CRAWFORD FUND FOR FOOD SECURITY STUDENT AWARDS

Applications are invited from students at Australian universities interested in gaining expertise and experience in international agricultural research.

The deadline for online applications is close of business on **Friday, 14 May 2027.**

This note is intended to assist students with general background information and with the online application process.

OVERVIEW

The Crawford Fund for Food Security is an Australian non-government organisation that champions investment in international agricultural research for food security to support developing nations.

To encourage active engagement in agricultural research for food and nutrition security by the next generation, the Crawford Fund for Food Security's State and Territory Committees are offering competitive research funding awards for tertiary students.

These Crawford Fund Student Awards aim to facilitate active student participation in projects to help them gain valuable experience and expertise in international agricultural research.

INTERESTED?

We encourage you to contact the Crawford Fund Committee Coordinator in the State/Territory your university is based to discuss your potential application. They are available to assist you with any further clarification you may need after reading this background document. You can find their details here, or below.

The committees in each State/Territory have differing requirements related to the stage of applicants' studies, their citizenship/residency status and the level of funding available. Please see the table on page 3.

While some committees fund undergraduate students through these student awards, the Crawford Fund Henzell Awards are specifically for undergraduate students and are also currently open and available to students in all States/Territories – please see more details here.

THE APPLICANT

Applicants must already be enrolled at a recognised tertiary institute in Australia and engaged in a relevant level of study in a biophysical or socio-economic aspect of agriculture, animal production, fisheries, forestry, natural resource management or food or nutrition security. Please see the table on page 3 to check if you are at a sufficiently senior level of study in your degree for awards in your State/Territory.

THE AWARDS

These awards are designed to facilitate novel engagement by the students with agricultural research and development assistance projects to be undertaken in overseas countries where the students intend to work and gain experience.

The projects with which you plan to link can be governmental, international or multilateral (e.g. the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) or any of the international agricultural research centers in the CGIAR or AIRCA, universities, FAO), non-governmental or commercial (e.g. seed or R&D company).

The purpose of the awards is to allow you to undertake additional research or project activities that would not otherwise be possible, rather than for ongoing postgraduate research projects already in place. Funding to attend research conferences overseas will not ordinarily be considered.

If you are unsure about how to connect to a project or organisation on which to focus your project application, our advice is, in the first instance, to reach out to the Crawford Fund Coordinator in the State/Territory your university is based in. You could also identify staff at your university who are already involved in international agriculture for development associated with ACIAR or any of the international agricultural research centers in the CGIAR or AIRCA. Another strategy is to search on the ACIAR website for projects associated with your area of interest, or for projects in which your university is engaged.

Please note that the application is for travel that would be undertaken after receipt of the award and not already completed or partly underway.

HOW TO APPLY

Applicants need to complete an online application form and outline what novel research or project activity the award would allow them to undertake, how that would augment and add value, and what benefits would emerge from the experience.

Proposals that can clearly demonstrate how the award will also deliver benefit to their State/Territory will have a clear advantage. This could be through stronger linkages in research areas of interest to industry, access to technical knowledge of local interest, or knowledge that will help foster commercial engagement. Proposals will only be considered if they include all required attachments, explained below.

You can read more information about the Crawford Fund Student Awards here.

If you would like to see the diversity of projects, countries and organisations involved - you can see the list of our recent successful Awardees here by year grouping: 2026, 2025, 2024, 2023, 2022 and 2021. The details provide insights into the variety of countries, projects and partner organisations involved in the awards over the years.

YOUR SAFETY IS PARAMOUNT

Travelling in low and middle income (developing) countries can be complex. Your health and safety is paramount to us. In the application process you will be asked to provide details of the arrangements and strategies you have planned to ensure your health and safety.

We would like to see from your application that you have an appreciation of the health and travel safety issues that may arise, and have strategies in place to address them. You must abide by your university's requirements in regards to travel and safety and have adequate travel insurance cover in place. In the application form, you will be asked if you have checked and are complying with the requirements of your institution as well as DFAT Travel advice (see the SmartTraveller site).

AWARD DECISIONS

The decisions by the State/Territory Committees on successful applications are final and no further avenues for appeal or consideration are available.

Our Northern Territory and Queensland Committees may also offer their successful awardees a Crawford Fund Conference Scholarship to attend the Crawford Fund Annual Conference in Canberra, in which case a separate report relating to attendance at the Conference will also be required. If you live in other states or

territories, you can apply for the conference scholarships separately when they open in April/May of each year.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Awardees will need to provide a written report to the funding Committee describing what they achieved through their award activity – more details are provided in a separate note to successful applicants.
It is expected the report will be the basis of some public awareness activities, including a web blog used in our social media outreach.

ELIGIBILITY AND AWARD LEVELS

The table below provides a summary of the study levels needed for the awards, citizenship/residency requirements of applicants and award levels in each jurisdiction.

The following table provides a summary of the study programs eligible for the Awards in each jurisdiction.

State/ Territory	Open to Undergrad. Students *	Open to Honours Students	Open to Postgrad. Students	Preference for Australian Citizens/ Permanent Residents	Open to Non Citizens/ Permanent Residents in Australian Universities	Max. award ($)
ACT	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	$5,000
NSW	4th year only	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	$5,000
NT	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	$5,000
QLD	4th year only	Yes	Yes		Yes	$4,000 4th year/Honours $5,000 Postgraduate
SA	4th year only	Yes	Yes	Yes		$5,000
TAS	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	$5,000
VIC	No	Yes	Yes	Yes		$5,000
WA	No	Yes	Yes	Yes		$5,000

** Please note that the Crawford Fund for Food Security has undergraduate student awards – The Crawford Fund Henzell Awards – which are open to Australian citizens and permanent residents in their second year of university or beyond. More details here.*

PUBLIC AWARENESS

Applicants must be amenable to involvement in public awareness activities associated with the award.

Awardees are expected to advise the Fund at **least one week** before they travel to help facilitate social media around their trip.

Awardees are also required to provide a written report with photos to the relevant Crawford Fund Committee describing the trip and what they learned during their trip, with photos, within two weeks of completing travel. Successful applicants will be provided with reporting requirements prior to signing their funding agreement.

STATE COMMITTEE CONTACTS

We strongly encourage you to check the requirements for your State/Territory Committee's Awards prior to applying. Your application will be considered by the committee in the State or Territory in which your tertiary institute is located.

Contacts for your State/Territory Coordinator and links to the related webpage are:

- **Australian Capital Territory -** Mr David Shearer - Email: David.Shearer@anu.edu.au
  Web: www.crawfordfund.org/training/state-programs/act-committee/

- **New South Wales -** Dr Helen Scott-Orr PSM - Email: hscottorr@gmail.com
  Web: www.crawfordfund.org/training/state-programs/nsw-committee/

- **Northern Territory -** Ms Tania Paul - Email: tania.paul@crawfordfund.org
  Web: www.crawfordfund.org/training/state-programs/nt-committee/

- **Queensland -** Prof Bob Lawn FRSB FTSE FAIA - Email: bob.lawn@crawfordfund.org
  Web: www.crawfordfund.org/training/state-programs/qld-committee/
  For specific QLD eligibility requirements, key selection criteria and reporting requirements please use this backgrounder: https://www.crawfordfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Crawford-in-QLD-Student-Award-guidelines.pdf

- **South Australia** - Dr Kathy Ophel Keller PSM - Email: kathy.ophelkeller@crawfordfund.org
  Web: www.crawfordfund.org/training/state-programs/sa-committee/

- **Tasmania -** Dr Neville Mendham FAIAST - Email: n.mendham@utas.edu.au
  Web: https://www.crawfordfund.org/training/state-programs/tas-committee/

- **Victoria -** Mr Bill Lewis FAIA - Email: bill@welewis.com.au
  Web: www.crawfordfund.org/training/state-programs/vic-committee/

- **Western Australia -** Emerita Professor Lyn Abbott AM FAIAST - Email: lyn.abbott@crawfordfund.org
  Web: www.crawfordfund.org/training/stateprograms/wa-committee/

FURTHER INFORMATION

Phone: (02) 6280 8611 | **Web:** www.crawfordfund.org
Instagram: @CrawfordFund | **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/CrawfordFund/
LinkedIn https://www.linkedin.com/company/the-crawford-fund/

NOTES - to facilitate completion of the online form

Before you begin

The short online application form will require you to attach a brief CV, a budget outline for your activities, the signatures of, or a supporting note from, the two Authorised Officers approving your application (see 7. Approvals), and details of at least one referee (as per 8. Referees). Your health and safety is paramount to us so you will be asked to provide details of the arrangements for this purpose too.

1.	**Your details** This section is of the form is straightforward, and includes questions about nationality, residency status, social media handles (if any) and asks for your Curriculum Vitae to be attached.
2.	**Your supporting university details** Please indicate your degree, university, enrolment details etc.
3.	**The host project or activity to which the applicant proposes to link** The project to which the applicant proposes to link their award travel and engagement can be governmental (e.g. university, ACIAR, FAO), non-governmental (NGO) or commercial (e.g. seed company). Provide details of the project or activity to which you plan to link your trip (who is conducting it, who is funding it, where it is based, what are its main objectives including name and ID number if available from the host). Funding to attend research conferences overseas will not ordinarily be considered.
4.	**The proposal** Provide details of your proposal: what new research or project activity do you propose to do if you are successful in obtaining an award? Describe how you propose to link with the host project and describe how that matches the objectives of the Crawford Fund – that is, provide clear justification as to why you think the Crawford Fund should support your proposal. While international agricultural research is designed to assist the host country where it is conducted, effective projects are of mutual benefit to the home country. Proposals that can clearly demonstrate benefit to your State/Territory (e.g. through stronger linkages in research areas of clear interest to industry, access to technical knowledge of local interest, or knowledge that will help foster commercial engagement) will have a clear advantage.
5.	**Health and safety** We expect you to check on and comply with the health and safety requirements of your institution for travelling to the country in your visit. We expect you to check on and comply with the DFAT Travel advice for your intended visit (see the SmartTraveller site). Please identify what you consider the key health and safety issues that may arise in the country you are visiting, and the arrangements and strategies you have planned to ensure your health and safety. Please include details of your OHS (Operational Health and Safety) plans and the support being provided by the Host Institute (e.g. university) or the Host Country Project or Activity. Please ensure this includes insurance cover. You must take out adequate individual insurance cover or be covered by your institution; the Crawford Fund will not be liable.
6.	**The budget –** template available here Award funds can be used for airfares and other travel costs, accommodation and subsistence, and/or operational research costs. These awards can vary in amount but will generally be around $5,000. Contact the Coordinator in your State or Territory to find out more details on the awards in your State/Territory. The Crawford Fund support may be used to augment, but not substitute for, support from other sources. Provide brief details of cash and in-kind support available from other sources to support your proposal.
7.	**Approvals** Approvals are required from Authorised Officers representing both the Host University where the applicant is enrolled, and the Host Country Project or Activity with which the applicant proposes to link. You may find it easier to have the Officer provide a note of support to upload to the application form, than to contribute and provide a signature to upload.
8.	**Referees** The Authorised Officers in Section 7 may also act as Academic Referees for the applicant or the applicant may wish to nominate other referee(s).