



What is a HDR Research internship?

A structured, short-term research placement with an external partner (government, business or not-for-profit) where you apply your research skills to real-world challenges

- Duration: 60–180 FTE days (min. 3 months)
- Format: In-person, remote or hybrid. Locally or internationally
- Paid or unpaid

Think: Data analysis, museum curatorial research, health co-design, machine learning, public policy evaluation and more

Why do an internship?

- Apply your skills in real-world contexts
- Build confidence and career pathways
- Broaden networks beyond academia
- Gain workplace and communication experience
- Enhance your PhD with practical outcomes



Eligibility Checklist

To be eligible, you must:

- Be a currently enrolled PhD candidate at UWA
- Have supervisor approval
- Must align with your PhD research (directly, tangentially or broadly)
- Submit your paperwork within 18 months (FT) or 36 months (PT) of your start date
- Partner with an eligible research end-user
- Be within your candidature period

Types of Internships

Bespoke or Advertised

You apply for these through platforms like APR.Intern, iPREP, sourced through your, or your supervisor's network or via university channels

You can organise and design your own internship, including with community organisations. They are flexible, optional and aligned with your research interests

Embedded

Automatically included as part of your PhD (e.g. within a CRC, ITTC or grant-funded project). These placements are built into your program, no separate application needed

This toolkit focuses on bespoke and advertised internships

Your Internship Journey

1. AWARENESS

- Subscribe to the GRS newsletter
- Follow UWA GRS on LinkedIn
- Chat with other PhD students

2. FIND OPPORTUNITIES

- Talk to your supervisor
- Search iPREP, APR.Intern, CEED, CSIRO
- Check LinkedIn, Seek or community connections
- Industry newsletters

3. APPLICATION AND APPROVAL

- Confirm eligibility
- Define scope, goals and dates in HDRHub
- Draft agreement or letter of intent using GRS templates found [here](#)
- Get written supervisor approval
- Submit documents to HDRhub (at least 1 month before start)

4. ONBOARDING

- Prepare for the workplace (attire, schedule, meetings)
- Finalise signed documentation
- Input milestones in HDRhub
- Attend a prep workshop, book via HDRhub

5. DURING YOUR INTERNSHIP

- Track hours and progress
- Meet regularly with your host and supervisor
- Flag issues early with your host organisation, supervisor and/or GRS

6. COMPLETION

- Submit final report via HDRhub
- Complete your timesheet
- Celebrate and keep in touch with your host!

Your PhD is a unique opportunity outside the lab and library. Step into industry, expand your networks and open doors you didn't know existed

The earlier you start exploring internship options, the more opportunities you'll have to supercharge your research, your skills and your career

This is a quick guide. A full Student Guide with detailed steps, templates and case studies is available upon request. Email internships-grs@uwa.edu.au



Inside Industry: Real-World Impact of Research



Student: Naomi Preston

Research Focus: Interpretation of incarceration, punishment, and Aboriginal heritage at Fremantle Prison

Host Organisation: Fremantle Prison

Highlight: Contributed research and co-wrote an interpretation plan supporting Fremantle Prison's first Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan, connecting academic research with real-world heritage practice

GET IN TOUCH

CALL US

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FAQs

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VISIT US

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