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AGCAREERSTART Participant Application

2026 Practice Application

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Please note, the online AgCAREERSTART application **CANNOT** be saved once you start. It’s important that you’re prepared with your responses before you commence your application.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **First Name (as per birth certificate)** | **Surname** |
| **Preferred Name** |  |
| **Date of birth** |  |
| **Email** | **Phone number** |
| **Residential Address** | **Postal Address** |
| **Gender**  M/F/Other/Prefer not to say | **Do you identify as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?**  Y/N/Prefer not to say |
| **Please list the details of an emergency contact:**  *\*Please note, we may communicate with your emergency contact regarding program updates from time to time.*  Full Name  Phone number  Email  Relationship to you | |
| **Do you have a disability, including any kind of physical or intellectual impediment?**  Y/N/Prefer not to say  **If yes, please provide details:**  *\*Please note, this will not impact the success of your application to the program, it will just help us find a suitable placement. We highly encourage transparency to ensure your safety and enjoyment in the AgCAREERSTART program. If you wish to discuss your specific circumstances, please contact AgCAREERSTART.* | |
| **Do you have any other kind of medical condition or diagnosis that may impact you on-farm?**  Y/N/Prefer not to say  **If yes, please provide details:**  *\*Please note, this will not impact the success of your application to the program, it will just help us find a suitable placement. We highly encourage transparency to ensure your safety and enjoyment in the AgCAREERSTART program. If you wish to discuss your specific circumstances, please contact AgCAREERSTART.* | |
| **Do you give consent for AgCAREERSTART to share this information with your potential Host employer?**  Disability (Y/N)  Medical Conditions (Y/N) | |
| **Are you from a non-English speaking background?**  Y/N | **Were you born outside of Australia?**  Y/N |
| **Do you have unrestricted rights to work in Australia?**  Y/N  *\*Please note, only applicants with full, unrestricted working rights in Australia are eligible for the AgCAREERSTART program. AgCAREERSTART does not support visa sponsorship of any kind.* |  |
| **What’s your Unique Student Identifier (USI)?**  If known. |  |
| **Do you have a provisional driver's license?**  Yes - provisional  Yes – full license  No – and don’t intend to  No - but will by the time of placement | **If yes, is your license for a manual vehicle?** |
| **Do you have any ethical or cultural beliefs or concerns that we should be aware of when finding you a placement?**  Y/N | **If yes, please describe.** |
| **Do you have any special dietary requirements?**  Y/N | **If yes, please describe.** |
| **Please rate your exposure to agriculture:**  (1= no understanding/exposure, 3 = I learnt about it in school, 5 = spent some time on a working farm, 8 = I have been working in Agriculture (not full time), 10 = I have been working in agriculture full time for more than 6 months) | |
| **Have you looked for employment in agriculture in the past?**  Y/N | **If yes, please provide more detail** |
| **At this stage, how likely would you be to consider further study or employment in agriculture beyond your 2026 gap-year placement?**  (1=not at all, 10= extremely likely) | |
| **Please indicate your top four farm types from this list:**  Grain  Cattle  Sheep  Dairy  Horticulture  Pork  Poultry  Cotton  Forestry  Cane  Viticulture  Aquaculture/Fisheries  Equine  Other specific (please provide example)  *Please understand that these preferences may determine which farm you are matched with in the program. Whilst we endeavour to find a placement in your preferred industries, please understand that we may have to sacrifice some of your desires due to the availability of placements and/or a more suitable match is determined. Be sure to clearly outline which of your preferences are most important to you and why in the next question. If you are open to any opportunity, please also indicate this.* | |
| **Tell us more about your selections. Why have you chosen each of the above farm types?** | |
| **Noting that a placement may not be suitable for you in your first or second preference industries, please tell us how likely you would be to continue with the program if you were offered a placement in your 3rd or 4th industry.**   * Highly likely * Likely * Unlikely * Highly unlikely | |
| **Tell us about the kind of working environment you’d like to be a part of.**  Eg. you’re looking for a large, social workplace where you’re part of a team, you’re interested in a placement that offers you lots of 1-1 mentoring with your Host, you’re looking for a placement where long-term career progression is an option, you’re looking for a placement that’s really focussed on technology. | |
| **Where would you be happy to be offered a placement?**   * QLD * SA * WA * NT * NSW * TAS * VIC   *Please note, location flexibility will ultimately increase your chances of sourcing a placement. Participants are also responsible for the cost of their own move to their farm placement.* | |
| **Do either of these apply to your geographic preferences?**   * I am happy to work in a remote and/or isolated location * I would prefer to stay as close as possible to where I am currently living\*   \*Condition – You've selected to stay as close to home as possible. What is the maximum distance in hours you would be willing to travel or move for your placement? | |
| **Do you have any experience living in rural or remote locations?**  Y/N | **If yes, please provide more detail.** |
| **Do you have any additional comments about the preferred location of your placement?**  eg. Desire to join local clubs or community service organisations, attend camp drafts, join a football club, be near to coastal locations, a mostly warm climate, ability to join a church, accessibility of healthcare, etc. | |
| **Would you be willing to find your own accommodation if a farm placement did not include board?**  Y/N  *Please note, not all placements provide accommodation, and Participants may have to find their own, at their own cost.* | |
| **Please let us know if you have other available accommodations such as family/friends in other locations.** |  |
| **Please list any specific requirements for accommodation.**  eg. I have a pet, I have horses, I’d like single-sex accommodation only, etc.  *Please note, pets are only allowed on placement on the agreement of the host producer. Understand that, due to various reasons, many placements are unsuitable for domestic pets.* |  |
| **I am:**   * A school leaver (ie. Completed high school in the 18 months prior to this application) * Other eligible applicant | |
| **What is your highest level of education?**   * Did not complete high school * High School * Vocational Training/Trade Qualification * Undergraduate degree * Postgraduate degree | |
| **Please list the secondary school you attended most.** | |
| **Do you have any of these specialist skills?**   * Beginner Horse Riding * Intermediate to Advanced Horse Riding * Beginner Motorbike Riding * Intermediate to Advanced Motorbike Riding * Beginner Quad Bike/Side-by-Side Riding * Intermediate to Advanced Quad Bike/Side-by-Side Riding * Ag or Non-ag Machinery Operations in a professional environment | |
| **Are you able to commence an on-farm role in Jan-March 2026?**  Y/N | **If no, please provide comments.** |
| **Do you know another applicant that you are you hoping to be placed near-to in the 2026 intake?**  Y/N | **If yes, please list their full name.** |
| **Please note that you are expected to complete a full 10-12 months on farm. Do you understand?**  Y/N | |
| **If successful in securing a place in the 2026 intake, you will be required to attend an in-person Orientation Week in March 2026 (dates and location tbc). Your travel and accommodation will be provided for this. Do you foresee any reason why you would not be able to attend?**  Y/N  If yes, please provide more detail. | |
| **How did you find out about this program?**   * Social Media * Google/Desktop search * Careers Expo * Referred by friend or family * Referred by past AgCAREERSTART Participant * Referred by teacher or careers counsellor * TV/Radio/Newspaper * Other (please list):   If you were referred by a past Participant, please tell us who so we can thank them: | |
| **Is there anything else you would like to tell us about yourself, or your placement interests?** | |
| **Please attach your completed reference check as a PDF document.** | |
| **Please attach your latest CV as a PDF document.** | |

If you have any questions, please contact the AgCAREERSTART team; [agcareerstart@nff.org.au](mailto:agcareerstart@nff.org.au) or 02 6269 5602.

Statement of Intent

This Statement of Intent (SOI) will be used by the AgCAREERSTART team and potential employers to assess your suitability for a place the program.

## **INSTRUCTIONS**

**Your Statement of Intent can be in written or video form. It MUST be 800 words, or 5 minutes in length.**

If written, your SOI will be input into a text field in the online application form. If video, you must upload to a cloud-based program (such as DropBox, or YouTube), and the link entered into the appropriate field on the application.

There are couple of key points that you should address in your statement, including:

* Tell us about the kind of person you are. Why are you a great candidate for the program?
* What interests you about farm work or working in agriculture?
* What unique skills or experience do you have to offer (this includes transferrable skills)?
* What are you looking to get out of an AgCAREERSTART placement?
* Tell us about your long-term goals!
* Talk about any relevant experience or exposure you have with agriculture or farming. Don’t worry if you don’t!
* Throughout the program, you will receive a $3,000 Training and Engagement Bursary to use throughout the year. How do you see yourself using the bursary?

Other things to think about:

* The Statement of Intent is the primary method through which you will be assessed for a position in the program and will influence your ultimate placement.
* Remember that your potential Host Farmer will read this application.
* It is a professional document, please ensure attention to detail. Whilst it is not assessed for academic rigour, you should put time and effort into ensuring you put your best foot forward.
* Feel free to be as creative as you wish with your Statement. Tell us about you!
* **Being too specific in your desired farm type or farm location in your SOI may inhibit your ability to be placed.**
* Good applications demonstrate that you have researched and thought about what the AgCAREERSTART program can offer you.
* It’s ok if you don’t have agricultural experience. Tell us about your other transferrable skills, community involvement, or other activities that you think your Host Farmer might be interested to know.