



John Cripps horticulture scholarship

Frequently asked questions (FAQs)

The John Cripps horticulture scholarship scheme guidelines contains information for applicants. The guidelines, along with these FAQs, should be read prior to completing an application.

What is the scholarship for?

The John Cripps horticulture scholarship (the scholarship) will fund a student to complete postgraduate study of a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) or Master of Research on a project relevant to the Western Australian (WA) horticultural industry at a WA university.

The scholarship is an investment by the State Government to increase research undertaken in horticulture in Western Australia on issues impacting the productivity, profitability and sustainability of the industry. Research supports the success of WA horticulture businesses to meet the challenges that are impacting now and into the future. The challenges currently impacting the industry include productivity, climate variability, pest and disease management, consumer trends and economic pressures.

What projects will be considered?

We are looking for projects that increase our knowledge and respond to a specific commodity or industry issue relevant to Western Australia.

To be eligible for the program, a candidate must undertake a research project as part of a PhD or Master of Research that has a potential horticultural industry application. While the research can be in any discipline, the connection to horticulture will need to be clearly demonstrated.

As part of the application process, students will be required to provide details about their research proposal, the university where the study will be undertaken and supervisors.

The scholarships are for new projects, post graduate students who have commenced a PhD or Masters are unable to apply.

Can I get feedback about the suitability of my proposed research project?

A briefing will be conducted for all WA universities which will include key contacts at DPIRD should guidance on defining research projects be required.

Who can apply?

We are looking for high achieving students interested in undertaking post graduate study.

Potential applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- have a Bachelor degree with first-class honours (some universities may consider students with upper second-class honours), or a Master's degree with a research component or equivalent from a recognised Australian or international university
- a record of excellent academic performance
- evidence of strong written and spoken English
- be an Australian citizen or have permanent residency status in Australia. Documentary evidence of your entitlement to live and work in Australia for the period of the scholarship.
- be available to take up the scholarship if offered, for commencement by 1 July 2024. Special approval may be granted on written application, for a later commencement date for those candidates with unavoidable commitments. However, any award or scholarship offered will lapse, if not taken up before the commencement date.
- be supported to participate by a Western Australian university.

What is the value of the scholarship?

The full-time postgraduate scholarship will fund a stipend for \$50,000 per annum (tax exempt) for set periods as outlined below.

The total value and duration of the scholarship is:

- PhD - \$150,000 over 3 years and
- Master of Research - \$100,000 over 2 years.

An extension of time may be granted by the university in extenuating circumstances, subject to satisfactory progress.

How do I apply for the scholarship?

To apply for this scholarship, applicants need to complete and submit an application via the DPIRD [SmartyGrants platform](https://dpiird.smartygrants.com.au/) before the closing date using the following link <https://dpiird.smartygrants.com.au/>.

When do applications close?

Applications must be submitted on the [SmartyGrants platform](https://dpiird.smartygrants.com.au/) before **Midnight Sunday 28 January 2024**.

Applications will not be accepted after this date and time.

How will the scholarship be paid?

The scholarship will be paid as a stipend directly by the university to the student. The student and university will determine the regularity of the payment (i.e. weekly, fortnightly etc).

Can the study be undertaken at any university?

Study must be undertaken at a Western Australian university. The scholarship is focused on building research undertaken within the state.

How will applications be assessed?

All applications are assessed by a panel of industry and research representatives. In assessing the applications, the panel will consider:

- relevance and feasibility of the proposed project
- applicant's academic track record and
- a personal statement.

What documents are required to support my scholarship application?

You will be required to attach documents to your scholarship application. This is your opportunity to demonstrate how you meet the eligibility criteria, so make sure everything you provide is clear, concise, and relevant. Failing to include the required documentation will result in your scholarship application not being assessed.

Documents required include:

- a personal statement explaining why you want to undertake this research
- education history and academic achievement - transcripts and degree certificates
- resume
- certified electronic translated versions of any documents that are in languages other than English.

What are the key dates for submitting an application and receiving feedback?

Activities	Dates
Round announcement	November 2023
Applications open	9 am Monday 13 November 2023
Applications close	Midnight Thursday 25 January 2024
Applications assessed by	16 February 2024
Applicants informed of outcome	29 February 2024
Public announcement of scholarship	March 2024

Where do I get assistance with my application?

Some applicants might be applying for a grant for the first time and/or have difficulty with the forms or [SmartyGrants system](#). If applicants need support to complete their application, they are encouraged to email vicki.mcallister@dpird.wa.gov.au.

Who is John Cripps?

This scholarship is established to recognise the importance of research to the WA horticulture industry and is in memory of one of our leading apple breeder and industry legends John Cripps.

In 1973, John was working for the Department of Agriculture WA and given permission to begin the first apple breeding programme in Western Australia. His aim was to combine Golden Delicious, and the firm, storable Lady Williams (a local variety). This required both patience and determination from John and his team of mainly women technicians: Crosses are made by hand pollinating, waiting until an apple develops, and then planting its pips to grow new seedlings. And because of an apple's large genome, the chance of propagating fruit with the perfect combination was slim, so a total of 108,000 crossed seedlings were planted. By 1983, the trees were fruiting, and all had to be tasted, though many were inedible. However, the following spring John found one of the crosses had kept well over winter, retaining good appearance, taste, crispness and juiciness. This apple became the Cripps Pink variety.

In 1984, John Cripps selected what was to be named the Pink Lady® apple from an extensive breeding programme in Western Australia.

Launched in 1991, Pink Lady® was the world's first apple 'brand' and is grown across the world. It was John Cripps himself who came up with the name Pink Lady®. It is the pink gin cocktail drunk by the naval officer hero of his favourite novel, Nicholas Monsarrat's *The Cruel Sea*, a story set during the Battle of the Atlantic in the Second World War when the navy ensured that the British did not starve.

Pink Lady® eating quality is assured through measures of firmness, sugar content (brix) and skin redness and only apples passing these tests are sold as the Pink Lady® (with the pink heart label). Apples not up to standard are sold as Cripps Pink, the variety name.

The apples contain the highest concentration of flavonoids grown. Flavonoids are natural chemical compounds found in plants, including apples, which are associated with health benefits. Testing a range of apples grown in Australia, researchers found the highest concentrations in Cripps Pink, mainly the skin.

Important Disclaimer

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