

# BUILDING SKILLS AND CAPACITY FACT SHEET

## BUILDING SKILLS AND CAPACITY

To continue to compete and succeed internationally, the Australian grains industry needs a highly skilled and motivated workforce that includes growers, advisers, researchers and managers.

The GRDC invests in a range of skills and capacity building activities that are aimed at supporting current and potential future members of the Australian grains industry to improve their capacity to lead, learn, change, innovate and advance the industry.

The GRDC invests directly or through partnerships with other organisations to build capacity across the Australian grains industry.

The GRDC manages the following capacity building initiatives:

### Grains Industry Research Scholarships

The GRDC offers a number of post-graduate research scholarships each year. These scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic excellence, the topic of the proposed research and the likelihood of the applicant's ongoing involvement in the grains industry. The aim is to encourage postgraduate training in disciplines that contribute to the research, development and extension priorities of the GRDC and the Australian grains industry.

Applications close in October.

- For more information go to [www.grdc.com.au/apply](http://www.grdc.com.au/apply)

### Grains Industry Undergraduate Honours Scholarships

The GRDC offers a number of undergraduate honours scholarships each year. These scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic excellence and the quality and relevance of the research proposal to the grains industry. The aim of these scholarships is to encourage

training in disciplines that contribute to the research, development and extension priorities of the GRDC and the Australian grains industry.

Applications close in October.

- For more information go to [www.grdc.com.au/apply](http://www.grdc.com.au/apply)

### GRDC Industry Development Awards

The GRDC Industry Development Awards are specifically targeted at Australian grain growers or groups working directly with growers for study tours, travel or other forms of training approved by the GRDC. The aim is to develop new skills, build relationships and acquire new information that will contribute to building a sustainable and profitable grains industry.

Applications close in April and October.

- For more information go to [www.grdc.com.au/apply](http://www.grdc.com.au/apply)

### GRDC Travel Awards

The GRDC Travel Awards are granted to researchers or students within the Australian grains industry who wish to attend a conference or undertake travel that aligns with the GRDC's corporate objectives and demonstrates benefit to the Australian grains industry.

Applications close in April and October.

- For more information go to [www.grdc.com.au/apply](http://www.grdc.com.au/apply)

### Grains Industry Conference Support

The GRDC Conference Support program provides sponsorship assistance to organisations wishing to conduct a conference, workshop or seminar that directly benefits the Australian grains industry. The aim of this program is to develop the skills and capacity required to achieve the objectives of the Australian grains industry and the GRDC.

Applications close in April and October.

- For more information go to [www.grdc.com.au/apply](http://www.grdc.com.au/apply)

### GRDC Agricultural Training Awards

The GRDC Agricultural Training Awards are a one year scholarship and are available to students undertaking full time study at one of three recognised VET Agricultural Colleges. The scholarships are offered on the basis of academic record and interest in working in the Australian grains industry, directly through the relevant college.

If you would like more information on how to apply please contact:

- Western Australian College of Agriculture, Cunderdin – WA  
[cunderdin.ac@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:cunderdin.ac@education.wa.edu.au)
- Longerenong College – VIC  
[info@longy.com.au](mailto:info@longy.com.au)
- Tocal College – NSW  
[info@tocal.com](mailto:info@tocal.com)

The GRDC invests in the following programs, scholarships and awards:

### Australian Rural Leadership Program (ARLP)

The ARLP is managed by the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation and supports the development of rural leaders. The program's objective is to produce a network of informed, capable and ethical leaders who are able to work collaboratively to advance the interests of their industries and communities and rural Australia in general.

- For more information go to [www.rural-leaders.com.au](http://www.rural-leaders.com.au)

### Nuffield Australia Farming Scholars

The Nuffield Australia Farming Scholars program gives Australian primary producers the opportunity to travel overseas to New Zealand, Europe, Asia or the Americas to study a research topic relevant to their farming operation and of particular interest to them. The objective of the program is to increase practical farming knowledge and management skills and techniques. The scholarships also provide a better understanding of the forces shaping international trade policy, the issues behind consumer sentiment and technological advances being made overseas.

Applications close 30 June each year.

- For more information go to [www.nuffield.com.au](http://www.nuffield.com.au)

### The RIRDC Horizon Scholarship

The Horizon Scholarship is an initiative of the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC) that, in partnership with industry sponsors, supports students studying agriculture-related courses at university, by providing financial support, professional development and industry placements for the duration of their course.

The Horizon Scholarship has been developed to support the next generation of agricultural leaders, who will take up the challenge of farming for the future. It is for

young people who are passionate about agriculture, with a keen interest in the future of our industries and who are ready to expand their networks and learn new skills.

- For more information, go to [www.rirdc.gov.au/research-programs/rural-people-issues/horizon-scholarship](http://www.rirdc.gov.au/research-programs/rural-people-issues/horizon-scholarship)

### Primary Industry Centre for Science Education (PICSE)

This program is supported by the Australian Government, universities, rural RDCs and primary industry bodies to attract students into tertiary level primary industry science courses and therefore increase the number of professionals in agribusiness and research institutions. The centre delivers high school science classroom activities, teachers' professional development programs, teaching resources, student camps and industry placement programs.

- For more information go to [www.picse.net](http://www.picse.net)

### ABARES Science and Innovation Awards for Young People in Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

These awards, which are coordinated by the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) within the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF), aim to encourage science, innovation and technology in rural industries and to advance the careers of young scientists through national recognition of their research ideas. The awards are open to applicants aged between 18 and 35 who have proposals for innovative research that will benefit rural industries.

- For more information go to [www.daff.gov.au/abares](http://www.daff.gov.au/abares)

### CSIRO Plant Industry Summer Student Program

The CSIRO Plant Industry Summer Student Program is tailored for second and third year university students. Summer studentships are highly sought after and are awarded on the basis of academic record and interest in pursuing a research career relevant to plant-based industries.

Successful students work on a project alongside a research scientist at one of CSIRO Plant Industry's sites. Projects are designed to ensure that students have the opportunity to learn new approaches and to understand the importance of scientific research in the context of the delivery of practical outcomes that benefit Australia's plant-based industries including the grains sector.

- For more information go to [www.csiro.au](http://www.csiro.au)

### National Youth Science Forum

The National Youth Science Forum (NYSF) aims to encourage young Australians to be the next generation of scientists and engineers supporting a sustainable future for our nation. The program aims to encourage year 12 students to enter science or engineering-based university courses and associated careers. The forum includes intensive residential programs, follow-up seminars and visits to university campuses and industry sites around Australia.

- For more information go to [www.nysf.edu.au](http://www.nysf.edu.au)

### The Vavilov-Frankel Fellowship Fund

The Vavilov-Frankel Fellowship Fund aims to encourage the conservation and use of plant genetic resources by enabling outstanding young scientists from developing countries to carry out relevant, innovative research outside their own countries.

- For more information go to [www.biodiversityinternational.org](http://www.biodiversityinternational.org)

## MORE INFORMATION

### GRDC Program Manager Capacity Building

[www.grdc.com.au](http://www.grdc.com.au)  
[capacitybuilding@grdc.com.au](mailto:capacitybuilding@grdc.com.au)  
02 6166 4500

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