

Block Internships Initiative (Pilot)

Facilitating internships through APR Intern to strengthen existing industry-university partnerships

1. Introduction

This initiative is designed to embed AMSI's internship program in universities' processes. It represents a deepening of the relationship with universities and a true collaboration. Universities will be able to apply for blocks of internships that they can use exclusively with their industry partners and their students.

A rebate for industry partners is available, which will assist in the placement of 1,400 PhD students in short-term internship projects through to 2020. These internships are supported by the Australian Government Department of Education and Training, through the 'Supporting more women in STEM careers: Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute (AMSI) – National Research Internship Program (NRIP)'.

Universities participating in this initiative will be able to offer the NRIP rebate as an enhanced opportunity to their existing industry partners. This will deepen the relationship with the industry partner, provide student career benefits and open other collaborative opportunities such as ARC Linkage Grants.

Internships will be managed by APR Intern to ensure quality control and duty of care, rebate eligibility and consistency across universities. This initiative will have the advantage to the university of being able to achieve the twin goals of providing their students with internship opportunities and providing industry partners with a compelling offering without having to provide the internship infrastructure.

This block offering initiative will sit alongside APR Intern's regular business development activity: we will continue to bring new industry partners to universities. A pilot offering a block allocation of up to 20 internships per university will commence in October/November 2018, where we will welcome feedback on the process and iron out issues.

Following a successful pilot, the first full round of block internships is planned to open for applications in March/April 2018.

2. How the initiative works

For the pilot, applications will be open during the month of October 2018. Universities interested in participating in the pilot are asked to indicate their intention to apply within the first week of October 2018 via email to: block-internships@aprintern.org.au (note this is non-binding but assists in our planning).

We strongly advise universities that intend to participate to conduct an internal expression of interest process with their industry partners and higher-degree research coordinators to inform the application. This will be most important beyond the pilot stage.

Once applications close:

1. Universities will be allocated a block of internships which must have contracts executed by 31 March 2019..
2. APR Intern will provide the information flyers to promote the program within the university, and templates necessary for internship set-up such as the APR Intern standard contract* and project plan.
3. Universities must internally champion the program, and inform HDR supervisors of the new initiative. This includes forwarding information and email bulletins from APR Intern to HDR staff and students, facilitating