

Expression of Interest EOI

Part 1 – General Details

EOI ID	999
EOI Title	26-27 Postgraduate Scholarships
Type of Research	Capacity and education
Expected Start Date	01/01/2027
Expected End Date	30/06/2030
CRDC Pillar	2. People
CRDC Theme	2.2 Leadership and Capacity
CRDC Outcome	2.2.1 By 2028, the industry has access to the right skills and capacity to support research and development
EOI Close Date	30/09/2026

Part 2 – Expression of Interest Requirements

Issue to be addressed and project description:

Introduction: the following will assist you in applying for a CRDC PhD top up scholarship.

About us: The Cotton Research and Development Corporation PhD top -up scholarship program plays an important role in addressing cotton research skill gaps and cotton research priorities. Supporting the development of people and skills in research, development and extension ensures the cotton industry has world class research capability, helping to solve complex challenges in the cotton industry and its communities.

CRDC delivers world-leading outcomes in cotton research, development and extension (RD&E) for the Australian cotton industry. A partnership between the Commonwealth and cotton growers, CRDC exists to grow the sustainable future of cotton through innovation with impact. This program is supported by levies from Australian cotton growers and matching funds from the Australian Government.

PhD top-up scholarship: The 3 year PhD top-up scholarship valued at \$36,600 per annum, can be applied for by those cotton-relevant scholars who are receiving a Research Training Program (RTP, or equivalent) scholarship. This top-up scholarship includes \$23,750 stipend, \$11,000 operating and \$1,850 for travel for three years.

Other scholarships for Masters are available from time to time, and students completing cotton relevant research which aligns with CRDC's strategic plan are encouraged to speak with a member of our CRDC Innovation Team.

Applying:

*To apply for CRDC scholarship funding, you need to register for CRDC's grant management system, [FLUXX](#).

*We strongly recommend you have a good understanding and your research aligns with [CRDC's Strategic priorities for 2023 - 2028](#).

*CottonInfo provides regional extension officers and technical experts with latest research driven information. For more visit: [CottonInfo](#)

*CRDC's digital library provides access to cottons research since 1986, [INSIDE COTTON LIBRARY](#)

Eligibility criteria: To be eligible candidates must:

*Be enrolled in, or have applied for full time PhD study at recognised institution

*Candidates need to have applied or awarded a Research Training Program (RTP) through the host university

*The scholarship contract is with the research institution (university), not the student (applicant).

*PhD application proposal should be developed in consultation with your research institution. Any concerns can be highlighted in the application.

Note: from time to time CRDC may not have PhD funding available

Expected project outputs and outcomes:**Output:**

*A completed PhD thesis addressing priority cotton RD&E challenges aligned to CRDC's Strategic Plan

*Peer-reviewed publications and/or high-quality technical reports contributing to world-class research capability

*The final PhD thesis will be published on the [Inside Cotton website](#).

Outcome:

CRDC PhD investments aim to support development of highly skilled early-career researchers with expertise relevant to the Australian cotton industry. These projects generate new knowledge, data, methods or tools that address priority industry challenges and deliver impact aligned with CRDC's strategic plan.

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Project Investment:

Year	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	TOTAL
Indicative budget (up to)	\$18,300.00	\$36,600.00	\$36,600.00	\$128,100.00

Additional guidance:

Part 3 – Selection Criteria

The following selection criteria will be used by the CRDC to assess the full research proposals (FRPs) received for each Expression of Interest.

The rationale of the project, how it will support CRDC’s Strategic Plan and the potential impacts for the Australian cotton industry and the Australian community.

This criterion will be assessed on the soundness of the proposal’s understanding of the issues, and the extent to which the project outcomes will address the issues and support CRDC to achieve its measures of success.

Project methodology.

This criterion will be assessed on the soundness and clarity of the proposed R&D methods to achieve project deliverables and outcomes.

The skills and capacity of the research team to undertake the project.

This criterion will be assessed on the track record, technical knowledge and experience of all key personnel in the research area and the demonstrated capacity of the nominated researcher/s to provide project coordination, management, monitoring and evaluation for the timely delivery of high quality outputs.

The proposed ‘Pathway to Impact’.

This criterion will be assessed on the appropriateness of the proposed ‘Pathway to Impact’ and the demonstrated capacity of the project personnel to effectively translate research/project outcomes to on ground actions. Please include the target audience and process for extension/ communication/ commercialisation (as appropriate), as well as any collaboration partners and potential risks. Note that successful FRPs may be requested to develop specific milestones for delivery of project outcomes in collaboration with CottonInfo or CRDC Commercialisation Manager at the outset of the project.

Proposed collaborations for the project and / or the collaborative networks of the project team.

This criterion will be assessed on the demonstrated ability of the project personnel to form productive networks to build on national and international research already undertaken in related areas.

How this project is cost effective for the Australian cotton industry, including details of the resources being brought to the project.

This criterion will be assessed on the cost effectiveness of this project including cash and in-kind commitments from the applicants and leverage through domestic or international linkages. Budget including descriptive text will also be assessed as part of this criterion.

To apply, [follow this process](#). For further information, contact the CRDC Innovation Administration team on 02 6792 4088 or via research@crdc.com.au.

This EOI is not a guarantee of funding.