# 2026 NTGS/PESA SA-NT NT-focus Research PRIZE APPLICATION FORM

The Petroleum Exploration Society of Australia – South Australia & Northern Territory branch – will award a scholarship to any student who when enrolled at an Australian tertiary education institution, or Australian students when enrolled abroad, produced research on an energy geoscience topic with a Northern Territory focus in 2026. The award of $1,000, known as the **NTGS/PESA SA-NT NT-focus Research Prize**, is made to promote continuing research and education in subsurface geoenergy resources of Northern Territory with a view to sustaining the sector workforce in Australia through the Energy Transition.

***This award is open to:***

Any students who are currently, or were in 2026, enrolled as an Honours, Masters or PhD candidate at a recognised Australian tertiary education institution, or Australian citizens who are or were enrolled at such an institution abroad. The research they produced in 2026 must have had a subsurface energy geoscience focus with direct relevance to the exploration, development or production of energy resources and/or will help with development of technologies that will contribute towards the Energy Transition in the Northern Territory.

## Eligibility

The **NTGS/PESA SA-NT NT-focus Research Prize** is open to current or recent students who:

- are enrolled in a PhD (full or part-time), a Masters or an Honours program at a recognised tertiary education institution in Australia (all students), or are enrolled as such at an equivalent institution abroad (Australian citizens only), or were enrolled as such when their research work was produced in 2026.
- in 2026 produced research on a subsurface energy geoscience topic, with a focus of study located in Northern Territory. The scope of eligible geoenergy resources projects includes studies in conventional and unconventional petroleum, carbon capture & storage (geosequestration) and new geoenergy resources (e.g. native hydrogen, underground hydrogen storage, deep hydrogeology, geothermal energy), which are relevant to the exploration, development or production of subsurface energy resources and/or development of technologies that may contribute towards the Energy Transition in the Northern Territory. Geoscience projects concerning critical minerals that are directly applicable to the Energy Transition will also be considered.
- are a current member of PESA and who ideally can demonstrate participation in/with PESA SA-NT events.

## Scholarship Allowance

This scholarship awards $1,000 to support ongoing student studies or associated living costs. The successful recipient may have won a branch Research Prize before but the research topic covered by their current application must substantially differ from or significantly advance the research of their winning application.

## PESA Membership

Postgraduate students are eligible for student membership of PESA (free of charge) and can sign up through the PESA website (www.pesa.com.au). Students wishing to be considered for the **NTGS/PESA SA-NT NT-focus Research Prize 2026** should be current members or should have

submitted an application for membership at the time of application. Where possible, student participation in PESA SA-NT events will be highly regarded and their level of involvement verified by PESA SA-NT.

## Selection Procedure

Applications will be assessed by the PESA SA-NT Scholarships Sub-Committee on the basis of the academic excellence of the research. The winning application will be ratified by the broader PESA SA-NT Branch Committee. The successful applicant will be notified by email.

## Scholarship Award

The scholarship will be formally announced at a PESA SA-NT Technical Luncheon or evening event by presentation of a winner's certificate. The scholarship prize will be paid to the winning recipient by bank transfer.

## Conditions of the scholarship

A requirement of the award is for the recipient to provide a short 5-minute presentation summarising their research work at a PESA SA-NT Technical Luncheon when their award will be announced and where their commemorative certificate will be presented. The date of this Technical Luncheon is chosen by the recipient from those scheduled in 2027, ideally soon after their award is made.

## How To Apply

Applicants must include the following in their application:

- Completed **Application Form A** (see two pages overleaf);
- Their CV/résumé;
- Proof of enrolment in a valid study program at a recognised Australian or overseas tertiary education institution;
- A certified copy of their Tertiary Academic Record;
- A cover letter outlining how their research project is relevant to the exploration, development, or production of subsurface geoenergy resources or contributes towards the Energy Transition within the Northern Territory (maximum 1 page);
- A project summary/abstract;
- The name of a referee who is an Active PESA member within their local branch and has been provided with **Application Form B** (see three pages overleaf).

Completed application forms and accompanying documentation should be emailed to:

Mark Bunch – mark.bunch@adelaide.edu.au – PESA SA-NT Scholarships

Sub-Committee

Closing date for applications is COB Friday 20th November 2026.

It is important that the application is completed in full as an incomplete application may adversely affect chance of selection.

# 2026 NTGS/PESA SA-NT NT-focus Research PRIZE APPLICATION FORM

## Award terms and conditions:

1. The SA-NT Branch of PESA aims to award the NTGS / PESA SA-NT NT-focus Research Prize for 2026.

2. The value of the prize will be $1,000. The Committee will award a maximum of one prize per year, and the prize cannot be shared. If the quality of any or all applications does not warrant doing so, no award will be made.

3. Candidates may have won a branch Research Prize before but the research topic covered by their current application must substantially differ from or significantly advance the research of their winning application.

4. Candidates may be of any nationality if enrolled at an Australian tertiary educational institution while undertaking their research. If the research was undertaken overseas, the candidate must be an Australian citizen. Candidates must have submitted their Honours, Masters or PhD thesis or nominated research work during 2026. In the case of a 'PhD by publication', the candidate must nominate a thesis chapter prepared as a research paper that must have been submitted for peer-review in 2026 in order to be eligible.

5. The research must have a Petroleum or Energy Resource Geoscience focus within the Northern Territory.

6. The candidate must be a member of PESA; membership is available to students for free and to recent graduates for a reduced fee. Membership approval may be pending on submission of an application.

7. The candidate must intend to pursue a career in upstream petroleum or energy resource industries, or in related geoscientific research, and this intention must be stated explicitly as part of their supporting letter.

8. Qualifying Applications will be assessed on three criteria:

   (i) The academic excellence of the research.
   (ii) Relevance of the research to furthering understanding of Petroleum or Energy Resource Geoscience within the Northern Territory.
   (iii) Comments and details provided by a referee, a paper peer-reviewer or the candidate themselves.

9. For consideration, the following must be submitted either by the candidate or on their behalf, to Mark Bunch at mark.bunch@adelaide.edu.au before the applications deadline, marking the email as **CONFIDENTIAL**

   (i) Completed **Application Form A**,
   (ii) Completed **Application Form B**, with comments from a referee/supervisor who can attest to the quality of the candidate's thesis or submitted/published research paper. **Application Form B** can be sent directly by the referee/supervisor to the email address above.
   (iii) Abstract of the thesis or nominated research paper (redacting confidential or sensitive data/results).
   (iv) Supporting letter from or on behalf of the candidate outlining why their research should be considered, how their research will further geoscientific understanding of NT Petroleum & Energy Resources, and how they plan to remain working in petroleum or other energy resource geoscience upon graduation.

10. An Awards Sub-Committee will be convened by the PESA SA-NT Branch Committee to review all applications for the award. Responsibility for the assessment of applications and selection of the award winner (if any) rests with the Committee, whose decision will be final.

11. The window for applications closes at **5:00 PM Australian C.D.T. on Friday 20th November 2026**. Applications received after this deadline will not be considered.

# 2026 NTGS/PESA SA-NT NT-focus Research PRIZE APPLICATION FORM

## APPLICATION FORM A

Please send this completed application form together with the additional documents listed in the accompanying guidelines to:

Mark Bunch – mark.bunch@adelaide.edu.au – PESA SA-NT Scholarships Sub-Committee

Ensure the email title contains the words "**RESEARCH PRIZE APPLICATION**".

---

PESA MEMBERSHIP: ○ Current Membership ID# _____

FAMILY NAME: _____ GIVEN NAME(S): _____

POSTAL ADDRESS: Street: _____

Suburb: _____ State: _____ Postcode: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

TERTIARY INSTITUTION:

SCHOOL/DEPARTMENT: _____

_____

NAME OF DEGREE: _____ MAJOR: _____

ENROLMENT DATE: COMPLETION DATE:

_____ _____

SOURCES of RESEARCH FUNDING _____

HEAD OF SCHOOL/DEPARTMENT: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

# 2026 NTGS/PESA SA-NT NT-focus Research PRIZE APPLICATION FORM

## APPLICATION FORM B

- To be completed by the student candidate's research supervisor.

**NAME/POSITION** .....

**CANDIDATE NAME** .....

**INSTITUTION** .....

Please support the above application with comments on how the student's thesis/submitted research paper ranks against others within the field during 2026, why their research should be considered for this award, how this research furthers geoscientific understanding of NT Petroleum & Energy Resource Geoscience, and any other information relevant to the assessment of the candidate's case (not to exceed the space provided below). Please send this directly to Mark Bunch at mark.bunch@adelaide.edu.au as a PDF by **5:00 PM Australian C.D.T. on Friday 20th November 2026**. Please mark the e-mail as **CONFIDENTIAL**.

# 2026 NTGS/PESA SA-NT NT-focus Research PRIZE APPLICATION FORM

The awards are determined by the PESA SA-NT Branch Scholarships Sub-Committee. The committee's decisions are final and no correspondence will be entered into.

---

## APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Please complete the below checklist to confirm your application is complete. ALL information MUST be supplied with the application.

| | |
|---|---|
| Completed application form | ☐ |
| CV/résumé | ☐ |
| Proof of enrolment<br>(e.g. copy of dated student card, enrolment form, transcript, etc) | ☐ |
| A certified copy of Tertiary academic record provided | ☐ |
| Cover Letter provided | ☐ |
| Project Summary/Abstract | ☐ |
| PESA Referee – Active Member (SA-NT branch) | ☐ |

**Closing date for applications is COB Friday 20th November 2026**