**APR.Intern – Submission Guidance**

**University Research Commercialisation Scheme**

*Please see below for guidance on drafting a submission for the University Research Commercialisation Scheme.*

*Submissions (up to 1,500 words) can be emailed to the the Department of Education, Skills and Employment at* [*urcs@dese.gov.au*](mailto:urcs@dese.gov.au)*, closing* ***11.59pm AEST Friday 9 April 2021****.*

*The consultation paper is available to download here:* [*https://www.dese.gov.au/about-us/resources/university-research-commercialisation-consultation-paper*](https://www.dese.gov.au/about-us/resources/university-research-commercialisation-consultation-paper)*.*

*Thank you supporting APR.Intern.*

**About APR.Intern**

Funded by the Federal Government, Australian Postgraduate Research Intern (APR.Intern) is Australia’s only national, not-for-profit PhD internship program. It connects businesses with Australia’s leading universities through PhD students, who apply their specialised research expertise to business challenges. PhD interns transfer their skills from theory to real-world application - a key mechanism for innovation through the translation and commercialisation of research.

APR.Intern is the front door for businesses of all sizes – from start-ups through to government agencies and national corporations – to access and navigate Australia’s university landscape. The program matches PhD students to commercial research needs, and enhancing innovation capability for both industry and academia.

By placing highly skilled PhD students into 3-6 month industry research internships, the program is directly improving translation and commercialisation of research.

**Considerations for Inclusion in a Response**

**Universities:**

* Has APR.Intern helped bridge the recognised gap of researchers lacking experience working with industry?
* How has APR.Intern played a role in your university’s industry-university collaboration portfolio?
* Has APR.Intern helped students develop new skills to support and complement research expertise?
* Has the program improved employability outcomes for research students?
* How has the provision of a simple, accessible PhD internship program aided students?
* Feedback from students and academic mentors?

**Industry:**

* Has the PhD internship created jobs, advanced product development and/or led to increased profit?
* Has APR.Intern bridged the recognised gap of researchers lacking experience working with industry?
* Does the program help resolve issues around the time and financial risks associated with engaging with research?
* Do the economies of scale – being the front door for businesses to engage with universities Australia-wide – provide internal time and resource savings?
* Has the entrepreneurial nature of APR.Intern helped move the dial to shorten timeframes and effort required to link with a university and engage in commercialised research?
* Has APR.Intern gone some way to prove that Government-administered programs have an important role to de-risk research projects in the national interest?
* Does APR.Intern provide an efficient and knowledgeable link of research supply to commercial demand?
* How has APR.Intern improved collaboration outcomes?
* Information on your internship experience including project outcomes, business benefits, overall thoughts on having engaged a short-term PhD student intern.
  + Benefits could include: Rapid results in 3-6 months, a cost-effective solution to tackle R&D, all IP remains with the business, minimal administration with APR.Intern managing all HR, being able to fill a skills gap with both PhD student and their Academic Mentor’s expertise.

**Alumni:**

* Does APR.Intern bridge the recognised gap between researchers needing experience and industry?
* Did you develop new skills to support and complement research expertise?
* Would you recommend the program to other students?
* Why do you think it’s important for a national, Government-supported PhD internship program, such as APR.Intern, to continue facilitating short-term, paid industry internships for students?
* Information on your internship experience including project outcomes, new skills developed, new people you’ve met, value and how the experience contributed to your job-readiness?