



Summer Scholarships

2011-2012 Season



Background

The Cotton Catchment Communities Cooperative Research Centre (Cotton CRC) commenced operations in 1st October 2005 when it successfully secured funding with the Commonwealth CRC Program.

The summer scholarship education program is an important initiative to provide students an opportunity to work on a real project in a working environment as part of their professional development with a CRC participant or affiliate partner in the public or private sector.

The Cotton CRC's mission is:

To provide high quality collaborative research, education and adoption activities which benefit the Australian cotton industry, regional communities and the nation.

Outcomes Sought:

- Internationally competitive cotton farming systems
- Best practice cotton enterprises delivering sustainable ecosystems and reduced impacts on catchments
- Mutually beneficial interactions between industry and regional communities.
- High quality, consumer preferred cotton
- Increased adoption of new knowledge and enhanced decision-making capability of people working in or with the cotton industry, its catchments and communities

Summer Scholarship Program Eligibility

This is an initiative of the Cotton Catchment Communities CRC which aims to provide direct research linkages between industry, researchers and university students. The scholarships enable university students to conduct short research, extension or industry projects under the direct supervision of a researcher or extension officer from either the public or private sector.

The student should benefit from the experience, while the applicant should benefit from the proposal and its outcome. Scholarships are not to be considered as supplementary funding for casual assistance within existing projects.

Any Cotton CRC partner (affiliate or participant) researcher or extension officer may apply for Cotton Catchment Communities CRC summer scholarship funds. Students can do their project at any location but must be under the direct supervision of the applicant. The scholarship is open to all university students of a high standard who are completing their senior years of an undergraduate degree. The scholarship can also be used to support an Honours project in their final year.

Proposals will be assessed on the basis of their compliance with Cotton CRC objectives, the capacity for outcomes to be achieved within the specified time frame, and that the resulting benefits

are clearly identified as a Cotton CRC outcome. Applicants are encouraged to discuss proposals with the relevant Program Leader before submission.

Appraisal

Proposals pass through a four stage process:

1. Program Leaders provide comments on all applications;
2. The Cotton CRC Chief Scientist decides on a short list of suitable projects;
3. The Cotton CRC Company Management Team considers the Chief Scientist's recommendation and provides final selection of projects (by early November).
4. The applicant advertises for suitable University students. (Alternatively applicants may nominate a particular student when applying for funding.)

Employment

Students must be employed by one of the Cotton CRC participants or affiliate partners, according to the terms and conditions defined by the participant organisation, and must follow State or Federal award conditions. Depending on the employer the scholarship maybe tax free to the student.

Special Conditions

Some organisations have special conditions, such as the need to provide transport for the student to/from their home at the beginning and end of the scholarship. These conditions must be detailed and fully costed into the applications. The applicant is responsible for safety and OH&S compliance.

Project Length

Scholarships may be offered up to a maximum time period of eight (8) weeks. Universities must be advised and written confirmation of the student's involvement in the program must be submitted to the Cotton CRC Project Management Officer before the project commences.

Funding

The maximum funding for a Summer Scholarship Project is \$5,000. The maximum wage or stipend is \$4,000. The maximum amount of funding for operating is \$1,000. Funds must not be spent on capital items, computer hardware or software.

Written Reports

Written reports are required from the student and supervisor (can be combined) on completing of the project. The reports are to be submitted to the Project Management Officer.

Students may be required to make formal presentations of their project.

Applications

Written application must be received by **Friday, 11th November 2011**. All applications should be emailed to:

Project Management Officer
Lynda.george@cottoncrc.org.au

Please complete the application form attached. Each application for scholarship should be no more than 2 pages and must include:

- Project Title:* Short and self explanatory, but sufficiently descriptive to indicate the subject area and nature of the investigation.
- Commencement Date:* Proposed commencement date and duration of scholarship.
- University Student:* Name of proposed University student, if known.
- Organisation:* Name of organisation sponsoring the scholarship.
- Administrative Contact:* Name, position, telephone and facsimile number of the officer who will be responsible for the administrative aspects of the projects.
- Project Supervisor:* The officer who will be directly responsible for supervising the University student. Note that for projects based at the ACRI, Narrabri, an on-site supervisor must be nominated.
- Aims:* A brief, concise outline of the project aims and outcome.
- Research Proposal Summary:* Details of the project proposal indicating the anticipated benefit to industry and the student.
- Budget:* Accurate budget estimates broken into the following heads of expenditure:
1. Salary – maximum salary or stipend is \$4,000. (\$500 a week)
 2. Travel costs - including any special transfer entitlements.
 3. Operating - day-to-day running expenses. Maximum operating is \$1,000.
- No capital equipment will be funded under the proposal.

Program Leader

Summer Scholarship projects will be considered in the context of the Cotton Catchment Communities CRC's five established programs and will be monitored by the respective Program Leaders. All new applicants are encouraged to discuss applications with the relevant Program Leaders before submission. Projects can also be discussed with the Chief Scientist, Professor Peter Gregg on (02) 67992451, email Peter.Gregg@cottoncrc.org.au

Farm Program	<p><i>The Farm</i></p> <p>Dr Lewis Wilson (CSIRO PI)</p> <p>Graham Harris (Qld DEEDI)</p>	<p>(02) 6799 1550 Lewis.Wilson@csiro.au</p> <p>(07) 4688 1559 Graham.Harris@deedi.qld.gov.au</p>
Catchment Program	<p><i>The Catchment</i></p> <p>Jane Macfarlane (Cotton CRC)</p>	<p>(02) 6799 2402 Jane.Macfarlane@cottoncrc.org.au</p>
Community Program	<p><i>The Communities</i></p> <p>Dr Paula Jones (Cotton CRC)</p>	<p>(02) 6799 2440 Paula.Jones@cottoncrc.org.au</p>
Product Program	<p><i>The Product</i></p> <p>Dallas Gibb (Techmac)</p>	<p>Dallas@techmac.com.au</p>
Adoption Program	<p><i>The Adoption</i></p> <p>Yvette Cunningham (Cotton CRC)</p>	<p>(02) 6799 2471 Yvette.Cunningham@cottoncrc.org.au</p>