

MINTRAC Postgraduate Research Scholarship – Honours, Masters and Doctorate qualifications



Eligibility and conditions

What is the purpose of this scholarship?

MINTRAC is offering scholarships to students undertaking Honours, Masters or Doctorate qualifications with research in the meat industry.

Who is eligible for scholarships?

Scholarships may be granted to undertake undergraduate (in the case of Honours students) or postgraduate research degrees (for Masters and Doctorate students) in disciplines relevant to the meat industry.

These scholarships include research in the meat industry conducted at Australian universities towards the following qualifications:

- full-time study towards a Doctorate for a maximum of three (3) years
- part-time study towards a Doctorate for a maximum of five (5) years
- full-time study towards a Masters qualification for a maximum of two (2) years
- part-time study towards a Masters qualification for a maximum of four (4) years
- full-time study towards an Honours qualification for a maximum of one (1) year
- part-time study towards an Honours qualification for a maximum of two (2) years

The closing date for applications is 14 December 2009.

What financial support is available through the scholarship?

A stipend of \$25,000/annum will be paid to full-time students, or \$12,500/annum for part-time students, proceeding to Masters or Doctorate for the duration of their studies, within the maximum duration (set in this document) for each qualification. The allowance will be paid in twice yearly instalments in March and September, subject to MINTRAC receiving a satisfactory progress report from the student's supervisor together with a progress report from the student.

A stipend of \$19,000/annum will be paid to full-time or \$9,500/annum for part-time students proceeding towards an Honours qualification. The allowance will be paid in twice yearly instalments in March and September, subject to receiving a progress report from the student and supervisor.

A thesis allowance of \$800 will be paid to the student on receipt of their thesis and précis and on the condition that progress reports and supervisor reports have been received in a timely manner.

How do I apply?

Download the application form from the MINTRAC website www.mintrac.com.au Your application form will need to be submitted with the following documents:

- Academic transcript(s)
- Overview of the R&D project
- Supervisor's letter confirming acceptance of proposed study
- Meat industry involvement conformation letter (unless forwarded separately).
- Referees reports (unless forwarded separately).

What then?

Scholarship applications will be reviewed by the MINTRAC Project Officer. Applicants will be allowed two weeks to provide further information if required. The applications will then be evaluated by a selection committee. Scholarships will be awarded partly based on the relevance of the research to the industry and other research already in progress, and will be subject to availability of funding.

Successful students will be notified of their scholarship in writing.

Scholarship conditions

- The research undertaken must be of benefit to the meat industry. All meat industry related research topics will be considered.
- Eligibility is restricted to Australian nationals or applicants holding permanent residency status in Australia conducting research in Australia.
- Full time students will be expected to devote the whole of their time to their studies except for such reasonable vacations as are customary for students of similar status in the institution at which students are studying.
- Scholarship payments will be made in line with the stipend rates as detailed above.
- The stipend will be paid in twice yearly payments scheduled for March and September, as agreed in the Schedule of Payment and Reporting. Payments are subject to MINTRAC receiving a satisfactory research report from the student's supervisor and a report from the student within 30 days of the due date. If no communication is made by the student within the time frame the scholarship will be cancelled.
- Students should seek advice from the Australian Taxation Office on exemption from income tax where the student is engaged in full-time education.
- The student should submit a summary report on the progress of their work to MINTRAC at six monthly intervals during the Award, or as agreed in the Schedule of Payments and Reporting. The report should include an overview of the technical and academic aspects of the studies, their relevance to the meat industry, any interim conclusions or findings and any variations from the projected timetable for completion of the project.
- The student must agree to presenting ongoing and developing research to representatives of the meat industry once every calendar year at an agreed place and date, if requested by MINTRAC. MINTRAC shall provide transport (by air if necessary), accommodation and an allowance for meals for the event and shall give at least one month's notice of the event.

- The student's supervisor must agree to submit a report on the progress of a student's work at six monthly intervals during the Award, as agreed in the Schedule of Payments and Reporting. The report must include details of the student's studies, progress related to the timetable for completion of the project, and any issues related to the student's participation that MINTRAC would reasonably need to know in continuing the grant Award.
- Students requesting an extension to their scholarship will be required to submit a written request outlining the reasons for requesting an extension. The student will also have to meet with the scholarship committee to discuss their request.
- The continuation of funding will be subject to MINTRAC being satisfied that the student is making progress with studies in line with the student's and/or supervisor's report indicating commitment and progress towards completion within the scheduled timeframe.
- A bound copy of the student's thesis must be supplied to MINTRAC within three months of completion of the examination. A thesis allowance of \$800 will be paid to the student on receipt of their thesis and précis and on the condition that progress reports and supervisor reports have been received in a timely manner.
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- On conclusion of the research, recipients will supply a short overview of their research in a format specified by MINTRAC, suitable for distribution to the red meat processing industry.
- Students shall make appropriate acknowledgement to MINTRAC, Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) and Australian Meat Processor Corporation (AMPC) when submitting for publication any manuscript embodying results of research undertaken during the tenure of their studies.
- If a student wishes to cease research before the tenure of the studentship expires, the student must inform MINTRAC immediately. If the student is receiving an allowance from MINTRAC it will cease on the date on which the research is discontinued by the student. The student may be required to refund to MINTRAC any money paid to the student in advance in respect of the unexpired portion of a studentship.
- The student will acknowledge that they own project results and project intellectual property and grant MINTRAC:
 - a non-exclusive perpetual, royalty-free licence to use the project results and project intellectual property, and
 - the right to sub-licence the project results and project intellectual property.
- The student will notify MINTRAC:
 - if they have already entered into an agreement in regard to project results and project intellectual property
- The student and supervisor will vaccinate against Q Fever before they enter any meat processing plant.