and knowledge-sharing activities, who they will reach and how they will benefit other volunteers and the community.
- Applicants should identify practical opportunities to promote NSW SESVA scholarships and encourage future applications.
- Successful recipients will be expected to acknowledge NSW SESVA's support and provide a short report or magazine article following completion.
- The strongest applications will demonstrate not only what the applicant intends to learn, but how that learning will create lasting benefits for others.

Assessment and Approval

- All applications will be reviewed by the SESVA Board of Directors.
- The Board has ultimate discretion over the value and allocation of scholarship funding.
- Applications will be judged on alignment with the theme, potential benefit to the NSW SES and members, quality of submission, and demonstrated commitment.

Conditions of Scholarship

- Membership with the SESVA is mandatory for approval.
- Proof of enrolment, bookings or program must be provided prior to any funding release.
- Receipts or invoices must be submitted for reimbursement.
- Proof of course or module completion must be provided (e.g., statement of attainment).
- A final report must be submitted to the SESVA Board on completion of the course, study, program or research. Reports remain the property of the SESVA and may be published in *The Volunteer* magazine and other publications.
- Recipients must notify the SESVA of any changes, delays, or inability to complete their program or study.
- Successful applicants will be required to enter into a formal scholarship agreement with the SESVA.

- Successful applicants agree to publicity and promotion requests from the NSW SESVA. Promotion of these opportunities provide valuable and ongoing support to other members.

Funding Coverage

- Scholarships may cover tuition fees, course fees, textbooks, and other directly associated costs.
- Study or research may be undertaken within NSW or internationally, provided a clear study plan is outlined in the application.

Scholarship Recognition and Sharing of Knowledge

'Only knowledge shared in the spirit of growth and innovation is true knowledge.'[1]

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[1] Zebra and Spice