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Hart regional internship giving graduates a kick start into the SA grains industry

A successful regional internship initiative is giving agricultural science graduates a head start in the South Australian grains industry by offering a paid 12-month, applied grains research and development work placement.

Applications are now open for the 2020 Hart Regional Internship, based in Clare in South Australia's Mid North, working with the Hart Field-Site Group and collaborating with researchers, industry, consultants and growers to deliver research projects in regional SA.

The successful applicant would undertake a tailored internship, contributing to research in areas such as weed management and control; soil fertility and crop nutrition; crop entomology; agronomy and seeding systems.

The initiative is already paying dividends for graduates keen to pursue a career in grains research and development, and 2019 Hart regional intern Jade Rose says the experience has been positive on all fronts.

"I have found the internship very beneficial in terms of improving my research skills, practical skills, and understanding agriculture from a research/industry and grower perspective," she says.

"It has enabled me to gain a lot of new skills in field trial research and management, communication and I have learned a lot about agricultural research.

"Learning practical skills, working regionally and having interaction with numerous researchers, industry, agronomists and growers has been extremely important to my development as a researcher.

"Living and working in the Mid North has been great for personal growth, putting me outside my comfort zone and learning a lot about myself. I've loved working at Hart, everyone has been very welcoming and helpful and are a great and passionate group of people to work with."

The Hart Regional Internship was developed by the South Australian Grain Industry Trust (SAGIT), Hart Field-Site Group and South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI), with the first regional intern joining the Hart team in 2016.

SAGIT chair Max Young said the internship provided graduates with an opportunity to work in a highly-respected organisation and alongside Hart's research and extension manager Dr Sarah Noack in valuable, grass-roots research.

“The Hart internship provides a young agricultural science graduate with the unique opportunity to work with a progressive group of farmers and a respected researcher in Sarah Noack at a regional research site,” he said.

“The range of research conducted at Hart and the group’s interaction with other research bodies makes this internship a very valuable experience.”

Hart chairman Ryan Wood said the Hart Regional Internship was a win-win for the successful applicant, and for the SA grains industry.

“The internship allows Hart to invest into the long-term sustainability of agricultural research in South Australia, as we see these graduates as the researchers and speakers of the future,” he said.

“The Hart internship provides them with a practical, hands-on experience that is not available in the city - indirectly gaining a level of acceptance and respect from local growers that they’ll be presenting to in years to come.

“It also provides the intern an opportunity to gain confidence in presenting and conducting in-field research.”

The Hart regional internship is open for applications from students who have completed a Bachelor of Agricultural Sciences or equivalent in the past five years.

The 2020 internship starts in February next year and research options can be tailored to the successful applicant’s specific interests.

The regional intern would gain skills in the areas of trial design and management, sampling, statistical analysis of data and written and oral communication with growers and advisers.

The intern would also assist with the preparation of Hart events, including its annual field day and workshops, and have the opportunity to network and attend industry events.

Applications close on August 30, 2019, at 5pm.

More details can be found at www.hartfieldsite.org.au/pages/about-us/careers

Media contact: HFSG research and extension manager Dr Sarah Noack 0420 218 420.



Jade Rose (left) says the Hart regional internship initiative has expanded her applied grains research skills, giving her a valuable head start in the industry, and encourages other agricultural science graduates to consider applying for the 2020 internship.

Photo by Sandy Kimber