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Internship offers regional research experience to graduates

Applied grains research; what does it mean and how does it contribute to agriculture?

A regionally based, industry funded project is showing agricultural science graduates just how rewarding the job title can be.

The second of two twelve month paid regional internship is currently being offered by the Hart Field-Site Group and the SA Research and Development Institute in conjunction with the SA Grains Industry Trust.

The program encourages students to pursue a career in the field by giving them an overview of the fundamentals of applied research and development relevant to the industry.

Hart chairperson Damien Sommerville says there are many final year students currently thinking about employment and they are unaware of the possibilities that exist in grains research.

“The regional internship allows students to experience what these careers can entail.

It is about interacting with growers to understand on-farm issues and then collaborating with researchers to trial and develop solutions” Mr Sommerville said.

“It is an exciting career and can help expand your network, develop skills and gain further experience in the research industry, as well as giving back to regional grower communities.”

Rochelle Wheaton was the recipient of the first twelve month internship based in Clare and began working with the Hart team at the beginning of March this year - she has always been interested in research and communication aspects of agriculture.

“The reason I applied for the job was to figure out if a career in research was something I wanted to pursue,” Ms Wheaton said.

During my time at Hart I have been exposed to a range of research projects that have included cereal agronomy, pulse diseases, soil science and weed management.”

“Even though my time at Hart doesn't finish till the end of February I have already had a few conversations regarding potential job offers which is pretty exciting,” she said.

Those interested in applying for the internship will have their applications assessed by a selection committee including representatives from the Hart Group, SARDI, and SAGIT. Their academic performance will be reviewed, with consideration given to those with a noted interest and potential in pursuing a career in grain research, development and extension.

Interns will be expected to carry out a number of responsibilities including trial planning and design, sowing trials with a range of crops, sampling during the growing season, analysing trial data, and working on collaborative projects with farming-systems groups, growers, researchers and advisers.

Check out www.hartfieldsite.org.au for application details or contact Dr Sarah Noack 0420 218 420, trials@hartfieldsite.org.au

