APRIL POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Aim and Context

The Postgraduate Research Scholarship program of the Australasian Pork Research Institute Ltd. (APRIL) aims to encourage high-quality students to engage with APRIL stakeholders, and the Australian pork industry more broadly, by undertaking research within a postgraduate program of study.

Value

The value of the award depends on the scheme applied for:

- Part-support for a Postgraduate Research Scholarship from APRIL only extends to travel/conference funding, training support, etc. The expectation from APRIL is that a postgraduate student wishing to study as part of an APRIL Transformational or Industry Priority Project would have the full value of the stipend included in the research application for that particular funding scheme. If a student has already been awarded a scholarship, e.g., Research Training Program (RTP), then an application for a 'Top Up' may be made.
- Note to potential supervisors: an application form is still required by the APRIL Education Advisory Committee where part-support for a Postgraduate Research Scholarship from APRIL is requested.
- A PhD 'Top Up' scholarship may be awarded to highly ranked PhD students with a Research Training Program (RTP) stipend, or equivalent. The amount offered will be a maximum of $5,000 above the base 2024 RTP stipend ($32,192), with an annual review.
- Additional funding may be allocated depending on availability of funds, e.g., for conference travel. These scholarships are offered to students with an outstanding track record in academic achievement and research potential to continue/pursue full-time PhD studies within APRIL and working on APRIL-related research.
- Students undertaking a coursework MS/MSc/MPhil that contains a research component may apply for support for that component of the Award. The maximum value of the award will be up to AU $5,000.

The number of scholarships granted, and the final value of each award, is at the discretion of APRIL.

Eligibility

Who can apply*?*

- Students who wish to/are currently enrolled in a postgraduate research program on a full-time or part-time basis in an Australian or New Zealand university.
- Note: any scholarship offer made under this scheme is contingent upon the student being accepted into a postgraduate research program by the host institution.

Guidelines

Research projects

- The project should align closely with one of APRIL's research priorities; however, consideration might be given for a related activity.
- The application must show that the project has clearly defined aims achievable within the scope of a postgraduate research program.
- Suitable resources must be available within the organisation(s) to support the completion of the student.

Supervision

- All supervisors must have a clear track record of student supervision and student completion.
- Before submitting their application, students should discuss their proposal with their intended supervisor/s.

Other requirements

- Scholarship holders may be asked to present a seminar at the end of the postgraduate research program, and (or) at an appropriate time, as determined by APRIL.
- All theses, presentations and papers arising from the research conducted as part of this scholarship must be received by, and given acknowledge to, the support of APRIL.
- By applying the student agrees to all requirements of the Scholarship contained in an Agreement, including submitting a report at the end of the Scholarship.

Criteria for assessment

- Academic record and *curriculum vitae* of the applicant;
- The applicant's research potential including the research proposal;
- The applicant's personal statement outlining the reasons for applying.;
- The applicant's proposed research and stated aims align with the overall research priorities and aims of APRIL;
- Evidence of industry endorsement/relevance;
- The nominated supervisor/s capacity and availability to oversee the project;
- A communication and delivery plan;
- The project is feasible within the timeframe and requirements of a postgraduate program of study.

Important dates

Applications open: 20 November 2023.

Applications close: 26 January 2024.

How to apply

Application forms are available from the APRIL website (under EDUCATION & TRAINING; www.april.org.au). Completed applications from supervisors should reach APRIL by the closing date. The APRIL Education Advisory Committee will assess all applications.

Applications should be lodged electronically to APRIL Manager, Commercialisation and Research Impact, Dr Charles Rikard-Bell (c.rikardbell@april.org.au).

Questions on the Awards can be directed to either Dr Charles Rikard-Bell or APRIL CEO/Chief Scientist, Dr John Pluske (j.pluske@april.org.au).