



## WINNERS OF 2026 SMEDG GEOSCIENCE HONOURS STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCED



2026 SMEDG Scholarship winners (L-R) – Katya Orlova, Dominic Gibson, Stephan Kashkarov, Maresa Moustakis

The SMEDG Committee is pleased to announce the winners of the **2026 SMEDG Geoscience Honours Student Scholarship**.

As part of our commitment to support geoscience students, SMEDG offers these scholarships to encourage students undertaking an Honours program in economic geology at a university in NSW or ACT.

The winners of the *2026 SMEDG Geoscience Honours Student Scholarship* are:

- **Katya Orlova (ANU):**  
*An Appetite for Apatite: Investigating Apatite Geochemistry as an Exploration Tool for Carbonatite REE Deposits.*
- **Dominic Gibson (ANU):**  
*Determining the mineral paragenesis of the Boda deposit, NSW, Australia.*
- **Stephan Kashkarov (ANU):**  
*Structural and Geochemical analysis of the Gifford creek carbonatite complex.*
- **Maresa Moustakis (UNSW):**  
*Modern hydrothermal mineralisation in the Mediterranean Sea: Key to the past?*

The SMEDG Committee congratulates all the students who applied for this scholarship, and the universities who continue to support the study of economic geology.

Presentation of the *SMEDG Geoscience Honours Student Scholarship Award* certificates will take place at the *Discoveries in the Tasmanides - Mines and Wines Symposium* in Orange, NSW on 9-11 September 2026 and the winners will present short talks on their projects at a future monthly SMEDG meeting.