

MEDIA RELEASE

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Hart internship offers opportunity to grow a career in grains research

Applications are now open for the 2025 Hart Field-Site Group regional internship in applied grains research.

Open to agricultural science graduates, the 12-month internship offers an opportunity for an early-career researcher to develop a strong base for a future in agriculture.

Hart 2024 intern Miffy Purslow is now five months into her internship, and said it has given her the chance to build on, and continue, her learning journey in a hands-on, supportive environment.

"The beauty of working for Hart is that the role covers a wide variety of trials and the opportunity to work with, and network with, so many different people," she said (pictured below on the right with Hart's Research and Extension Manager Rebekah Allen).



"I love that it is a not-for-profit organisation with a smaller community orientation, rather than a big company.

"Being able to interact directly with local growers is also something unique to the Hart internship program, and it's been great to speak with them and show them the research we're doing and how that can translate onto their own farms.

"I really feel that the growers value the work we are doing, and there's a real satisfaction in knowing we're making a difference to agriculture."

The Hart research internship is based in Clare, and the successful applicant will work alongside the Hart research and extension manager, as well as other researchers, industry, consultants and growers to deliver research projects in regional South Australia.



The intern will gain hands-on experience in trial design and management, sampling, statistical analysis of data and written and oral communication with growers and advisers.

Hart's research program in the Mid North covers a wide range of areas, including drought resilience, weed management and control, soil fertility and nutrition, crop entomology, and agronomy and seeding systems.

Research and extension manager Rebekah Allen said a unique feature of the Hart internship was the opportunity to individualise and shape the experience based the intern's specific interests.

"The intern is able to help tailor projects or research opportunities in the field and laboratory to meet their interests or help fill in any knowledge gaps," she said.

In 2024, Miffy has been able to shape her internship to include a five-part educational video series aimed at high school and university students studying agriculture, and anyone new to agricultural research.

"It's really about showing what happens behind the scenes in the day-to-day life of an agricultural researcher," she said.

"I had found that in agriculture there was a lot of presumption of knowledge, but if you wanted to learn what a terminology meant or what a practice involved, it wasn't easy to find a clear explanation in one place.

"There is a gap in the communication and I couldn't find anyone in agricultural research who had shown in an easy-to-understand way, what they do in their role."

The regional internship program is supported by Hart, South Australian Grain Industry Trust (SAGIT), the Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub (SA Drought Hub), and SARDI.

SAGIT chair - plant breeder and Pinery farmer - Professor Andy Barr said the Trust proudly supported the Hart regional internship as a vital link into careers in agriculture.

"We think early-career development of professionals in agriculture – whether they wish to pursue a career in agronomy or in research, or any other aspect of agriculture – is a crucial part of the future of agriculture," he said.

"We believe Hart sets a high standard of supervision and support for its interns and almost all of them, I think with the exception of only one since the program began in 2016, have remained actively involved in agriculture."

Prof Barr said Hart was "highly-respected" as a leader in the field of applied grains research, providing an excellent opportunity for a career-starter to gain a solid grounding in agriculture.

"The thing that the SAGIT trustees really like about the Hart model is that a lot of researchers come through Hart and its field day, which provides exposure to really the best researchers that work in southern Australia," he said.

"The interns get to work hands-on in developing trial programs and then implementing them.

"And they get to see a lot of farmers, so they get feedback on whether their research is relevant and how it has been conducted.



“It’s a really good balance and it makes sure the intern retains a perspective of who is funding their future, but also who is consuming the results of their research.”

Applications for the 2025 Hart regional internship close on August 16 at 5pm.

The 2025 internship starts on February 24, 2025 (negotiable).

See full details about the position and an application checklist on the Hart website www.hartfieldsite.org.au (About us/Careers section).

For more information about the role, call Rebekah Allen on 0428 782 470 or email rebekah@hartfieldsite.org.au

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