ALLIANCE OF
GIRLS SCHOOLS
AUSTRALASIA

Alliance of Girls' Schools Australasia
Research Grant Guidelines 2016

The Alliance of Girls' Schools Australasia is a non-profit organisation comprising member schools from the government, Catholic and independent school sectors in Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, the Philippines and South Africa. The Alliance's goals include acting as a voice and advocate for the education of girls in single-sex schools, promoting the education of girls in girls' schools, and conducting, publishing and disseminating research in relation to single-sex education for girls. The Alliance's interest lies in all single-sex schools for girls, regardless of sector or whether they are members of the Alliance.

The Alliance offers an annual grant of up to $15,000 (AUD) to assist an academic researcher, postgraduate student or consultant with appropriate academic qualifications to undertake research specifically relevant to the education of girls at single-sex schools in Australia and/or New Zealand. Alliance members have identified two research areas as being of particular interest:

- **overall academic and life outcomes for girls educated in single-sex schools** compared with girls educated in co-educational schools, measured by indicators including national/international testing results, tertiary entrance scores, level of post-school qualifications, occupation, wages and labour force participation

- **the engagement of girls from single-sex schools in STEM** (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) compared with girls from co-educational schools, as measured by participation in subjects such as advanced mathematics and physics at school, and/or the number of girls from single-sex and co-educational schools choosing to study STEM degrees at university and enter STEM-related careers, particularly in traditionally male-dominated areas such as mathematics, engineering, information technology and physical sciences.

The key purpose of the research project should be to address differences and similarities in academic, tertiary and/or life outcomes between girls from single-sex and co-educational schools, either in overall terms or specifically in relation to STEM subjects and careers. A secondary objective that researchers may choose to include, depending on the size and scope of the proposed research project, is to identify areas in which the gender gap is closing or has closed between girls and boys, and where gender disparities still exist, either by reference to data obtained from the proposed research project or by reference to previously published studies or statistics.

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The Alliance's priority is to fund evidence-based research based on longitudinal data and is therefore inviting grant applications from researchers proposing a project based on:

(1) A relevant longitudinal study, or studies, such as the Longitudinal Survey of Australian Youth (LSAY) and/or Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), in which data relating to academic and life outcomes for girls in Australian and/or New Zealand single-sex schools can be isolated and compared with data for girls in co-educational schools. Outcomes of interest to the Alliance include, but are not limited to:

- academic achievement in mathematics, science and literacy, and/or
- life outcomes as measured by education outcomes (e.g. highest school level completed, highest qualification achieved, study status), employment status (e.g. occupation, wages, labour force status) and social indicators (e.g. marital status, number of children, home ownership, happiness).

(2) Relevant longitudinal data collected by a university or government authority in Australia or New Zealand relating to academic and tertiary admissions outcomes in which data for girls in Australian and/or New Zealand single-sex schools can be isolated and compared with data for girls in co-educational schools. For example, data available from the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) and/or Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC), or data from a leading university where it can be demonstrated that student numbers are sufficiently large to allow the completion of a meaningful research project. Outcomes of interest to the Alliance include, but are not limited to:

- senior secondary achievement (e.g. subject scores, percentages of high study scores, tertiary entrance scores, completion rates, numbers of girls studying STEM subjects), and/or
- tertiary admissions and achievement data (e.g. Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank data, tertiary preferences, tertiary offers, course placements, degree enrolment numbers, degree completions).

ALLIANCE OF GIRLS SCHOOLS AUSTRALASIA

Alliance of Girls' Schools Australasia
Research Grant – Application Guidelines

Grant	The Alliance of Girls' Schools Australasia is committed to funding research into the education of girls at single-sex girls' schools in the region.
Value	$15000 (AUD). Payment timing will be negotiated with the successful candidate.
Closing date	30 November 2015.
Eligibility	Available to an academic researcher, postgraduate student or consultant with appropriate academic qualifications undertaking research specifically relevant to the education of girls at single-sex girls' schools in Australia and/or New Zealand.
Applications	Applicants must fill in the application form and attach the required documents. Only email applications will be accepted.
Proposal	Applicants must submit an outline of the proposed research, explaining how the research complies with the Alliance Research Grant Guidelines 2016, including: • how the research is specifically relevant to the education of girls at single-sex schools in Australia and/or New Zealand, • the longitudinal data set (or sets) on which the research will be based, • the specific academic, tertiary and/or life outcomes that will be analysed in the research project, • how academic, tertiary and/or life outcome data for girls in Australian and/or New Zealand single-sex schools will be isolated from and compared with data for girls in co-educational schools, and • depending on the size and scope of the proposed research, whether data relating to the gender gap between boys and girls will be included and, if so, the source of the data.
Selection criteria	Applicants should address the following criteria: • Academic merit • Originality, feasibility and relevance of proposed research • Explanation of how the grant will be used • A timeline of proposed research milestones • Proposed publication of research outcomes.
Conditions of award	• The successful candidate will initially be required to provide an outline of their research proposal and academic background • Throughout the research period, the candidate will provide written updates of their progress • Within six months of completion of the research, a written report of the research outcomes will be provided to the Alliance .
Further information	Contact: Loren Bridge, Executive Officer (e) loren.bridge@agsa.org.au (t) +61 7 5521 0749 (m) +61 408 842 445

ALLIANCE OF GIRLS SCHOOLS AUSTRALASIA

Alliance Research Grant Application Form

Personal details	
Full name, title and current position	
Address of employer, company or university	
Telephone/mobile	
Email address	
Academic qualifications	
Post Graduate – Year, Award, Institution	
Graduate – Year, Award, Institution	
Agreement with grant conditions	
	I, (insert full name), agree with the conditions of the grant as outlined in the Research Grant Guidelines 2016. Signature: Date:

Please provide the following:

1. A copy of your academic record or curriculum vitae.
2. An outline of your proposed research, including an explanation of:
   - how it is specifically relevant to the education of girls at single-sex schools in Australia and/or New Zealand,
   - the longitudinal data set (or sets) on which the research will be based,
   - the specific academic and/or life outcomes that will be analysed in the research project, and
   - how academic and/or life outcome data for girls in Australian and/or New Zealand single-sex schools will be isolated from and compared with data for girls in co-educational schools, and
   - depending on the size and scope of the proposed research, whether data relating to the gender gap between boys and girls will be included and, if so, the source of the data.
3. An explanation of how the Alliance $15,000 Research Grant will be used.
4. A timeline of proposed research milestones.
5. Postgraduate students should also provide the name and contact numbers of two academic referees.

Applications close 30 November 2015. Email your application to:

Loren Bridge, Executive Officer**,** Alliance of Girls' Schools Australasia**,** (e) loren.bridge@agsa.org.au