Catholic school educators are being offered the chance to travel overseas to research ways that help schools meet present and future challenges.

The Brother John Taylor Fellowship will provide up to $25,000 in travel and accommodation to an applicant involved in Catholic school education - as an employee in schools or associated bodies - who can make a valuable contribution to education in the Catholic schools context.

Offered annually by Catholic Education Commission NSW, the Fellowship is designed to build a body of research for the teaching profession that addresses priorities or challenges in Catholic schools.

“The Fellowship is an opportunity for anybody involved in Catholic schooling to produce lasting research that can make a difference for generations of students and teachers,” CECNSW chairman Bishop Peter A Comensoli said.

“The successful 2015 Fellow will work with a mentor to write his or her research and have it published for the teaching profession.”

Last year’s inaugural Fellow was Mark Gronow, a mathematics specialist who used the Fellowship to address the decline in the number of students studying maths, particularly at higher levels.

Mr Gronow - Head of Mathematics at Stella Maris College in Manly - said the Fellowship was a life-changing experience and had enabled him to attend important teaching conferences in the US, UK and Australia.

“In April, I travelled to Boston to join 10,000 maths teachers at an annual conference and research symposium to hear about current difficulties in the US and how they are being addressed. I will then travel to the UK to attend two workshops, including one at Oxford University that is limited to 20 participants.

“The opportunity to attend these conferences and workshops and to meet people who are leaders in the field of my research could only have happened through this Fellowship.”

Bishop Peter said the Fellowship honours John Taylor, a Christian Brother, and his lifelong dedication to education and the ideals of equity and access.

“John made his mark on NSW education over three decades as a teacher, principal and Executive Director of CECNSW,” he said.

Applications for the 2015 Brother John Taylor Fellowship must be submitted by 30 September 2015 using the online form at www.cecnsw.catholic.edu.au