



# Application Guidelines for School Based Research Projects

Applications close: Friday 30 July 2021

## Purpose

The Evidence Institute supports School Based Research Projects which are conducted over a two-year period by teachers and/or school leaders. These projects aim to enhance educator engagement, both in and with research, across the Independent school sector.

School Based Research Projects focus on areas of education which will ultimately impact student outcomes, and make a substantial contribution to new insights, in and beyond individual schools.

Examples of past projects can be found on the [School Based Research Projects](#) webpage.

School Based Research Projects have an impact on research capacity and capability, culture and practice within schools, and the education sector more broadly. Due to the rigorous nature of these projects, results are suitable for publication and presentation at a range of appropriate conferences. School Based Research Projects teams are encouraged to present at annual AISNSW Evidence Institute conferences and events.

A key feature of the School Based Research Projects is an association or partnership with a specialist mentor external to the school. The specialist mentor may be either a suitably qualified consultant, or an academic from an approved institution such as a university. In most cases, the specialist mentor will be identified and proposed by the school, although The Evidence Institute can assist in this process where needed.

## What support will be provided?

### Funding

A small number of high-quality School Based Research Projects are funded to the amount of \$100,000 over a two-year period.

It is intended that funding be primarily used to provide time for the school research team to undertake the work required to successfully complete the proposed project.

### Access to ongoing support

The relationship between the School Based Research Project team and an academic or specialist mentor is an important one. It is anticipated that school teams and their mentor will work closely throughout the project. Some project funding can be used to meet costs associated with the mentor.

In addition to this relationship, The Evidence Institute will support schools in ways that can best help them to successfully undertake their project.



Examples of support that The Evidence Institute provide include:

- research focused professional learning
- facilitating access to a suitably qualified person who can act as critical friend
- facilitating access to relevant international experts
- providing coaching support and feedback to the project leader
- assisting in maintaining the momentum of the project by keeping regular contacts with the project leader.

### Collaborative opportunities with colleagues and leading researchers

Collaborative opportunities are built into the project via:

- The Evidence Institute Research Symposium and other AISNSW events, at which project teams present their interim or final report findings
- termly School Based Research Network Meetings, in which all schools undertaking projects actively participate
- connecting with thought leaders and innovative practices from across the globe.

### What will participating schools commit to?

Successful applicant schools commit and contribute to the following:

- the Project Development Day, an initial orientation and professional learning day attended by representatives from each research team, including mentor
- The Evidence Institute Research Symposium, at which project progress and outcomes are shared via presentations and participation
- representation at the School Based Research Network Meetings
- provision of interim report and the final research paper, together with any relevant artefacts that may be suitable for sharing via the AISNSW website
- liaising with The Evidence Institute and seeking feedback as appropriate.

### Who can apply?

- All AISNSW member schools are eligible to apply.

### Copyright, intellectual property and additional use of project material

Copyright and all Intellectual Property Rights in project materials created or developed during the project vests in and remains the property of the AISNSW.

School Based Research Projects are funded on the basis that the data collected, research findings, and any resultant products or artefacts are for the public benefit and to make a contribution to the education sector.

It is the intention of the AISNSW that all independent schools will be able to use the research for their own internal purposes. Published papers and conference presentations by educators undertaking the research in schools are encouraged.



It is acknowledged that some of the data collected, research findings and products or artefacts resulting from the research project may help inform further study, attainment of higher qualifications and/or professional opportunities for teachers involved in the project.

The extent to which the use of the project material in these circumstances is permitted will be considered by the AISNSW on a case-by-case basis.

A description of all matters relating to copyright, intellectual property and the acceptable use of School Based Research Project materials will be included in the Project Agreement that successful applicant schools will sign with the AISNSW.

### How will applications be assessed?

Applications will be assessed by an independent panel drawn from representatives of the AISNSW Education Research Council, and using a rubric comprised of five criteria:

1. Rationale
2. Research design
3. Wider contribution
4. Organisational capacity
5. Professional response.

The assessment rubric is included at the end of this document.

### Where can I find more information?

For more information please visit the [School Based Research Projects](#) webpage of the AISNSW website or contact The Evidence Institute via [evidence@aisnsw.edu.au](mailto:evidence@aisnsw.edu.au)

If you are interested in applying to participate in a 2021 project, please complete and submit the School Based Research Project Application Form.

### Professional support

If you are interested in learning more about how to design a project and structure your application you might consider accessing the online course [Getting Ready for Robust Research](#).

### What happens next?

Applications must be submitted to the AISNSW by **5:00pm on Friday, 30 July 2021**.

An independent assessment panel will meet soon after and schools will be advised about their application outcomes during the week beginning **30 August 2021**.

Successful School Based Research Projects are required to have their team leader, one other team member and their specialist mentor attend the Project Development Day webinar on **Monday, 13 September 4pm-5pm**. The project team will be required to attend The Evidence Institute Research Symposium to be held at AISNSW on **Tuesday, 9 November 2021**.

## Assessment Rubric – School Based Research Projects 2021

	<b>Does not meet project requirements</b>	<b>Generally reflects project requirements</b>	<b>Comprehensively meets project requirements</b>
<p><b>Rationale</b> Applicants have provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• school background and context linked to research purpose</li> <li>• targeted literature review relevant to research purpose and aim/s</li> <li>• research questions/aims clearly articulated.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Background and Context:</b> Is not provided, or insufficient detail to establish relevance of research topic to school context. <b>Literature review:</b> Provides insufficient depth and information and fails to adequately address the topic.</p> <p><b>Intended research questions and aim/s:</b> Is not provided or offers little or no clarity about the direction of the research.</p>	<p><b>Background and Context:</b> Provides general detail regarding school context, however connection to research topic is unclear or not explicit. <b>Literature review:</b> Provides some clarity and reference to the research purpose and aim/s, however connections are not clearly articulated and/or minimal references are provided. <b>Intended research questions and aim/s:</b> Provides some understanding of the general direction of the research.</p>	<p><b>Background and Context:</b> Provides comprehensive detail regarding school context, and clearly articulates the connection to the research topic. <b>Literature review:</b> Provides a coherent, well organised review related to the research purpose and aim/s. Uses relevant and current research and/or identifies a gap. <b>Intended research questions and aim/s:</b> Provides clear insight into research intentions and are clearly stated.</p>
<p><b>Research design</b> Applicants have provided a concise and informed project design, covering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data collection: methods of data collection, instruments and procedure</li> <li>• Data analysis: methods, theoretical framework and considerations</li> <li>• Ethical considerations that may be pertinent to the project</li> <li>• Possible timelines, deliverables and milestones.</li> </ul>	<p>Provides no clear research design, or only a general suggestion of how the project will be undertaken. Support with methodology and design will be required.</p>	<p>Provides a general idea of collection and analysis methods, ethical considerations and timelines, however these are not clearly connected to the research question and/or may require refinement.</p>	<p>Provides a comprehensive design including clearly articulated and achievable collection methods and analysis plans. Ethical considerations and timelines are appropriate and targeted.</p>
<p><b>Wider contribution</b> Applicants have demonstrated how their project will be of significance to their own school, beyond their own school to the broader education community, and to the related field of knowledge.</p>	<p>Not included, or provides insufficient explanation as to the beneficial outcomes for the school, broader education community and/or the related field of knowledge. Connection to the planned research is not clear.</p>	<p>Provides some detail and/or offers a lack of connection between the planned research and beneficial outcomes for the school, broader education community and/or the related field of knowledge.</p>	<p>Provides a clearly articulated explanation of the significant beneficial outcomes for the school, the broader education community and the related field of knowledge.</p>
<p><b>Organisational capacity</b> Applicants have demonstrated how infrastructure and capacity within their school enables them to successfully undertake a project of this magnitude.</p>	<p>The necessary infrastructure and capacity to support a project of this nature is not evident.</p>	<p>The necessary infrastructure and capacity to support a project of this nature is not sufficiently demonstrated.</p>	<p>The necessary infrastructure and capacity to support a project of this nature is clearly demonstrated.</p>
<p><b>Professional response</b> Applicants have submitted a professional, concise, and well-presented application.</p>	<p>The submission lacks clarity, is open to interpretation and/or presents doubts about the capacity to work effectively on a project of this scale and nature.</p>	<p>A well-presented submission that offers an adequate response in most aspects of the application, or a reasonable response across all aspects of the application. The application may lack clarity at times.</p>	<p>A professional submission that is well-presented and addresses all aspects of the application with clarity and appropriate detail.</p>