

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday, 5 August, 2026

Gate open for 2027 Hart grains research internship

When Molly Edmondson graduated with a Bachelor of Agricultural Science, she knew she wanted a career in grains research but was not sure where it would take her.

Six months into Hart Field-Site Group's 2026 Hart Regional Internship in Applied Grains Research in her hometown of Clare, she says the experience has exceeded her expectation.

Now, as applications open for the 2027 internship, Molly is encouraging other graduates with a passion for agriculture to follow the same path.

"I knew that I would get great opportunities through this internship, but I don't think I realised how highly-regarded it is and how keen industry people are to help me along the way," Molly said.

Now in its 12th year, the Hart Regional Internship in Applied Grains Research is a one-year, fully-paid position based in Clare and gives a recent graduate the opportunity to gain valuable skills across a full season of broadacre cropping research and extension, build valuable networks and make a real contribution to Australian agriculture.

Molly (pictured below right with Hart's Research Lead, Kaidy Toumaras) said the Hart internship appealed because it offered experience across a wide range of grains research while working alongside leading researchers and industry partners.

"In that final year of uni, I knew I wanted to go down the research or grower group path, but I didn't know what area of research I was interested in the most," she said.



"This internship was really attractive because we work across such a broad area of research and get to experience a lot of things.

"I also have a lot of exposure to industry, meet so many great collaborators and work with so many different people."

As part of the year-long internship, Molly is leading pathology research projects investigating ascochyta blight in lentils and net form net blotch in barley, supported by researchers from Hart and the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI).

"I wasn't just thrown into the deep end, I've been very supported every step of the way, but also being pushed out of my comfort zone, which is really good," she said.

"Hart has such a great team, and it makes work really enjoyable.

"I love the fieldwork and getting out into the paddock and having the opportunity to ask so many questions and whether it be the Hart team or SARDI they're happy to give me answers or say, look, I'm not too sure either, but we'll work it out together."

Hart research lead Kaidy Morgan completed the same internship in 2023 and now leads the organisation's research program. She credits the early-career opportunity with launching her career in applied grains research.

"The internship is a fantastic career starter for people who have an interest in agricultural research because the variety in the job means when you finish, you have a really broad skillset," Kaidy says.

"It also provides a great opportunity to fine-tune the areas that you are or aren't interested in within a very short amount of time so that your career development can really take the direction that interests you most."

Kaidy said Hart's extensive network of researchers, agronomists, growers and industry partners provides invaluable early-career connections and broad learning opportunities.

"Working in a small team means that interns are across all aspects of agricultural research from initial project development, collaboration with other researchers, project management, data collection and analysis and most importantly extending research back to our grower network," she said.

"It is a really rewarding experience and having such extensive involvement in all aspects helps to provide interns with the full picture of agricultural research."

The Hart Regional Internship in Applied Grains Research is proudly supported by Hart, the South Australian Grains Industry Trust (SAGIT), the SA Drought Hub, and SARDI.

Applications for the 2027 Hart Regional Internship in Applied Grains Research are now open to graduates who have completed a Bachelor of Agricultural Science, or equivalent qualification, within the past five years.

The one-year internship starts on February 22, 2027, with applications closing on August 21, 2026.

Full internship information and application details are available through www.hartfieldsite.org.au

Applicants are encouraged to read the information thoroughly before applying.

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