# Overview

The Northern Territory Government’s Study NT promotes the Northern Territory as a study destination for international students.

As at December 2022, there were 4,164 international students enrolled in the Northern Territory.

The International Student Wellbeing Grants Program was established by the Northern Territory Government through Study NT to enhance the wellbeing of international students studying in the Territory.

Since the establishment of the program in 2018, the International Student Wellbeing Grants Program has:

* provided over $800,000 in funding to local businesses, community organisations and student groups
* supported over 120 activities and events
* engaged over 9,800 international students, with more activities scheduled throughout 2023.

Funding is available for events and activities taking place from 1 July 2023 to 1 June 2024 that align with the program’s objectives outlined below.

# Objectives

The objectives of the 2023-24 International Student Wellbeing Grant Program are to:

* deliver high quality activities that enrich and promote international student wellbeing
* increase international students’ social connections and sense of belonging to the Territory
* increase employment opportunities for international students and graduates on a post-study working visa
* increase community understanding of the benefits and value international students bring to the Territory, including economic, social and cultural contributions
* provide tools and strategies for international students to manage mental health and physical safety.

# Student wellbeing defined

Wellbeing is a complex combination of a person’s physical, mental, emotional and social health factors. Wellbeing is strongly linked to happiness and life satisfaction and could be described as how individuals feel about themselves and their life.

Wellbeing can vary from student to student and depends on many factors, including feeling connected with other students and the community, being mentally and physically healthy, having access to opportunities and feeling safe.

Student wellbeing is vital for growth in the international education and training sector; as a positive experience shared by students has ongoing impacts in attracting further students.

# How to apply

Complete your application online via [GrantsNT](https://grantsnt.nt.gov.au/) by **11:59pm ACST, 20 April 2023.**

Late applications received after the closing date will not be accepted.

If you need assistance with your application, please call Study NT on (08) 8999 7500 between 8:30am and 4pm, Monday to Friday, or email StudyNT@nt.gov.au.

# Grant categories and eligibility

## International Student Wellbeing Grants

Grants of up to $10,000 (GST exclusive) are available for the delivery of events and activities that meet the program objectives.

Grants are open to international education and training providers, student and community groups, associations, businesses and not-for-profit organisations that meet the eligibility criteria.

Who can apply?

Applicants must be a registered business, company or an incorporated association with an ABN or, if the applicant is not a registered business or incorporated association with an ABN, they must be supported by an auspicing body.

An auspicing body is a registered business or incorporated organisation with an ABN that will receive the grant funding on the applicant’s behalf. The auspicing body also has the responsibility for making sure that the activity is completed on time and acquits the grant funding. Applicants applying who are proposing to be supported by an auspicing body will need to provide evidence of an agreement between the body and the applicant.

Events and activities offered under the International Student Wellbeing Grants Program are preferably available to all international students, or at least to international students from a minimum of three international education and training providers.

## What we can fund

* exciting and innovative ideas which enrich the wellbeing and experiences of international students while they are studying in the Territory
* events and activities that meet the program objectives, including activities that increase international students’ social connections and create positive opportunities for them to connect and get involved in the local community
* events and activities such as (but not limited to) sporting activities, mental health awareness activities, volunteering and leadership programs and community and multicultural events
* travel costs associated with an event/ activity (up to 50% of total grant funding)
* fees (**up to 50% of total grant funding)** for facilitators/ consultants for the proposed activity or event (e.g. professional development workshop for international students)
* catering costs (food and non-alcoholic beverages) not exceeding 25% of the total value of the grant.

## What we can’t fund

* organisations, community groups, individuals etc. outside of the Territory, unless the event/activity directly benefits international students living in the Territory
* events and activities that do not align to the objectives of the program outlined in these program guidelines and do not have a focus on the wellbeing of international students
* quotes and invoices from family or other registered businesses aligned to the applicant will not be accepted
* purchase of portable assets, e.g. mobile phone, laptop etc.
* gifts, gift cards or cash contributions for organisers or attendees of a successful grant activity
* commercial or business activities (to make a profit)
* activities that have commenced before the grant has been approved
* wages or salaries for an applicant’s employees
* administrative or running costs that are normally the responsibility of a business, for example but not limited to rent, insurances, legal fees, auditing and finance costs
* membership fees to professional organisations
* costs for fundraising or charitable activities
* alcohol purchases
* illegal activities
* costs associated with preparing a Study NT International Student Wellbeing Grant application
* events or activities that are political in nature
* events or activities that are discriminatory.

In accordance with its Buy Local policy, the NT Government is committed to the development of business and industry in the NT and supporting Territory enterprises. Except where it is impractical for technical reasons, projects must use labour available within the NT and source services, supplies and materials from within the NT.

Applications will not be accepted where an applicant has not fully acquitted or met funding agreement obligations from any previous funding from the Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade (DITT), with the exception of:

* successful applicants from the 2022-23 International Student Wellbeing Grants Program; or
* where a variation or extension has been approved by DITT for an activity or event from a previous grant.

Please take care to ensure ineligible activities are not included in any application as this will preclude further consideration.

# Indicative dates

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Activity | Date |
| Grant round open  | 24 March 2023 |
| Grant round close | 20 April 2023, 11:59pm  |
| Consideration of projects | 21 April onwards |
| Notification of successful applications | May 2023 |
| First payment | On receipt of signed funding agreement |
| Acquittal report & financial statements due | 4 weeks after the event/activity has occurred |
| Second and final payment | On acquittal  |
| Events/activities must be completed by  | 1 June 2024 |

The above dates are indicative and may be changed at the Department’s discretion if necessary.

# Application, selection and acquittal process

1. Applications open **24 March 2023** through the **Grants NT portal only.**
2. Applications close **11:59pm ACST,** **20 April 2023.** Late applications or handwritten submissions will not be accepted.
3. An email confirmation will be sent within two working days of receipt of each application. In the event a confirmation is not received, applicants should phone 8999 7500 to check progress of the application.
4. A panel will assess all applications and make recommendations of successful applications. The department will, at its absolute discretion, ascertain and decide whether an applicant recipient is eligible under the 2023-24 International Student Wellbeing Grants Program.

Further discussion with applicants may be required to confirm details in the application and/or supporting documents.

1. Applications will be assessed against the following selection criteria:

**Outcomes**

* + does the application align to the program objectives

**Methodology**

* + what is the plan to deliver the activity
	+ who is involved

**Value for money**

* + what will the funding be used for (please include quotes where possible and complete the budget calculator template)
	+ how many international students will benefit from the activity
	+ are there any contributions from other stakeholders
	+ Buy local considerations

**Promotion**

* + what is the communication plan to promote the activity.
1. Successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified in May 2023.
2. Funding agreements and any other relevant documents will be sent to successful applicants, completed and then returned to Study NT.
3. 50% of payment will be processed on execution of the agreement; the remaining 50% grant payment will be processed on receipt and acceptance of the acquittal documentation.
4. Successful applicants must:
	1. provide promotional material to Study NT four weeks prior to the event/ activity (including Eventbrite link for registrations) to increase promotion of the activity/event
	2. provide three high-resolution images and 50 words about the activity/ event within 24 hours of completing the activity/ event, or a link to a social media post about the event
	3. acquit grant funding within 4 weeks after the activity/ event and provide an evaluation report on their funded activity/ event. Invoices will be required and need to match amounts included in the acquittal report. Only approved activities/ items outlined in the funding agreement can be acquitted. Templates will be provided (evaluation report and Excel budget calculator).

# Conditions of funding

Successful grant recipients must abide by the following conditions:

1. Grant recipients will be required to enter into a funding agreement before the grant will be paid, so it’s important to remember that when the funding agreement is signed, successful applicants will be legally obliged to complete the activity.
2. If the activity does not occur within the time frames in the funding agreement, the funding must be returned to the Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade. Changes in date or venue may be considered, however must be agreed with the department in writing prior to the original date of the event.
3. Four weeks after an event or activity, grant recipients must provide a written evaluation and acquittal report, as outlined in the funding agreement, including invoices, copies of any promotional materials and images or photos.
4. Grant recipients are solely responsible for delivering the funded activities in accordance with the funding agreement terms.
5. Grant recipients will acknowledge that the Northern Territory Government accepts no responsibility for the activity, irrespective of the funding provided to support the activity.
6. Grant recipients may be required to have and keep in place, a public liability insurance policy with a recognised insurance provider and you may be asked to provide a copy of the policy within 5 business days of a request to do so.
7. Grant recipients are required to promote the activity, and any social media posts need to include the Study NT hashtag **#StudyNT**.

# Due diligence, audit and privacy

Applicants acknowledge that the department will, in addition to anything referred in these Program Guidelines, conduct such due diligence enquiries as it sees fit at each stage of an application and during the conduct of any funding agreements, in order to ensure the integrity of the 2023-24 International Student Wellbeing Grants Program.

Applicants must be solvent at the time the application is made and must have no reason to believe that they may become insolvent during the period of their participation in the 2023-24 International Student Wellbeing Grants Program. If an applicant has an external administrator or liquidator appointed, or the department receives other evidence of insolvency, then the department may (but is not obliged to) terminate participation by the insolvent entity (acting reasonably having regard to the circumstances).

# Personal information

Personal information may be collected as part of the application process and will be used to assess your eligibility for the 2023-24 International Student Wellbeing Grants Program, including conducting due diligence, and if approved, subsequent program management and administration.

The department has a legal obligation under the *Information Act 2002 (NT)* not to disclose personal information other than for the primary purpose for which it was collected, unless otherwise agreed to, or authorised by law.

The department will handle your personal information in accordance with its [Privacy Policy](https://business.nt.gov.au/publications/policies/privacy-policy) which outlines how you can access or seek to correct your personal information, or lodge a complaint about a breach of the Northern Territory’s Privacy Principles. You can access or find out more about how the department manages your personal information by contacting the Privacy Officer at the Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade, via GPO Box 3200, Darwin, NT 0801, or by telephoning (08) 8999 2314 or emailing FOI.DITT@nt.gov.au.

In addition to the Privacy Laws, the department is subject to, and may do anything in connection with this Program that may be required for compliance with the *Independent Commissioner against Corruption Act 2017 (NT)*.

# Release and indemnity

By applying for an International Student Wellbeing Grant, applicants warrant to the department that they have read, understood and fully accept these Program Guidelines and fully release and indemnify the department against any loss or damage they may suffer of any nature whatsoever (including without limitation personal injury or death) caused or contributed to by participation in the 2022/23 International Student Wellbeing Grants Program, the conduct or delivery of any approved activities or otherwise.

# Further information

For further information contact Study NT by emailing StudyNT@nt.gov.au or calling 8999 7500.