



Australian Government

Wine Australia

**Wine
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Wine**

Application guide Incubator Initiative

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Wine Australia

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Introduction

This guide was developed to assist candidates to apply for Incubator Initiative funding from Wine Australia.

The guide provides information on:

- the purpose of the Incubator Initiative
- eligibility for funding
- applying for funding
- our approval process and criteria, and
- how to commence an online application for funding.

Please contact us at applications@wineaustralia.com or on (08) 8228 2000 if you require further information or assistance.

About us

Wine Australia is the single Australian Government statutory service body for the Australian grape and wine community.

We support a prosperous Australian grape and wine community by investing in research and development, building the international and domestic markets, disseminating knowledge, encouraging adoption and protecting the reputation of Australian wine.

We are funded by grape growers and winemakers through levies and user-pays charges, and by the Australian Government, which provides matching funding for research, development and adoption (RD&A) investments.

We focus on extracting the full value of our investments in RD&A for the benefit of our levy payers, the Australian Government, and the wider community. Our investments are guided by the sector's strategic priorities which are detailed in our [Wine Australia Strategic Plan 2020-2025](#).

Purpose of Incubator Initiative

All of Wine Australia's investments are aligned with priorities identified in the [Wine Australia Strategic Plan 2020-2025](#). One activity is the Regional Program, which promotes adoption by extension of research findings to grapegrowers and winemakers throughout Australia. More information on the Regional Program is available [here](#).

Alignment of the Incubator Initiative with the Regional Program provides value to the Australian wine sector and benefits to early career researchers and serves three main purposes:

- an opportunity to undertake regionally tailored research to answer a 'local' research question
- provision of funding for short-term projects to assist early career researchers to move into grape and wine research or to build upon the experience of researchers already in the sector, and
- improving the research link with regions.

The Incubator Initiative is a three-way partnership between Wine Australia, regional associations and research organisations where:

- Wine Australia provides the framework and funding support
- regional associations provide relevant 'research questions', in-kind support and the target audience for extension of findings, and

- research organisations provide scientific rigour, resources and funding support to assist and develop their staff.

Funding

Each applicant can apply for up to \$20,000 (excl. GST) per annum. The amount requested must be at least matched by a co-contribution from the research organisation (cash and/or in-kind). This commitment must be secured by the researcher prior to lodgement of the application with Wine Australia.

The total amount will provide support for research-related costs including salary (and on-costs) for the applicant, operating expenses (e.g. consumables, laboratory analysis etc.), project-related travel (car hire, fuel, airfares etc.) and capital items.

Successful projects will be initially funded for up to 12 months. An application may be submitted to continue successful projects, in subsequent funding calls.

Eligibility and application process

The Incubator Initiative is open to early career researchers working for an Australian-based research organisation. Early career is defined as having five years or less of research experience since completing a PhD or Masters degree. Applications will also be accepted from researchers who have submitted a PhD or Masters thesis and are awaiting the outcome.

Applicants need to provide their current Curriculum Vitae and evidence of completion or submission of their PhD or Masters thesis. A supervisor should be identified and a letter demonstrating their support for the applicant, proposed research and associated funding should be provided.

Project applications usually open in March and are due in April. The research topic should be selected from a list of researchable questions identified by Regional Program partners and published on the Wine Australia website. Researchers should then approach the appropriate Regional Program Partner to develop a project which aligns with the Wine Australia Strategic Plan, clearly addresses a regional issue and has the potential for extension of findings through the Regional Program. Projects developed without clear evidence of consultation and collaboration with a Regional Program partner will not be considered.

Once a project plan has been developed, an application should be submitted by the researcher via email (applications@wineaustralia.com) using the template provided [here](#).

The timing of the application process is as follows:



Project assessment process

Researchers and Regional Program partners are advised that key criteria must be met in order to attain financial support for an Incubator Initiative project. This is a competitive process and projects will be assessed for individual merit and compared against other proposals in each application call cycle. In each year Wine Australia will generally support a maximum of one project per Regional Program cluster.

We do not invest in activities that are based on political aims or promotion of products, regional activities or organisations, nor where there is no market failure (this refers to activities that could reasonably be expected to be provided by the market on a cost recovery/profit basis). Topics must be aligned with priorities identified in the [Wine Australia Strategic Plan 2020-2025](#).

All applications will be assessed using the following criteria:

- a) Was there sufficient consultation and collaboration with a Regional Program partner in development of the proposal?
- b) Does the proposal clearly address the research question?
- c) Is the project feasible as defined in the research plan?
- d) Is the proposal good value for the scale of investment?
- e) How innovative is the proposal?
- f) Does the applicant have a good track record?
- g) Will the proposal benefit the professional development of the applicant?
- h) What is the likelihood of the project delivering material suitable for extension and adoption through the Regional Program?
- i) Is the plan for extension adequate?
- j) Will the proposal benefit the wider grape and wine community?

A panel made up of Wine Australia management and Regional Program partners will assess the proposals. Other internal or external reviewers may be sought, based on their expertise, at the panel's discretion.

All applicants will be advised of the outcome of their proposal in writing. For approved proposals, Wine Australia may approve funding for all or part of a proposal and may attach conditions to any approval. Wine Australia management will work through any required changes with applicants prior to issuing a contract. Projects will commence on 1 July in the year of application.

Reporting

The research findings, implications and recommendations will be summarised in a written report submitted to Wine Australia. In addition, a verbal report will be delivered to the Regional Program partner and a final financial reconciliation submitted by the researcher via CIMS (Wine Australia's project management system). All three components of the final report are due by the project end date of 30 June in the year following application.

The written report should be suitable for both Wine Australia and the Regional Program partner and will be published on the Wine Australia website. It should detail what extension material has been prepared and how the material could be delivered to the participating region. Any subject matter expert should be able to deliver the findings from the research, based on the content of the report. Funding for actual delivery of any extension material will not occur as part of the Incubator Initiative and instead will occur through Regional Program funding in subsequent year(s).

A reporting template and guidelines can be found [here](#).

Further information

If you require further information on the application or assessment process, please contact Belinda Bramley (Wine Australia) on belinda.bramley@wineaustralia.com or (08) 8228 2000.