

MUSHROOM INDUSTRY OVERSEAS STUDY TOUR SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The AMGA is pleased to announce the launch of the Mushroom Fund Scholarship Program, a new levy-funded program designed to upskill Australian mushroom industry participants by providing funding for overseas study tours in 2024 and 2025.

The Mushroom Fund Scholarship Program is a levy-funded international education study program, which is open to Australian *Agaricus* mushroom growers and compost producers, their employees, and Australian mushroom industry researchers. Partial funding is available for industry participants and emerging leaders to attend conferences, events and training courses, incorporating visits to mushroom farms and compost facilities overseas.

This year, six successful scholarship participants will be awarded partial funding of up to \$2,650, to attend the Australia and New Zealand Mushroom Growers Conference, which will be held in Auckland, New Zealand, from 22-24 October this year, with an additional trip to Christchurch on Friday 25 October, to tour Meadow Mushrooms.

This educational project is funded by the Hort Innovation Mushroom Fund and forms the 'outbound' component of the levy-funded research project MU22010 Mushroom International Study Tours - inbound and outbound. The project is managed by the AMGA, with international study tours facilitated by Australian Mushroom industry expert, Judy Allan.

WHAT'S ON OFFER?

Six Scholarships are on offer, which will award successful applicants partial funding (for one person) to attend the Australia and New Zealand Mushroom Growers Conference 2024.

Travel dates are strictly Monday 21st to Friday 25th October 2024.

Each successful applicant will receive funding for:

- One full access ticket to the Australia and New Zealand Mushroom Growers Conference, which includes Mercer Mushroom farm tour, networking dinners and exhibition.
- Additional Farm Tour Package, including flight from Auckland to Christchurch, tour of Meadow Mushrooms and airport transfers.
- 5-nights' accommodation in New Zealand (4 nights in Auckland, 1 night in Christchurch).

- All internal travel costs, while studying in New Zealand.
- All meals while studying in New Zealand.

Total Scholarship funding up to \$2,650 per recipient.

*International flights and travel insurance the responsibility of the scholarship participant.

WHAT IS 'PARTIAL FUNDING'?

This levy-funded project funds on-the-ground costs while studying overseas.

The recipient is required to pay for their own travel insurance and return international flights (i.e., from Australia to Auckland, and Christchurch to Australia).

Proof of booking is required to secure scholarship funding. See timeline for further information.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Six Australian mushroom industry participants will be awarded scholarship funding. Participants are eligible based on the following criteria:

- Australian resident
- Over 18 years of age
- Categorized as one of the following:
 - » Employee at an Australian *Agaricus bisporus* farm or compost facility
 - » Owner of an *Agaricus bisporus* farm or compost facility
 - » Researcher for the Australian Mushroom industry

As this is a levy-funded program, applications are not open to exotic mushroom growers or start-up farms.

HOW TO APPLY?

- Visit the AMGA Website to download the application form. <https://australianmushroomgrowers.com.au/mushroom-fund-scholarship-program-2024/>
- Application forms are to be returned to Leah Bramich, AMGA General Manager, via leah.bramich@amga.asn.au
- Applications must be received no later than 5pm AEST, Thursday 25 April 2024.

(Late application forms will not be accepted.)

HOW IS IT JUDGED?

Six Australian mushroom industry participants will be awarded scholarship funding.

Your application will be fairly assessed by the project reference group, which includes Hort Innovation, AMGA and industry representatives. Conflicts of interest will be managed accordingly.

Hort Innovation MUSHROOM FUND

This project has been funded by Hort Innovation using the mushroom research and development levy and funds from the Australian Government. For more information on the fund and strategic levy investment visit horticulture.com.au

TIMELINE

6 March	Applications open
25 April	Applications close
1 May	Participants notified of successful application
1 June	Signed participant agreements due
1 August	Participants to provide proof of flights booked, and travel insurance
22 October	Leave for Auckland
23 - 25 October	Australia and New Zealand Mushroom Growers Conference (All expenses paid)
26 October	Additional tour to Christchurch, to tour Meadow Mushrooms (All expenses paid)

Full terms and conditions and the application form can be accessed here: <https://australianmushroomgrowers.com.au/mushroom-fund-scholarship-program-2024/>

For more information about the Mushroom industry scholarship program, please contact AMGA General Manager, Leah Bramich, on 0450 504 675, or email leah.bramich@amga.asn.au

Hort Innovation MUSHROOM FUND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM 2024

Australian mushroom growers and compost producer levy payers can apply for the **MUSHROOM FUND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**, to receive partial funding to attend the **Australia + New Zealand Mushroom Growers Conference in Auckland**, from Tuesday 22 to Friday 25 October, 2024

Scholarship Recipients Receive:

- ✓ 3-Day Conference & Expo Tickets
- ✓ Additional Farm Tour of Meadow Mushrooms, including flight from Auckland to Christchurch
- ✓ 5- nights Accommodation
- ✓ Internal travel and meal costs
- ✓ Helping recipients to attend the event, and focus on learning

*International flights and travel insurance to be paid by recipients.



To apply, visit the AMGA Website:
www.australianmushroomgrowers.com.au/events

APPLY NOW



This project is managed by the AMGA, and funded via MU22010 Mushroom Industry Inbound Outbound Study Tours. For more information about the project or the scholarships, contact Leah Bramich, AMGA General Manager on 0450504675 or visit the AMGA Website for full terms and conditions.

Hort Innovation MUSHROOM FUND

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