



WA Agricultural Research Collaboration

Innovation • Transformation • Growth

Postgraduate Research Scholarship Program

The WA Agricultural Research Collaboration

brings together the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Australia's national science agency CSIRO, Grower Group Alliance, Curtin University, Murdoch University and The University of Western Australia.

The Postgraduate Research Scholarship Program is an initiative of the State Government-backed WA Agricultural Research Collaboration (WAARC), which aims to strengthen research, development and extension capabilities to help future-proof the State's agriculture and food sector.

Applications are now open for Round One of the Program to inspire the next generation of leading scientists across Western Australia's agriculture and food sector.

WAARC – with the support of its three university members Curtin University, Murdoch University and The University of Western Australia will be offering scholarships for up to 12 eligible PhD students.

WAARC's three non-university members – the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, CSIRO and the Grower Group Alliance will provide program participants with access to leading industry researchers as possible co-supervisors, as well as access to field sites and world-class research facilities.

Scholarship recipients will be provided an annual stipend top up of \$24,000, to support their living expenses while completing their PhDs.

Successful applicants will need to align their research projects with one or more of the Collaboration's six research, development, extension and adoption programs.



Collaboration programs

Six programs have been identified for the Collaboration. The first three are focused on boosting agricultural productivity and profitability in a changing climate, with the remaining programs acting as integrated initiatives to support growth and long-term sustainability in WA's agricultural industry.



1. Northern Agriculture

Increasing the gross value of production through intensification of agriculture by 2030, focusing on sustainable growth of irrigated agriculture and the northern beef industry.



2. Grains Transformation

Transforming the WA grains industry to achieve an average 25 million tonne crop per annum by 2035, achieved with 50% decrease in fertiliser, crop protection and fuel input use than 2022.



3. Climate Resilience

Achieving collaborative and innovative solutions to decarbonising agriculture, ensuring value creation and sustainable productivity are integrally linked with developing a low carbon future in food production.



4. Agricultural Technologies

Driving 20% improvement in margins of the leading 10% of producers by 2035.



5. Aboriginal Science Engagement

Aboriginal employment in agriculture by 2035, including direct participation in agricultural businesses.



6. Capacity Building and Extension

Increasing the number and capacity of agricultural research scientists in WA, including linking to WA industry partners and needs and providing support to extend research outcomes to potential adopters.

The WAARC Postgraduate Research Scholarship Program

aims to provide skills and career development opportunities for postgraduate research students, and to support research that aligns with the priorities of WAARC and the WA agriculture and food sector

