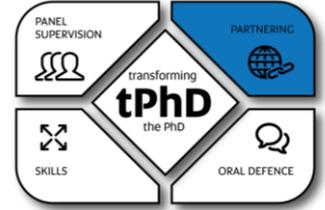




University of  
South Australia

## Establishing APR.Intern placements at UniSA



This short guide aims to provide information to *supervisors and relevant staff* regarding considerations and processes for establishing APR.Intern internships. An explanation of the critical information is provided as a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ).

### The APR.Intern Program

[Australian Postgraduate Research Intern](#) (APR.Intern formerly known as AMSI Intern) is a national program placing postgraduate research candidates from any discipline into Australian businesses – including small, medium and large enterprises, as well as government agencies. The program allows PhD candidates to apply their research expertise to a short-term project (normally 3-5 months), while gaining experience in an industry setting.

APR.Intern is supported by Australian Government funding and is delivered by [AMSI](#) (Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute). The program aims to place 1400 PhD research interns into industry between 2017 to 2020.

### *What are the benefits of the APR.Intern program?*

The benefits for the candidate include:

- Relevant industry experience and exposure
- Networking opportunities with industry contacts
- Professional and skills development
- A stipend of up to \$3,000 per month

The scheme also includes a one-off \$5500 payment to the academic mentor, which counts as research income, as well as the opportunity to strengthen existing, or develop new, collaborations with industry partners. The academic mentor will normally be a member of the candidate's supervisory panel.

The government rebate may make the APR.Intern program attractive to partners, due to the decreased investment requirement.

APR.Intern is worth considering as an alternative to University-managed internships, due to the availability of established APR.Intern processes and agreements, and the opportunities offered by the program.

### *Who is eligible for an APR.Intern internship?*

Eligibility criteria for the scheme depend on the requirements of the industry partner, however all candidates must meet the following criteria (from APR.Intern site):

- Participating candidates must be a currently enrolled PhD candidate at an Australian University.
- Participating candidates must have met the requirements of the confirmation milestone and be able to demonstrate that participation in the internship will not adversely impact on scheduled thesis submission date.
- Applications must be supported by written approval from the Principal Supervisor to participate in the APR.Intern program.
- Participating candidates will be a domestic student, or an international student with the appropriate student visa.

## Candidature Considerations

### *When can a candidate undertake an APR.Intern Internship?*

Candidates can undertake an internship during their candidature, at any time following confirmation of candidature, or following submission of their thesis during the examination period.

Undertaking the internship **following thesis submission** is the best option for:

- projects outside the immediate scope of the candidate's thesis,
- for candidates who are nearing maximum candidature, and
- for international candidates if appropriate under the conditions of their visa (sponsored international candidates should seek approval from their sponsor).

An internship during the examination period has the advantage that the candidate is not consuming candidature at that time, and the internship will not impact upon the submission timeframe for the thesis (which is an eligibility condition set by APR.Intern). The internship must be completed before the candidate submits the final amended thesis.

Commencing the internship **prior to submission of the thesis** is the best option for candidates undertaking a project that is directly linked to their thesis topic. When considering this option, supervisors and candidates should be aware that APR.Intern agreements specify that the industry partner owns the intellectual property generated by the project, and candidates must seek permission to include it in their scholarly publications.

Appendix 1 provides an overview of considerations for candidature to guide supervisors and their candidates in the options for undertaking an APR.Intern internship. While this provides general guidance, individual projects and partners may have additional or differing requirements for interns.

### *Can a candidate take a leave of absence to undertake an APR.Intern internship?*

Domestic candidates may be permitted to take a leave of absence, however this will impact upon completion timelines and any existing stipend payments. Candidates should contact [research.students@unisa.edu.au](mailto:research.students@unisa.edu.au) for further advice.

International candidates should seek advice from the Department of Immigration, and/or their sponsor (where applicable) to determine if this is permitted.

### *Can part time candidates undertake an APR.Intern internship?*

Part time candidates can undertake an APR.Intern internship, however their APR.Intern stipend will normally not be exempt from tax. Candidates should determine the tax status applicable to their stipend. More information is available from the [Australian Taxation Office](#).

The industry partner rebate is only available to partners hosting full time candidates, increasing the costs for the industry partner if they choose to support part time candidates.

## Intellectual Property and Confidentiality

### *Who owns the project IP generated during the internship?*

Under the standard APR.Intern agreements, the industry partner owns the intellectual property generated during the internship project. The candidate will normally be required to assign the IP from the project to the University, in accordance with the [Intellectual Property: Ownership and Management Policy](#).

### *Can the candidate publish results of the project in the thesis or in other publications?*

Candidates can request to include project IP in their scholarly publications under the terms of the agreement, however this is dependent on negotiation with the industry partner.

### *Can an industry-funded candidate undertake an APR.Intern placement with another partner? If yes, under what conditions?*

Before arranging such a placement, a conversation between the candidate, the supervisor(s) and the Division's business development or partner engagement manager should occur. The industry partner(s) will also need to be consulted.

A candidate should only undertake a placement with another partner if:

- existing contractual arrangements don't prohibit the arrangement.
- ownership of background and project IP for both partnerships are understood and honoured.
- the candidate is prepared and able to identify and manage conflicts of interest that may arise.

### **Engaging with APR.Intern opportunities**

#### *How are new APR.Intern projects established?*

New projects can be established in multiple ways. Where an academic mentor already has a partner and a candidate in mind, APR.Intern can be used to facilitate the internship project. The APR.Intern business development team can also assist with finding a candidate or a partner for the project. Additionally, APR.Intern publish a number of [available internships](#), which interested candidates can apply for. A useful flowchart of the application process for general and specific project applications is available on the [APR.Intern site](#).

#### *What do I need to set up an internship at UniSA?*

APR.Intern will assist in development of an agreement. To set up the internship at UniSA the candidate and supervisor will need to provide a copy of the signed agreement, and a completed [New Scholarship Offers for Current Research Degree Students form](#) to Student and Academic Services.

APR.Intern stipend payments are administered by the University. Payments to candidates are administered by Student and Academic Services and are made into the candidate's nominated bank account.

For further details on how to apply for internships, and the application forms, see the [APR.Intern site](#).

#### *Are candidates covered by the University's insurance coverage while undertaking a placement through APR.Intern?*

Students on approved placement are covered by the University for the following insurance types:

- Public Liability
- Medical Malpractice (where applicable)
- Professional Indemnity
- Travel Insurance (if eligible)
- Personal Accident

These insurances do not cover liability for any negligent act or omission on the part of the host organisation that result in injury to, or loss or damage of personal property of a student.

An FS23 form is not required for APR.Intern placements, as long as an APR.Intern agreement for the candidate is in place.

More information about student insurance is available [here](#).

## Funding arrangements

### *How are APR.Intern opportunities funded?*

The internships are funded through industry investment in the program. The full cost to industry partners is \$26,000 for a 5 month internship. A 50% [government rebate](#) is available to industry partners, and eligible organisations therefore pay \$13,000. The \$26,000 covers:

- \$15k – PhD candidate funding at \$3k per month
- \$5.5k – academic mentor payment
- \$5.5k – administration cost project management (to APR.Intern, not the University)

### *How does the industry rebate work?*

Industry partners are required to pay the full internship cost to APR.Intern once the internship commences. They receive the rebate once all compulsory milestones are completed by the PhD candidate and industry partner at the end of the internship as stated in the agreement (as determined by APR.Intern). This includes:

- 1) Mid-term presentation (Candidate)
- 2) Final presentation (Candidate presenting findings to industry partner)
- 3) Final report (Candidate delivering report to industry partner)
- 4) Executive summary (Candidate delivering exec summary to industry partner)

The rebate involves a transfer of funds from APR.Intern to the industry party. The industry party may be able to offset the cost of the intern via the R&D incentive scheme, but industry partners are responsible for exploring this opportunity as this differs depending on various factors. Industry partners should be directed to the [business.gov.au](#) or ATO websites for more details.

### *Is there anything else that UniSA staff should understand about the rebates to industry when considering potential projects and partners?*

It is advised that UniSA staff discuss potential opportunities with [APR.Intern Business Developers](#) in advance of discussing the rebate option with industry partners.

All industry partners (local, state and federal government, not-for-profit and private organisations) can apply for the rebates on eligible internships. APR Intern Business Developers can provide advice on the rebate program, and the eligibility of individual internships. Eligible internships are those internships that meet the National Research Internship Program criteria, which are:

- 1) PhD candidate who has had their candidature confirmed.
- 2) Are undertaking a full-time PhD at the time of the internship.
- 3) Depending on the opportunity, interns must be Australian citizens or permanent residents.
- 4) A percentage of international PhD student interns can attract the Government rebate.

### *How do I find out more information?*

The [APR.Intern site](#) has full details about the program, including advice and FAQs for Industry partners, candidates and academic mentors. Supervisors who have identified an industry opportunity should contact the [Business Developer – SA, Mr David Beecham](#) ([d.beecham@aprintern.org.au](mailto:d.beecham@aprintern.org.au)).

Available internships advertised by APR.Intern are available [here](#).

Student and Academic Services can provide advice on administering candidate related APR.Intern arrangements when the agreement is established. ([research.students@unisa.edu.au](mailto:research.students@unisa.edu.au)).

Speak to the Partner Engagement or Business Development Manager in each Division for advice on setting up research partnerships ([Partner Engagement Network](#) contacts).

## Appendix 1: Candidature Considerations for APR.Intern opportunities

