



Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development

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John Cripps horticulture scholarships

Scheme guidelines

This guideline contains information for applicants and should be read prior to completing the application form.

October 2023



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John Cripps horticultural scholarships

Scheme overview

The John Cripps horticulture scholarship (the scholarship) is an investment by the State Government to increase research undertaken in horticulture in Western Australia (WA) on issues impacting the productivity, profitability and sustainability of the industry. Research supports the success of Western Australian horticulture businesses to meet the challenges that are impacting now and into the future. The challenges currently impacting the industry include productivity, climate variability, pest and diseases management, consumer trends and economic pressures.

This scholarship is established to recognise the importance of research to the WA horticulture industry and is in memory of one of our leading apple breeders and industry legends Mr John Cripps AO.

The scholarship proposes over time to:

- develop talented candidates into researchers who can work in both industry and academic settings
- strengthen industry-focused innovation and development through greater university-government-industry collaboration
- support research projects co-designed between government, university and industry.

The scholarship will fund a student for postgraduate study of a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) or Master of Research and will be awarded by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) every second year for a student at a WA university to undertake research relevant to the Western Australian horticultural industry.

The duration of the scholarship funding is for a PhD over 3 years or 2 years for a Master of Research. The scholarship funding is set for the periods outlined. An extension of time may be granted by the university in extenuating circumstances, subject to satisfactory progress.

The full-time postgraduate scholarship will fund a candidate for \$50,000 per annum (tax exempt). The total value of the scholarship is:

- PhD - \$150,000 over 3 years and
- Master of Research - \$100,000 over 2 years.

The long-term vision is to increase the number of horticultural researchers based in WA and build a focus on horticulture in WA universities.

Opening and closing dates for applications

Applications open: Monday 13 November 2023

Applications close: midnight Sunday 28 January 2024

Who can apply for funding?

Students that meet the requirements for entry into a postgraduate program (PhD or Master of Research) at a Western Australian university.

Scholarships are usually awarded to applicants who intend to enrol as full-time internal students based at a Western Australian university, for most or all of their candidature and scholarship tenure. Approval may be given for a part-time award (domestic students only),

where an applicant is able to demonstrate compelling reasons, which would prevent full-time study.

Activities that can be funded

The scholarship is for a student to undertake postgraduate studies at a Western Australian university which will make an original and significant contribution to knowledge in the horticultural industry in WA and results in a written thesis.

Activities that cannot be funded

The scholarship cannot be used for:

- costs unrelated to the research project such as relocation, travel, etc.
- research where there isn't a clear link or benefit for the WA horticulture industry
- research undertaken in another state or university outside of WA.

Funding limits and timeframes

Under the scheme, approved applicants are eligible to receive a maximum of \$50,000 per annum (tax exempt).

The full-time postgraduate scholarship will fund a candidate for \$50,000 per annum. The total value of the scholarship is:

- PhD - \$150,000 over 3 years and
- Master of Research - \$100,000 over 2 years.

The scholarship will cover research projects conducted over 3 years between 2024 to 2027. Projects should be completed by 31 December 2028.

Funding is available to award a new scholarship every 2 years in the medium to long term.

Applicant eligibility requirements

Eligibility criteria

To be eligible for a scholarship, potential applicants must meet the following criteria:

- have a Bachelor degree with first-class honours (some universities may consider students with upper second-class honours), or a Master degree with a research component or equivalent from a recognised university
- a record of excellent academic performance
- evidence of strong written and spoken English
- an Australian citizen or have permanent residency status in Australia. Documentary evidence of your entitlement to live and work in Australia for the period of the scholarship.
- be available to take up the scholarship if offered, for commencement by 31 July 2024. Special approval may be granted on written application, for a later commencement date for those candidates with unavoidable commitments. However, any award or scholarship offered will lapse, if not taken up before the commencement date.

Applicants who are specifically ineligible

Applicants are ineligible for funding if they are proposing research at a university outside of Western Australia. An arrangement with a university external to WA may be considered where a local university is a joint partner, and there is a clear benefit for WA's horticultural

industry. Applicants will need to provide details of the arrangements between universities and how the researcher will connect with the WA local industry on their project.

Additional information required from applicant

Applicants must supply the following information:

- **Proposed research topic.**

Provide a title and summary of your proposed research. The summary should include background to the topic, aims of research, significance of the research, methodology you will use and a brief reference list.

- **Proposed university, school and supervisor**

Provide the university, name/s and contact details for the supervisor/s if known.

- **Personal statement**

Detail why you want to undertake this research, what you propose to achieve and how you expect to use the knowledge on the completion of your study.

- **Education history**

List all previous and current tertiary studies (completed and incomplete) and upload electronic copies of your official academic transcripts and degree certificates for each program. Documents in a language other than English, must include an official electronic certified translated version.

Note: All applicants for a research higher degree must satisfy the requirements for English language competence set down by the university where their project is proposed.

- **Prizes and grants**

List any international, national or other scholarships, prizes or grants you have been awarded.

- **Resume**

Upload a resume that details your educational qualifications and full employment history.

How to apply for scholarship

Applicants must submit an online application in [SmartyGrants](#) addressing the assessment criteria and supply all information requested by midnight Sunday 28 January 2024.

Applications received after this date will not be assessed.

Assessment – How will applications be assessed?

The assessment process aims to objectively identify eligible applicants to whom a scholarship could be awarded. Applications will be assessed by a panel of industry and research representatives by 16 February 2024. Applicants will be informed of the outcome of the selection/decision process by 29 February 2024.

Assessment process

The assessment process will be carried out in the following manner:

All applications are assessed by a panel of industry and research representatives. In assessing the applications, the panel will consider:

- relevance and feasibility of the proposed project
- applicants academic track record
- a personal statement.

Assessment criteria

Criterion 1: Relevance of proposed research topic – (weighting 50%)

You should demonstrate this through identifying:

- relevance of research to a WA horticultural crop or industry
- how the research responds to a significant issue impacting the productivity, profitability and/or sustainability of the horticultural crop or industry
- WA university and supervisor
- proposed approach to achieve the outcome
- horticultural industry involvement in project.

Criterion 2: Academic achievement – (weighting 30%)

You should demonstrate this through identifying:

- academic achievement as evidenced by your academic record
- research potential as evidenced by relevant research experience, research output, other research-related achievements and publications, as applicable.

Criterion 3: Personal statement – (weighting 20%)

You should demonstrate this through identifying:

- your personal aims
- why do you want to undertake this research project
- what do you hope to achieve,
- how the qualification will help you.

Conflict of interest

A conflict of interest arises where a person makes a decision or exercises a power in a way that may be, or perceived to be, influenced by either material personal interest (financial or non-financial) or material personal associations.

All persons involved in the assessment and decisions of applications will be required to make a conflict-of-interest declaration which will ensure the appropriate identification and management of any conflicts of interest and comply with the WA Public Service Code of Conduct.

An assessor will not participate in the assessment of applications where there is a perceived or actual conflict of interest. The assessment team Chair will be responsible for making judgements regarding conflicts of interest.

Decision

The final decision on who will receive funding under this scheme will be made by DPIRD's Horticulture and Irrigated Agriculture Director, based on the information contained within the assessment report as provided by the assessment panel.

Appeal process

The decision final, there will not be an appeal process.

Notification of application outcomes

All applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application. Successful and unsuccessful notifications will take place within 2 weeks after the final decision has been made.

Agreement arrangements

If you are a successful applicant, DPIRD will sign an agreement with your university. The agreement will describe how and when payment of the scholarship is to be made, milestones to be met and reporting requirements. DPIRD and the WA horticultural industry will maintain an ongoing interest in your research.

Reporting and monitoring requirements

The reporting arrangements for this scholarship include 6 monthly reports to be made on the scheme's reporting form.

Any project specific items to be reported on will be identified in the contract.

Reports are to be submitted online through [SmartyGrants](#) to DPIRD on or before the due dates.

The following activities will be carried out:

- six monthly reporting on progress
- three contacts per year (via email/phone/face to face)
- attendance at DPIRD Horticulture and Irrigated Agriculture events (1 per year).
- attendance and presentation of progress at WA Horticulture Update conference
- periodic information sessions for industry.

National industry PhD program

A PhD candidate who has commenced their first year of study is eligible to apply to join the National industry PhD program, subject to the approval of their participating university and their agreement that all other requirements of this program have been met.

Tax information

A full-time scholarship provided principally for educational purposes is tax exempt. Part-time scholarships are subject to having PAYG (income tax) withheld and normal tax treatments apply.

Funding for the scholarship will be provided by DPIRD to the relevant university.

Applicants are encouraged to seek tax advice on the potential implications of obtaining funding.

Personal information and disclosure of information

Applicants are informed that DPIRD is subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1992 (WA)*, which provides a general right of access to records held by State Government agencies and local governments.

Intellectual property

Any intellectual property rights that may exist in an application will remain the property of the applicant or the rightful owner of those intellectual property rights.

Any part of an application considered to contain any intellectual property rights should be clearly identified by the applicant. The applicant grants to the State (and will ensure that relevant third parties grant) a non-exclusive, irrevocable licence to use and reproduce the intellectual property for the purpose of administering the fund.

Payment arrangements

The payment policy for this scheme is as follows:

- Payments are made by DPIRD to the relevant university who will manage the stipend as part of their higher education program.
- Payments are made in advance, on invoice, annually.
- Payments are made electronically to nominated accounts.

Contact information

For further information on the scheme please contact grantsupport@dpiird.wa.gov.au.

Attachment A – Process overview

Round announcement	
November to December 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• DPIRD publishes application round information.• Universities informed of the opportunity.• Universities and industry partners identify potential research projects and suitable PhD or Masters candidates.

Applications open	
November to January 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• DPIRD opens application portal on Monday 13 November 2023• Universities work with industry partners and students to complete an application by midnight Sunday 28 January 2024.

DPIRD manages the application process	
January to February 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Panel assesses applications against eligibility criteria by 16 February 2024.• Panel makes recommendations to DPIRD by 23 February 2024.

Outcome notification	
February to March 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• DPIRD advises candidates, universities and industry partners of decisions by 29 February 2024.• Universities and DPIRD negotiate and enter into a collaborative agreement.• PhD candidate agrees to the terms of the agreement.

PhD candidates admitted to universities	
June to July 2024	PhD candidate commences during this period once enrolment processes and collaborative agreement are finalised.

Glossary of terms

Applicant - the entity/individual who makes the application for funding.

Application - an application (or relevant part of an application) made to the State of Western Australia for funding under the Fund.

DPIRD - Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.

Guidelines – are the guidelines for the scheme, this document.

Key contact – the applicant person to contact if there are any queries or information required in relation to the scheme.

Part-time PhD Candidate - a PhD candidate who undertakes less than 75% of an equivalent full-time student load in the period for which scholarship support is received.

Scholarship – scholarship is a financial grant or assistance given to students to facilitate their education.

SmartyGrants – is the online grant management software tool used by DPIRD.

Important Disclaimer

The Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and the State of Western Australia accept no liability whatsoever by reason of negligence or otherwise arising from the use or release of this information or any part of it.

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