

Mixed Farming Intern – Limestone Coast

March 2026 to February 2027

Position Description

This twelve month full time position offers a kick start or extension to a career in agricultural research, development and extension, and drought resilience in mixed farming systems in the Limestone Coast.

The Intern will be employed by the MacKillop Farm Management Group (MFMG), the farming systems group based in the medium and high rainfall zone of the Limestone Coast of South Australia (SA). MFMG has a membership base of over 300 farmers and agricultural industry representatives. Operating for 26 years, MFMG has extensive experience in delivering agricultural research, development and extension throughout the Limestone Coast of SA and beyond.

The position:

- **Salary** - \$66,000 to \$70,000 per annum (dependent on skills, knowledge and experience)
- **Tenure** - 12 month full time contract, commencing March 2026 (negotiable)
- **Location** - based in Naracoorte (SARDI will provide office space)
- **Reporting** – the position will report to MFMG’s CEO and will work closely with the MFMG team and the SARDI Agronomy team at Naracoorte
- **Other stakeholders** – the Intern will be supported by MFMG project managers, local commercial agronomists and local livestock and agricultural consultants

To maximise the value to the Intern and to MFMG and our partners, the successful applicant will be required to live in the region, be involved in field and office activities, events and meetings. Travel within the region and from time to time, outside of the region will be required (including interstate as appropriate).

The Intern will:

- Gain practical knowledge of:
 - grains and livestock research and development
 - drought resilience and preparedness
 - pasture research and development
- Develop a network of researchers, advisors and leading growers
- Work closely with the SARDI Agronomy team at Naracoorte
- Gain skills and experience in:
 - applied field agronomy research: planning, managing, measuring and analysing field experiments
 - project management, communications and extension
- Develop an understanding of and participate in a farming systems group’s role in agricultural research and extension and the organisational operations

Position roles and duties:

1. Research and development:

- Undertake a research project including:
 - Background research, identify research question and development of trial protocols
 - Identification of suitable paddocks for field trial and/or case studies
 - Trial design and setup
 - Crop / trial management
 - Soil sampling and plant assessments
 - Data entry and statistical analysis
 - Collaborate with growers, advisers and researchers to achieve research outcomes
- Participate in projects and trials that have been prioritised by MFMG's members

2. Extension (communication and events)

- Undertake communication and extension activities such as compiling MFMG's seasonal newsletter and trial results book, writing podcast questions, producing videos and writing content for social media and fortnightly newsletters
- Be involved in planning and developing extension workshops
- Attend relevant MFMG events and where appropriate introduce speakers, present and facilitate question time and network with growers, sponsors, advisors and researchers
- Assist with MFMG's events, including workshops, crop walks, podcasts, videos, field days, and other events as appropriate

3. Project management

- Ensure expenditure is within project budgets, and complies with MFMG policies and procedures
- Support project monitoring and evaluation activities

4. Relationship management

- Attend and participate in relevant MFMG events and meetings including the MFMG Operations Committee
- Provide written reports on activities and outcomes in a timely manner prior to MFMG Board and Operations Committee meetings
- Foster relationships with the Board, Operations Committee, relevant researchers, organisations, people and contractors
- Participate in industry events such as GRDC updates, MLA updates, Livestock Advisor Updates, Ag Ex Alliance Forum, Lucerne Australia's annual information breakfast and SAGIT and SA Drought Hub activities
- Communicate and collaborate with relevant staff of other farming system groups and other groups as appropriate

5. Other

- Participate in relevant training such as induction, communications, presentation and facilitation, experimental design workshop and statistical analysis of agronomic experiments
- Gain firsthand experience of key seasonal activities, operations and challenges by aligning to a mixed farm enterprise
- Assist with the delivery of MFMG's Annual Operational Plan, in collaboration with the MFMG CEO

Selection Criteria

Essential

- Demonstrated interest in agricultural research and extending this information to farmers
- Ability to prioritise tasks, address what is most important and adapt to changing circumstances
- High levels of written and verbal communication, able to write project plans, accurate reports and documents that meet audience needs and contain the necessary information to achieve their purpose and articulate verbally to stakeholders
- Manage own time to achieve key outcomes
- Have rights to work in Australia
- Hold a current Australian driver's licence
- Be based in Naracoorte at the SARDI office

Desirable

- Completed studies in Agricultural Science (or about to) or equivalent in the past five years

Apply

To apply please submit your resume and a cover letter outlining how this opportunity fits with your career goals and how you would like to contribute to Australian agriculture to ceo@mackillopgroup.com.au by 5.00pm (SA time), 4 September 2025.

Contact

For further information please contact:

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August 2025

This internship program is supported by MacKillop Farm Management Group, the South Australian Grain Industry Fund (SAGIT), the South Australian Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub (SA Drought Hub) and the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI), a division of the Department of Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA).