

**AWARDS FOR POSTGRADUATE STUDY  
AT AN AUSTRALIAN OR OVERSEAS  
UNIVERSITY OR INSTITUTION  
(2008)**

Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) is making available a number of awards, tenable at both Australian and overseas universities or institutions, for postgraduate study commencing in 2008. The awards facilitate research and training in areas of practical value to the Australian beef, sheepmeat and goatmeat industries. Preference will be given to applicants who:

(i) Already have some postgraduate experience in a relevant subject area or industry sector.

(ii) Are interested in studying in areas such as on-farm productivity, sustainability, rangeland management and technology transfer. They include but are not limited to:

- Sustainability of production systems including greenhouse gas mitigation;
- Animal disease epidemiology;
- Information sciences as they relate to animal production;
- Genetics or genomics of animals, pasture plants or microorganisms;
- Social aspects of technology adoption and innovation.

(iii) Are interested in studying topics linked to current projects or Key Programs.

**AWARDS AVAILABLE** (see details overleaf)

MLA Studentships - postgraduate Diploma or Masters courses, maximum duration two (2) years. (Australian and Overseas)

MLA Junior Research Fellowships - postgraduate degree at PhD or equivalent level, maximum duration three (3) years. (Australian and Overseas)

MLA Study Awards - "sabbatical" type training for established professionals, maximum duration one (1) year.

**ELIGIBILITY AND ASSESSMENT CRITERIA**

Eligibility is restricted to applicants with permanent residency status in Australia.

Applicants will be judged on a competitive basis taking into account previous academic record, publications record, postgraduate employment history and industry experience, proposed topic of study in relation to MLA priority areas, reputation of proposed course/supervisor and referees' reports.

**APPLICATIONS**

Applications should be made on the application form provided on the MLA website. Successful candidates will be advised during December 2006.

Return applications on or before 16 November 2007 to: [students@mla.com.au](mailto:students@mla.com.au)

## **INFORMATION ON AWARDS 2008**

### **MLA Studentship (Masters/Diplomas)**

The purpose of this Award is to enable high-calibre graduates to undertake a master's degree or diploma training in areas relevant to the Australian meat and livestock industries.

The studentship is normally tenable at an Australian university/institution. However, for applicants with proven ability, training at overseas institutions may be approved, provided the applicant can demonstrate that there is no appropriate similar course or institution within Australia.

Applicants should be able to provide strong evidence of research ability or potential research ability and are expected to have achieved at least upper second class honours at graduation and have demonstrated a high level of proficiency in postgraduate research activities.

The duration of the award is normally one to two years, depending on the higher qualification at which training is aimed. Extensions may be granted if there is sufficient justification.

Allowances at Australian institutions are A\$20,000 per annum for single students. The allowance of a dependent spouse is A\$2,300 per annum. The living allowance at an overseas university is US\$17,500 per annum. The allowance of a dependent spouse is US\$5,000 per annum. There are no allowances for dependent children.

A *Technical Assistance Grant* will be provided to the institution, upon request, to assist with the costs of the student's research (such as non-capital maintenance) and necessary travel for the student. The grant can be spent at the discretion of the student's supervisor, and is subject to an annual accounting for the expenditure at the end of each year. The grant is A\$2,000 per annum (or A\$4,000 per annum if the project involves purchase and maintenance of cattle) for studentships in Australia; and US\$4,500 per annum (or US\$6,000 per annum if the project involves purchase and maintenance of cattle) for studentships overseas.

All compulsory fees/charges, including a thesis allowance of A\$420 for students in Australia and US\$300 for students overseas will be paid upon presentation of receipts to MLA.

Students who are eligible are encouraged to apply for both an Australian Postgraduate Award (Commonwealth) and a MLA Studentship. If successful in both applications MLA will top up the Australian Postgraduate Award to the level offered by MLA and provide the technical assistance as above.

### **MLA Junior Research Fellowship**

The purpose of this Award is to enable qualified graduates to undertake a postgraduate degree at PhD or equivalent level in disciplines relevant to the Australian meat and livestock industries

The Award is usually tenable at an Australian university/institution. However, for applicants of proven ability, training at overseas institutions may be approved where the benefits will return to the Australian industry and there is no appropriate institution or supervisor within Australia with whom the training may be undertaken.

Applicants should be able to provide strong evidence of research ability or potential research ability and are expected to have achieved first-class honours or have demonstrated a high level of proficiency in field research, training or extension activities. Applications from new graduates with *exceptional academic performance* may also be considered, but a fellowship will only be awarded if a degree with first-class honours has been achieved. The duration of the Award is normally one to three years depending on the higher qualification sought. Extensions of up to one year may be approved if there is sufficient justification.

The allowance at Australian universities under this Award is A\$25,000 per annum. The allowance for a dependent spouse is A\$2,300 per annum. The allowance at overseas universities is US\$18,500 per annum and that of a dependent spouse is US\$5,000 per annum. There are no allowances for dependent children.

*Technical Assistance Grant* will be provided to the institution, upon request, to assist with the costs of the student's research, such as non-capital maintenance and necessary travel. The grant can be spent at the discretion of the student's supervisor and is subject to an annual accounting for the expenditure at the end of each year. For fellowships in Australia, the grant is A\$6,000 per annum (or A\$8,000 per annum if the project involves purchase and maintenance of cattle); for fellowships overseas, the grant is US\$4,500 per annum (or US\$6,000 per annum if the project involves purchase and maintenance of cattle).

All compulsory fees/charges, including a thesis allowance of A\$840 for fellowships in Australia and \$US600 for fellowships overseas will be paid upon presentation of receipts to MLA.

Students who are eligible are encouraged to apply for both an Australian Postgraduate Award (Commonwealth) and a MLA Studentship. If successful in both applications MLA will top up the Australian Postgraduate Award to the level offered by MLA and provide the technical assistance as above.

### **MLA Overseas Study Awards**

Study Awards are designed to provide senior Australian scientists and extension workers who have made a noteworthy contribution to the sheep and/or cattle industries with the opportunity for overseas study. Preference will be given to those who have limited opportunity for overseas study.

This Award is tenable at an overseas institution and is normally for a period of up to 6 months.

Applicants should hold higher degrees, preferably doctorate, or have demonstrated a high degree of ability in their postgraduate experience relevant to the Australian meat and livestock industry.

A letter of support from employers should be included with applications, together with an indicative budget.

The particular allowances for overseas awards will be determined by individual circumstances. These Awards cover university fees and other costs such as transport and accommodation (but not salary), for the duration of the study period, to a maximum of US\$15,000.

Compulsory fees/charges will be paid upon presentation of receipts to MLA.

## **OTHER INFORMATION**

### **Fares**

Economy class air fares will be paid for students and their families travelling overseas. Concession rates should be obtained where possible and practical. Similarly, fares from home to point of embarkation and from point of disembarkation to place of study will be paid.

### **Special note for students in the USA**

As medical and hospital expenses in the USA are extremely high, students and their dependants are required to join an appropriate US medical insurance scheme. Insurance premiums will be reimbursed by MLA. Interim insurance should be arranged to cover the period between leaving Australia and joining a scheme in the USA, the cost of which will also be reimbursed.

Full details on conditions covering awards are available on request.