# Postgraduate Student Internship Awards

## CONDITIONS

**The Australian Plant Phenomics Network** is enthusiastic about highly motivated and research focused postgraduate students joining its team as interns. To help attract the very best students, we provide postgraduate internship grants.

This is your chance to investigate your plant science questions with the support of the highly skilled APPN team and the incredible technology and infrastructure we have available.



### Background

The Australian Plant Phenomics Network (APPN) is a world leading research facility aimed at underpinning innovative plant phenomics studies to accelerate the development of new and improved crops, healthier food and more sustainable agricultural practice.

Established under the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS), the APPN involves nine highly complementary research infrastructure nodes. These nodes provide researchers with access to high quality plant growth facilities and state-of-the-art automated phenotyping capabilities in controlled environments and in the field.

To help accelerate research outputs, our phenomics technologies are supported by experts from a number of fields, including agriculture, plant physiology, biotechnology, genetics, horticulture, image and data analysis, mechatronic engineering, computer science, software engineering, mathematics and statistics.

### Conditions of Award

APPN postgraduate internship grants involve access to a node's phenotyping capabilities to undertake collaborative projects and work as an intern with the APPN team to learn about experimental design, imaging and data analysis in plant phenomics.

Selection is based on merit. Applications are assessed on the basis of academic record, research experience, suitability of the research project for APPN infrastructure, collaborative nature of the project and alignment with the APPN vision. Interviews may be conducted.

**Interstate students are strongly encouraged to apply!** Internship awards may include travel support.

| Duration: | The duration of the internship will depend on the nature of the project and phenomics infrastructure use. |
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| Time: | Project timing will depend on availability of the required phenotyping platform. |
| Award: | The level of support depends on the nature of the project and type and duration of infrastructure use. In general, the award is comprised of a<br><br>• maximum of $1,500 towards accommodation (if required),<br>• maximum of $500 towards travel / airfare (if required), and<br>• a maximum of $10,000 toward infrastructure use. |
| Project: | APPN has identified a number of priority research areas, each reflecting a global challenge and the role that advances in plant biology can play in providing a solution:<br><br>• Tolerance to abiotic stress<br>• Improving resource use efficiency in plants<br>• Statistics and biometry<br>• Application of mechatronic engineering to plant phenotyping<br>• Application of image analysis techniques to understanding plant form and function.<br><br>Students proposing other topics will also be considered.<br><br>A project plan will be developed between the student, their supervisor/s and the APPN team. |
| Eligibility: | We are looking for enthusiastic postgraduate students with a real interest in our research technology who are self-motivated and able to work under limited supervision.<br><br>All applicants must currently be enrolled at an Australian university.<br><br>Current postgraduate students in the following areas are encouraged to apply: |

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| • Agriculture | • Biology | • Bioinformatics |
| • Biotechnology | • Computer Science | • Genetics |
| • Mathematics | • Plant Physiology | • Science |
| • Software Engineering | • Statistics | |

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| **Conditions** | Successful applicants:<br><br>• Must ensure they have adequate insurance cover for the duration of their internship through the university they are enrolled with.<br>• Must have an executed visitor's agreement with the hosting APPN Node in place prior to attending the site.<br>• Should seek co-contributions to support their project.<br>• Must be willing to publish all aspects of the experiment, not just the components carried out at the APPN, on an online digital repository such as Figshare.<br>• Must submit a report within six months of completion of the plant imaging phase, describing the project, how the facility helped address their research question, preliminary research findings and anticipated and/or achieved results. |
| **Assessment:** | Applications will be assessed in the following:<br><br>a) Quality of the research proposal<br>b) Suitability of APPN infrastructure for the proposed project<br>c) Collaborative nature of the project<br>d) References, academic records and/or research experience<br><br>The alignment of the proposed research project with APPN's strategy may also be considered. |
| **Note:** | APPN reserves the right not to make an award. |
| **Deadline:** | There are two rounds of applications during the year. Submission deadlines are:<br><br>- **30 May**<br>- **30 November** |
| **Applications:** | Postgraduate students are required to contact APPN staff prior to submitting their application to discuss possible projects and costing of projects.<br><br>- Dr Richard Poire, APPN, Australian National University, Canberra<br>- A/Prof Bettina Berger, University of Adelaide (The Plant Accelerator®), Adelaide<br>- Sweety Mathew, APPN, La Trobe University, Melbourne<br><br>*Note: Seven new APPN Nodes are being established. Internship opportunities at the new Nodes will be advised once available.*<br><br>The applicant's CV and a letter of support from their PhD supervisor must be attached to the application.<br><br>Applications must be submitted to Kirsten O'Donnell. |