

ESSA Medal 2023 Guide: Description and Requirements

The ESSA Medal is awarded annually by Exercise & Sports Science Australia (ESSA) to the most outstanding PhD thesis approved for graduation in the field of exercise and sports science and related fields.

The winner will receive a prize of AUD\$1500 and will be invited to present at the [2024 Research to Practice Conference](#).

Thesis advisors are invited to nominate their PhD candidates as candidates for the ESSA Medal 2023.

Eligibility

The ESSA Medal is open to PhD candidates who are enrolled in, or graduated from, an Australian university in the field of exercise and sports science and related fields during the period of eligibility.

The PhD thesis must be approved for graduation in the field of exercise and sports science and related fields between the dates of 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023.

The candidate is required to be a current ESSA member, Student member or Full member at the time of nomination submission.

Nomination requirements

Please provide all information requested in the nomination form. Save file as 'Nominee Surname_ESSA Medal 2023 nomination' e.g. *Smith_ESSA Medal 2023 nomination*.

Please provide ALL the following supporting documents:

- » A copy of the PhD thesis,
- » Proof of academic transcript,
- » All examiners' reports, and
- » Proof of the PhD being approved within the nomination period (letter/email from relevant university Graduate Research Office)

Supporting documents should be saved in a single file in PDF format in the following order: thesis, academic transcript, examiners reports, proof of approval date for award of PhD. Save file as 'Nominee Surname_ESSA Medal 2023 documents' e.g. *Smith_ESSA Medal 2023 documents*.

Assessment

The ESSA Research Committee will conduct the review of nominations with at least two (2) independent reviews conducted for each nomination. Conflicts of interest will be managed within this process. The ESSA Research Committee will bring a recommendation to the ESSA CEO.

Should the selection process be unable to identify a thesis of sufficient quality amongst nominations received, ESSA may choose at its own discretion not to award the Medal.

All applicants will be informed of the outcome of their nomination via email and the winner of the ESSA Medal 2023 will be announced by April 2024.

Nominations will be assessed against the following criteria:

Criterion	Considerations	Weight %
Alignment with the Vision and Purpose of ESSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aligns with ESSA 2023-2025 Policy & Advocacy Strategic Priorities Use of exercise and sports science to improve the health and performance of Australians. Provides industry leadership through advocacy, research, education, and regulation to support exercise and sports science professionals and the Australian community in becoming a more active nation. 	20
Comparative merits of the dissertation (informed by thesis examiner reports)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project aims and hypotheses are clearly stated and well justified. The research design is appropriate to the stated aims. The methods are appropriate and comprehensive. The measures are valid and sufficient. The participant sample and sample size is appropriate and adequate. The data analysis is appropriate. The conclusions are justified and clearly linked to the research aims and hypotheses. 	25
Significance of the research and outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The significance of the research is justified relative to the research field. The research addresses an identified gap in knowledge. The research is likely to have impact and implications for translation (eg practice, policy or programs) in the field of exercise and sports science in Australia and/or internationally 	30
Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The research has generated significant and high-quality research outputs (intellectual property, publications, conferences etc.) including first author original contributions, first author review, secondary author contributions. There is a plan for dissemination of the research outputs and engagement with relevant stakeholders, both within ESSA and externally. 	10
Recognition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The research has been recognised by peak professional organisations, awards/esteem at an international or national level 	15

Nomination forms and supporting documents must be provided within a single zip file saved as 'Nominee Surname_ESSA Medal 2023'. The email subject should be the same as the zip file name e.g. Smith_ESSA Medal 2023. Receipt of all nominations will be confirmed by ESSA. No hard copy nominations will be accepted.

Nominations must be submitted to the **ESSA Research team** via email: research@essa.org.au at the ESSA National Office by 5pm AEST **Wednesday, 31 January 2024**.

Timeline for Submission of Nominations.

Nominations open: Monday, 30 October 2023

Nominations close: Wednesday, 31 January 2024 by 5pm (AEST)

Winner announced: By early April 2024.

Late nominations WILL NOT be accepted.

All enquiries regarding the ESSA Medal 2023 should be directed to research@essa.org.au.