

Application guide

PhD top-up scholarships

October 2024

Wine Australia

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Introduction

The guide is designed to assist candidates applying for PhD top-up scholarship funding from Wine Australia.

The guide provides information on:

- our topics of interest
- eligibility and application criteria
- the process for applying for funding, and
- how to commence an online application for funding.

Please contact us at applications@wineaustralia.com or on (08) 8228 2000 if you require further information or assistance.

About us

Wine Australia is the single Australian Government statutory service body for the Australian grape and wine community. We support a prosperous Australian grape and wine sector by investing in research and development, building the international and domestic markets, disseminating knowledge, encouraging adoption and protecting the reputation of Australian wine.

We are funded by grape growers and winemakers through levies and user-pays charges, and by the Australian Government, which provides matching funding for research, innovation, extension and adoption investments.

We focus on extracting the full value of our investments for the benefit of our levy payers, the Australian Government, and the wider community. Our investments are guided by the sector's strategic priorities which are detailed in our *Strategic Plan 2020-2025*.

Wine Australia offers a PhD top-up scholarship program to help attract postgraduate students to the fields of wine science, viticulture and wine business research.

These scholarships are an important component of Wine Australia's investment in developing high-achieving students and maintaining capacity and capability in the researcher community with additional financial and industry support to complete their PhD.

Key dates

Applications open on Tuesday 8 October 2024.

Applications close on Friday 8 November 2024, at 5pm (Australian Central Daylight Savings Time).

Candidates will be advised of the assessment outcome as soon as practicable.

Wine Australia Scholarships are not paid retrospectively. If successful, funding will begin from 1 January of the next year or at a later subsequent agreed date.

Topics of interest

While this opportunity is open to applications from PhD candidates delivering innovative research aligned to Wine Australia's Strategic Plan 2020-2025, this year we are very interested in seeing applications aligned with the following focus areas:

- Novel strategies for pest, disease and virus management in Australian vineyards
- Novel solutions for addressing vineyard waste, including for example treated-timber vineyard posts, drip tube and bird netting
- Nonchemical control of disease, for example using UV-C and autonomous technology
- The [ESG investment plan](#)
- The [Emissions Reduction Roadmap](#)

When developing your application, you should consult the [Wine Australia Strategic Plan 2020-2025](#) and [One Grape and Wine Sector Plan](#).

All documents are available on our website at www.wineaustralia.com.

Eligibility criteria

Wine Australia offers **supplementary scholarships** for up to 3.5 years full-time PhD study.

Scholarships are awarded based on:

- academic excellence
- the quality of an applicant's Curriculum Vitae
- the merit of the proposed research topic, noting the topic areas of interest
- the expertise of the proposed supervisor(s)
- the likelihood of the student's ongoing involvement in the wine sector, and
- funding availability

Candidates must:

- be enrolled in, or have applied for, a PhD program, and
- hold, or have applied for, an Australian Government Research Training Program (RTP) Stipend Scholarship or another equivalent stipend scholarship through their host university.¹
 - A statement to this effect should be included in the online application and if the Scholarship has already been awarded, a copy of the letter of offer should be included with the application.

The application, selection and offer process for RTP Stipend scholarships and other scholarships is the responsibility of each individual university.

Australian candidates enrolled at **an overseas university** and **overseas candidates** enrolled at an Australian university *may* be eligible for a Wine Australia supplementary scholarship. However, the assessment process will take into greater consideration the merit of the proposed research (i.e. particular discipline or emerging area of research strength) and likely future contribution to the Australian grape and wine sector.

¹ For more information on the Australian Government Research Training Program visit <https://www.education.gov.au/research-training-program>

Wine Australia will not support any tuition fees incurred, and overseas candidates must also meet the Australian Government Department of Home Affairs [policy guidelines](#).

Overseas candidates enrolled at overseas universities are **not eligible**.

Available funding

Wine Australia reserves the right to determine the base level from which supplementary funding is offered.

In most cases PhD top-up scholarships provide:

- supplementary funding to bring the total student stipend up to the value of \$35,000 (GST exclusive) per annum, including funding received through an RTP or other scholarship,
- supplementary funding to bring the total student operating funds up to \$10,000 (GST exclusive) per annum, including funding received through an RTP or other scholarship. The operating funds must be spent on costs directly associated with a candidate's research project.

Part-time awards may be available in certain circumstances. Candidates undertaking **part-time** study will be eligible for half the funding of a full-time candidate. Part-time PhD candidates may receive funding for up to six years.

We assess scholarship applications through a process that uses clear and objective criteria and excludes any individuals with a conflict of interest from the assessment.

Wine Australia is the sole arbiter of the number of applications supported, and decisions are made within the context of annual budgets.

Only supplementary funding may be requested from Wine Australia.

This program is supported by Wine Australia with levies from Australia's grape growers and winemakers and matching funds from the Australian Government.

Dr Tony Jordan OAM Award

In 2019 Wine Australia inaugurated the Dr Tony Jordan OAM Award, an annual award for the most outstanding Wine Australia PhD scholarship applicant.

This Award recognises the distinguished contribution of Dr Tony Jordan OAM to Australian wine. Over his distinguished career, Dr Jordan was an influential and determined advocate for the advancement of Australian wine as a winemaker, researcher, mentor, wine show judge and wine sector leader. Dr Jordan was crucial to the establishment of the wine science program at Charles Sturt University in the 1970s, influencing modern Australian wine practices. He has chaired Australian wine shows and judged shows internationally, he is a former president of the Australian Society of Viticulture and Oenology (ASVO) and the Yarra Valley Wine Growers Association and was a Board member of the Wine Australia Corporation for six years.

Wine Australia awards merit-based PhD scholarships with a stipend top-up to the value of \$35,000. The Dr Tony Jordan OAM Award recipient will receive an additional stipend top-up to the value of \$40,000 annually to support their study.

The Tony Jordan award is offered to the most outstanding applicant based on merit. Wine Australia reserves the right to not offer this award annually.

Exclusions

Support for conference attendance, living away from home and travel is **not provided** through the Scholarship program. Regional intrastate travel expenses may be accepted so long as they are clearly justified against the objectives of the project.

Applying

To apply for a Wine Australia Scholarship, you must complete an application online through the Clarity Investment Management System (CIMS). A log in and password can be obtained by emailing your full name, address, contact phone number and name of University where you will be studying to applications@wineaustralia.com.

Evidence must be provided that the university supports the proposed project and candidate. You can negotiate a supervisor after the application has been submitted however you are required to have a supervisor in place before the project is contracted.

The following documents are required to be attached to the CIMS on-line application:

- one certified copy of your Undergraduate Academic Transcript
- one certified copy of your Postgraduate Academic Transcript (if any postgraduate study undertaken, excluding the PhD you are currently enrolled in and for which you are seeking support)
- one copy of your current Curriculum Vitae, and
- one signed copy of your supervisor's confirmation of support (or university's if supervisor is not in place).

Organisation applications without a nominated candidate *may* be considered. However, these applications are likely to rank significantly lower than other applications as the weighting of the assessment process is towards the calibre of the student and their likely future contribution to the sector.

If you are enrolled at an Australian university, the university research office must review and submit the application on your behalf. Please make sure you leave enough time for the process to be completed **BEFORE** the closing date.

If you are an Australian candidate enrolled at an overseas university, you may submit the application yourself. Please make sure you consider the time differences and application close date.