

AGMARDT

FUTURE SHAPERS

Postdoctoral Scholarship Guidelines

AGMARDT POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP REGULATIONS

Whereas

- (a) These Regulations shall be known as the **AGMARDT Postdoctoral Fellowship Regulations**.
- (b) In these Regulations:
- i. The Agricultural and Marketing Research and Development Trust is referred to as "AGMARDT" or as the "Trust".
 - ii. The "Host Organisation" means the New Zealand University, Crown Research Institute (CRI) or private Research Organisation.
 - iii. The "Fellow" means the individual who will receive the Fellowship and undertake the associated research programme proposed in the Postdoctoral Fellowship application.
 - iv. The "Applicant" can be either a Researcher (Fellow) or would be Mentor who has identified a suitable Fellow and together with the research topic, meet the AGMARDT purpose and intent.
 - v. "Referees" means those people who are capable of judging the quality and capability of the Fellow, research project and Host organisation.
 - vi. The "Advisory Panel" means the panel appointed by AGMARDT to provide advice regarding the award of the Fellowships.
 - vii. "CV" means Curriculum Vitae, which is to be completed on the New Zealand RS&T Curriculum Vitae Template provided.

1. **Purpose:**

1.1 AGMARDT supports postdoctoral fellowship research to underpin the agricultural, pastoral, horticultural and forestry industries within New Zealand. This is to ensure that the research and training capabilities and capacity are supported at the level needed to achieve and maintain New Zealand's competitive advantage in international markets.

1.2 AGMARDT postdoctoral fellowships have a core purpose to engage and retain Researchers (Fellows) within the New Zealand science community. Applications will be accepted from either Researchers (Fellows) or would be Mentors who have identified a suitable Fellow and together with an appropriate research topic, meet the AGMARDT purpose and intent.

2. **Number:**

2.1 Up to three postdoctoral fellowships will be awarded in any one year at the absolute discretion of the Trustees.

3. **Research Areas:**

3.1 Fellowships are available within New Zealand for research in line with AGMARDT's purpose as set out in these Regulations.

3.2 The AGMARDT Trustees will consider research applications in any field related to agriculture, pastoral, horticulture or forestry for each funding round, however preference may be given to those research topics that fit within the specific guidelines provided by AGMARDT.

3.3 Research projects will align with the challenges and themes outlined in the Primary Sector Science Road Map and should focus on topical and relevant issues facing the primary sector today.

4. **Eligibility:**

4.1 The Applicant must be acceptable to the AGMARDT Trustees. Preference will be given to:

1. Proposed Fellows who are high achieving graduates beginning their careers in science in New Zealand, have a high sense of purpose and a clear idea of how to use the Fellowship to advance their research careers; and/or
2. Attracting appropriate international science skills to New Zealand where a proposed Fellow is at an early stage in their career and either a New Zealand qualified citizen returning or an internationally qualified scientist wishing to become a permanent resident in New Zealand and has proof of quality science output as would be expected of a Postdoctoral recipient.

Note: **Detailed CV's** are required and must be completed on the template provided.

4.2 The proposed Fellow must have either been awarded their PhD (or equivalent) or completed all requirements for the award. Where the award has not yet been conferred, the proposed Fellow must have received written notification from the appropriate authority advising that he/she has passed all written and oral examinations and is eligible to graduate.

4.3 In order to meet with the objectives of the Trust, funds must be applied to areas that promote and encourage New Zealand's interest in the agricultural, horticultural and forestry industries.

The Trust will need to be satisfied that the Fellow is likely to remain in New Zealand on completion of the Fellowship and be involved in the research area that is aligned with the proposed project. Therefore the opportunities for future employment for the Fellow should be clearly stated in the application form.

5. Selection Criteria:

5.1 Fellowships under this programme will be selected on the basis of (in order of importance):

- The Fellows demonstration of academic excellence, depth of understanding of their proposed research and how the fellowship will contribute to their personal development;
- Excellence and relevance of the proposed project in terms of the research area;
- The academic and research record of the Host Organisation Supervisor;
- Excellence of the Host Organisation Team in the proposed area of research;
- Logistical and intellectual support offered by the Host Organisation;
- Intention for the Fellow to be employed in New Zealand on completion of the Fellowship;
- How the project will meet a recognised capability or capacity short-fall;
- The track-record of the institution in using AGMARDT Postdoctoral Fellowships;
- Quality and integrity of the application. Poor quality applications will not be considered.
- AGMARDT reserves the right not to accept any proposal

5.2 Referee Reports must be provided as per the application form. The reports are confidential to AGMARDT and its advisory panel and must attest to:

- The excellence and relevance of the proposed project in terms of the research area;
- The academic and research record of the Supervisor;
- The resources of the Host research Organisation relevant to the proposed study;
- The logistical and intellectual support offered by the Host;
- The scope for intellectual and professional development of the individual researcher;
- Where possible evaluate the suitability of the proposed Fellow to undertake the project.

Please note:

- Referee reports are provided to AGMARDT in confidence and will not be made available to applicants.
- Referee reports are for internal reference only and AGMARDT does not undertake to follow up on referee reports.
- Where the project referees are unable to evaluate the suitability of the proposed Fellows, AGMARDT must be advised.
- It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure Referee reports are received by AGMARDT within two weeks following the closing date for application.

- The AGMARDT Postdoctoral Fellowship Advisory Panel may independently seek reports from individuals it considers competent to referee the proposal and the proposed Fellow.
- Due consideration must be given to Referee selection. Referees must be capable of judging the quality and capability building nature of the proposed project together with a sound understanding of the Host organisation.
- Referees must not derive any benefit from or be in any way associated with the proposed project.

6. Tenure:

6.1 The Fellowship shall be for an agreed period of two years from the date on which the Fellow embarks upon the project.

6.2 The Fellowship must commence within one year of the date the grant is confirmed otherwise the Fellowship can be withdrawn.

6.3 An extension for a third year may be considered but only by exception and will be subject to application to and approval by the AGMARDT Trustees (in their sole and absolute discretion). In making their decision the Trustees will, amongst any other criteria which the Trustees consider to be relevant, consider the significance and consequence of the additional research and whether satisfactory progress has been made over the initial two years of the Fellowship.

6.3 The Fellow shall work full-time on the project during the tenure of the Fellowship.

6.4 The Fellowship shall not be tenable with other Fellowships, except with the written agreement of the Trust.

7. Fellowship Payments:

7.1 The Fellowship will be made by way of an Agreement between the Host Organisation, the Fellow and AGMARDT, which will supersede these Regulations. The Research Organisation will contract separately with the Fellow. The Host Organisations normal conditions of work and use of facilities shall apply to the Fellow and work not contained in the agreed project outside the Host Organisation is not permitted.

7.2 AGMARDT will provide a grant of up to **\$210,000 (GST inclusive)** for a **two-year Fellowship** by means specified in the Agreement. This will include a contribution towards direct costs of up to **\$30,000 (GST inclusive)** per annum and allow the Host Organisation to pay a stipend of **\$75,000 per annum to the Fellow** (this sum does not attract GST). The Host Organisation may top up the Fellowship stipend.

7.3 Should a third year extension be applied for and granted by the AGMARDT Trustees, the level of grant payments and conditions will remain unchanged as to what was provided for in year two of the Fellowship.

7.4 Payment will be withheld if the six-monthly progress reports are not submitted on time. The final payment will be withheld pending receipt and approval of the final report.

8. Reporting, Dissemination and Acknowledgement:

8.1 The Host Research Organisation shall provide six-monthly progress reports to AGMARDT describing in a minimum of two pages the progress of the project, objectives achieved, results obtained and problems encountered. The Host Organisation shall submit a final report to AGMARDT on results of the project, as well as copies of any papers or publications produced in the course of the Fellowship. A highly technical report is acceptable but it must be accompanied by a summary that will be understandable to a layperson.

8.2 Unless otherwise agreed to by the Trust and Applicant, it is a condition of the Fellowship that the Host Organisation must make available to other researchers, industry groups and farmers/growers, the findings of any research undertaken in New Zealand or overseas as a result of the Fellowship.

8.3 AGMARDT must be acknowledged in all publications, presentations and other forums based on work funded by the AGMARDT Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme.

9. Intellectual Property Rights:

9.1 AGMARDT shall make no claim to ownership and/or control of any Intellectual Property Rights arising from, or in association with, the project. However, AGMARDT does require to be informed of the intellectual property arising from its investments in research on a confidential basis and how such projects are being developed for the benefit of the New Zealand agribusiness.

10. Suspension or Termination:

10.1 The Trust may suspend or terminate a Fellowship if, in its opinion, the Research Organisation is not diligently pursuing the project or is not complying with the terms and conditions of the Agreement. Under these circumstances, the Host Organisation may be required to reimburse the Trust for funds expended. Termination may occur in certain other circumstances, as set out in the Agreement.

11. Liability

11.1 The only obligation of the Trust is to provide the funding on the terms and conditions of the Agreement.

12. Disclaimer

12.1 AGMARDT accepts no liability or responsibility for the manner in which work in connection with the Fellowship is undertaken.