

Scholarship Program

2025
Program
Guidelines

Women in Circular Economy Leadership

Released
April 2025



Government
of South Australia

Green Industries SA

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Acknowledgement of Country

Green Industries SA acknowledges and respects the Traditional Custodians whose ancestral lands we live and work upon, and pays respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.

We acknowledge and respect their deep spiritual connections, and the relationship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have to Country.

We extend our respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their nations in South Australia, and across Australia.

Submitting your application

All applications must:

- use the form available on the scholarship webpage
- be submitted with a signed declaration
- be submitted electronically (Microsoft Word file) to serena.yang@sa.gov.au by **5pm ACST, Friday 2 May 2025** with the subject heading '*Women in Circular Economy Leadership Scholarship – application*'.

Further information

For further information, or to discuss your application, contact Program Manager Serena Yang at serena.yang@sa.gov.au or on +61 8429 8435.

About Green Industries SA

Green Industries SA (GISA) is an enabler and driver of change, supporting the development of the circular economy through diverse collaborations which improve productivity, resilience, resource efficiency and the environment.

GISA works to transform how South Australians use and value resources, and the agency's objectives under the *Green Industries SA Act 2004* are to:

- promote waste management practices that, as far as possible, eliminate waste or its consignment to landfill
- promote innovation and business activity in the waste management, resource recovery and green industry sectors, recognising these areas present valuable opportunities to contribute to the state's economic growth.

[Learn more about GISA.](#)

Aim of the scholarship

The aim of this scholarship is to provide an opportunity for a South Australian woman who is an emerging leader working in the circular economy to pursue an investigative project of a kind that is not readily available in South Australia.

The research should be action-orientated, with a view to applying the research findings to a project which will benefit a business, industry or government organisation in South Australia to advance the state's transition to a more circular economy.

Preference will be given to projects which clearly align with GISA's strategic priorities set out in the [agency's business plan](#). In 2024–25, these priorities are to:

- eliminate waste
- transition to a circular economy
- support sustainable and economic development
- lead disaster waste management.

No prescribed education qualifications are required. Merit of the proposed project is a key factor, along with a desire to share the project's findings with relevant South Australian industries and stakeholders.

Available funding

The successful applicant will be awarded up to \$10,000.

Scholarship funds are to be used for travel, accommodation and conference attendance, and other costs directly related to the research project and arranged by the successful nominee.

Matched funding by the applicant's employer is optional.

Eligible applicants

To be eligible to apply, you must:

- be an Australian citizen or permanent resident over the age of 18
- live and work in South Australia
- have experience in and commitment to the circular economy, and not be enrolled in tertiary studies directly related to the topic of your proposed project
- have a detailed project plan outlining research methodologies and expected research outputs and outcomes
- be willing to disseminate the results of your findings.

Note: Women employed in the public and private sectors, and by research institutes or not-for-profit organisations are eligible to apply.

First Nations women are encouraged to apply.

Assessment criteria

Applications will be assessed on 2 key criteria – the proposed project, and personal qualities of the applicant.

Project

Project criteria include the:

- need for this project in SA, or at a national level
- benefits of the project to SA, or at a national level
- itinerary and places selected to undertake the project
- achievability of the project.

The upper limit of the scholarship is \$10,000. The nomination form must include a breakdown of the estimated costs of the project proposal, such travel and accommodation costs, and conference costs, and any other costs directly related to the research project.

Applicants should also confirm if matched funding will be provided by their employer (matched funding is optional).

Applicant

Applicant criteria include the applicant's:

- ability to maximise the benefits of the scholarship opportunity (current standing and experience in the field, and skills and/or expertise)
- ability and commitment to make a difference after completing the scholarship (such as ongoing involvement in the field, leadership qualities, a strategic approach and networks that have been identified)
- ability and commitment to widely share the scholarship project findings
- leadership attributes (such as overcoming adversity with determination and creative problem solving, championing the skills of relationship building and negotiation in business, mentoring others to succeed, and giving back to the community).

Access to intellectual property

Applicants must be able to demonstrate they have access to any intellectual property necessary to carry out the project. It is expected that in most cases the successful applicant would assign Green Industries SA a non-exclusive, perpetual, royalty free licence to use any intellectual property created as part of the project.

Application and assessment process

- All applications must be delivered by email and will be acknowledged as 'received' via return email within 5 business days of the submission date. If an application is sent via email and not acknowledged within that timeframe, please contact +61 8429 8435.

- Late applications will not be assessed without prior written extension granted by Green Industries SA. Green Industries SA has ultimate discretion in relation to management of late applications.
- Applications will be reviewed to confirm eligibility by Green Industries SA. Green Industries SA has ultimate discretion in eligibility assessment.
- All eligible applications will be assessed by a judging panel convened by Green Industries SA against the program assessment criteria included in these guidelines. The evaluation panel will assess applications based on the information provided in the application form and supporting documentation provided by the applicant with their application. The evaluation panel may be comprised of Green Industries SA staff and/or external specialists.
- If required, additional written information may be requested from the applicant to assist with the assessment. Failure to provide information requested by Green Industries SA in a timely manner may terminate the assessment process and the application may be deemed ineligible for the scholarship.
- The panel may elect not to select a scholarship recipient if there are no applications of sufficient merit.
- GISA has the ultimate discretion in relation to its funding decision. The decision of the panel is final, and no appeals will be accepted.

Grant agreement

Successful applicants will be required to enter into a grant agreement with GISA. This agreement will set out the terms of the grant, conditions, payment schedules, project timing, key performance indicators, reporting requirements and other matters.

A copy of the standard grant agreement can be provided on request.

Promotion and case studies

The applicant is not permitted to publicise the project without gaining prior written approval from Green Industries SA. Green Industries SA has ultimate discretion about publicity of applications and projects and must be acknowledged in all media and promotional activities relating to successful projects.

All successful applicants must be willing to cooperate and participate in the development of case study or other public-facing materials based on funded projects (using information of a non-sensitive nature) if requested by Green Industries SA. Case study and other materials are usually made publicly available and may be used by successful applicants for their own promotional and/or educational purposes.

All successful applicants must, if requested, supply a high-resolution logo, and authorise its use on the Green Industries SA website and to be listed as a program participant. The value of grants will also be listed against the successful applicant's name on the GISA website, with a short description of the funded project

Scholarship presentation

The scholarship will be presented to the successful applicant at an in-person event. The date of this event will be confirmed in mid-2025.

Mentoring

Scholarship nominees will be offered an opportunity for mentoring by experienced women executive leaders, who would provide mentoring feedback to Green Industries SA for future improvement.

Conditions of scholarship

Scholarship funds are to be used for travel, accommodation and conference attendance, and other costs directly related to the research project and arranged by the successful nominee.

The scholarship is subject to the successful nominee agreeing to be bound by the terms and conditions laid down in a grant agreement executed between Green Industries SA and the nominee.