2026 Santos/PESA SA-NT SCHOLARSHIP PRIZE APPLICATION FORM

The Petroleum Exploration Society of Australia – South Australia & Northern Territory branch – will award a scholarship to a student who when enrolled at a South Australian or Northern Territory tertiary education institution, produced research on an energy geoscience topic in 2026. The award of $1,500, known as the **Santos/PESA SA-NT Scholarship Prize**, is made to promote continuing research and education in subsurface geoenergy resources in South Australia and the Northern Territory with a view to sustaining the sector workforce in Australia through the Energy Transition.

This award is open to:

Students who are currently, or were in 2026, enrolled as an Honours, Masters or PhD candidate at a recognised South Australian and Northern Territory tertiary education institution. 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 Australia.

Eligibility

The **Santos/PESA SA-NT Scholarship 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 based in South Australia or Northern Territory, or were enrolled when their research work was produced in 2026.
- in 2026 produced research on a subsurface energy geoscience topic, ideally with a focus of study located in Australia or across its continental shelf. 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 Australia. 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 $1,500 to support ongoing student studies or associated living costs. The successful recipient is ineligible to reapply for the scholarship in any subsequent year.

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 **Santos/PESA SA-NT Scholarship 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.

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Selection Procedure

Applications will be assessed by the PESA SA-NT Scholarships Sub-Committee and the winning candidate 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 South Australian or Northern Territory 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 Australia (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 incomplete applications may affect your chance of selection.

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Award terms and conditions:

1. The SA-NT Branch of PESA aims to award the Santos / PESA SA-NT Scholarship Prize for 2026.

2. The value of the prize will be $1,500. The Committee will normally award the full value for one such prize per year but has the discretion to award multiple prizes up to the total value of $1,500 in any one year. If the quality of the applications does not warrant making an award, none will be made.

3. No student may win the prize more than once.

4. To be considered for the prize, a candidate must be, or have been in 2026, enrolled as a full-time student with a South Australian or Northern Territory tertiary education institution and must be/have been undertaking a geoenergy resources-related research project, or in exceptional cases, a project concerning critical minerals. The award is aimed at students enrolled in Honours, Masters or PhD degree programs.

5. 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.

6. The prize is available to all students satisfying conditions 3, 4 and 5 (above) who are involved in research projects related to petroleum exploration and development, or associated geoenergy resources development (CO_2 storage, native H_2, underground H_2 storage, deep hydrogeology, geothermal resources). Academic technical disciplines involved should be geoscientific or related to the geosciences (e.g. chemical or petroleum engineering, physics, environmental science, applied mathematics and physical geography). There are no restrictions on the geographic location of the project area.

7. Candidates will be assessed on the basis of four criteria:

   (i) The standard of their academic record.
   (ii) The relevance of their project topic to exploration or development of petroleum or associated geoenergy resources; a project description may include short statements summarising early findings (if free from confidentiality constraints).
   (iii) Curriculum Vitae and referee's comments.
   (iv) A letter which may detail the context of the candidate's particular circumstances.

8. The Scholarships Sub-Committee of the PESA SA-NT Branch Committee will review all applications for the award. Responsibility for the assessment of applications and the selection of the winning candidate(s) (if any) rests with the Committee, whose decision will be final.

9. Applications should be made completing the attached form **Application Form A** and forwarding it, together with a copy of the candidate's CV/résumé, proof of academic enrolment, academic record, cover letter and summary/abstract to Mark Bunch at mark.bunch@adelaide.edu.au before the application deadline. **Application Form B** should be provided to the student's research project supervisor, who should send the completed form directly to Mark Bunch using the email address above. The email title should contain the word "**CONFIDENTIAL**".

10. 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.

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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 "**SCHOLARSHIP 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: _____

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APPLICATION FORM B

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

NAME/POSITION .....

CANDIDATE NAME .....

INSTITUTION .....

Please support the candidate's application with comments on their academic performance, their research topic and any other information relevant to the assessment of their application (not to exceed the space provided below). Please send a PDF copy of this supporting document directly to Mark Bunch at mark.bunch@adelaide.edu.au by 5.00 PM (Australian C.D.T) on Friday 20th November 2026. Please ensure the email title contains the word "**CONFIDENTIAL**".

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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 ☐
(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