

Willunga Farmers Market Farmers Scholarship Application

Willunga Farmers Market Farmers Scholarship

The Willunga Farmers Market Farmers Scholarship assists people to enter and create viable, long term careers in the agricultural industry.

The scholarship has been established in response to significantly decreasing numbers of primary producers, both nationwide and on the Fleurieu Peninsula. The scholarship will be paid to the eligible scholarship recipient over a 12-month period, as appropriate and after an initial 3 to 6-month preplanning period, to allow for the set up of a business growing primary produce on the Fleurieu Peninsula.

The scholarship recipient will receive:

- Start up capital to grow primary produce on the Fleurieu Peninsula
- Mentorship in small business management and farming practice
- a guaranteed licence to trade at Willunga Farmers Market (WFM) to supply primary produce and a weekly stall site for up to two years, with the first six months free of charge.

Applicants will be required to attend a minimum of 3 capacity building and or mentoring activities. These activities will partly be delivered by the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board and the Willunga Farmers Market and may include topics such as Regenerative agriculture, pest, animal and plant managements, soil health and property planning. Proof of attendance at other relevant capacity building workshops will also be considered.

Funding

There is an initial 3 to 6-month preplanning period, after which Willunga Farmers Market will provide \$12,000 start up capital to the successful applicant. This capital can be used for items such as seeds, tools, land rental, insurance etc.

These funds will be made available to recipients in the first year of the program, with the scholarship recipient aiming to be self-sufficient by the end of the scholarship period.

Another \$3,000 managed by WFM will be dedicated to the mentorship of the scholarship recipient in small business management and farming practices. WFM will provide appropriate mentors, with sessions allocated to small business management and industry specific farming practices.

Scholarship Applicant Requirements

- Individuals or groups of not more than 6 people are eligible for the Willunga Farmers Market Farmers Scholarship.
- All applicants must fulfil the requirements of the application package and recipients will be bound by a contract issued by Willunga Farmers Market.
- All recipients must be available to work in the proposed business and attend small business and farming practice mentorship sessions in the first 12 months after commencing the scholarship.
- Recipients will be responsible for all costs associated with developing, growing and selling fresh produce for Willunga Farmers Market, including but not restricted to rent of land and insurance.

- Recipients must prioritise selling their produce at Willunga Farmers Market. Recipients are not restricted from selling their produce elsewhere, however they must as a priority have produce to fill a weekly stall at Willunga Farmers Market.
- Willunga Farmers Market reserves the right to undertake a financial audit of any operation using Willunga Farmers Market scholarship funds and to issue directives based on the outcome of that audit where necessary.
- Recipients must remain in the program (growing primary produce and selling this produce at Willunga Farmers Market) for a minimum period of 24 months. If a recipient leaves the program before the 12-month anniversary of receiving the initial scholarship payment, the recipient may be required to reimburse all or some of the funds awarded under the scholarship.
- Willunga Farmers Market reserves the right to cease the scholarship at any time if the requirements are not being met.

In return, Willunga Farmers Market will provide:

- \$12,000 cash component to be used towards the development of a financially sustainable farming enterprise
- Research and options for land on which to farm or prospective partnerships with existing farmers/ land-owners (any and all agreements and rent with the land owner is to be the responsibility of the scholarship recipient.)
- Small business and farming practice mentorship
- A permanent stall site at the Willunga Farmers Market as long as the recipient continues to grow primary produce on the Fleurieu Peninsula, subject to WFM Code of Practice conditions. This stall site will be given to scholarship recipient free of charge for the first 6 months, then charged at the current stallholder rate
- Support and information on produce gaps and produce needed in the market
- A sample contract for guidance for use of land contractual arrangements, if required.

Critical Dates

Applications open 1 February 2022

Applications close COB 31 March 2022

Interviews will be held week commencing 11 April 2022

* Shortlisted applicants must be available for interview during this time

The scholarship recipient will be announced May 2022

Recipient will be required to undertake a 3-month pre-planning period with appointed mentors before commencing farming. In this period the business plan and budget will be refined with appointed mentors, to be submitted to selection panel for final approval. Once this plan is approved the recipient will receive an initial payment of \$5,000 to break ground and commence farming. Balance of payments will be made in instalments inline with agreed business plan and reporting requirements.

An additional 3-month planning period may be undertaken prior to initial payment of scholarship funds if recipient is requested to make changes to business plan.

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Please complete this application and return to manager@willungafarmersmarket.com, together with the following attachments.

- Draft Business Plan for proposed business
- Draft Budget for \$12,000 cash component
- Contract for land to be farmed*

*NB: If applicable. With respect to the land to be farmed, it is important that you can identify the land and arrangements for its use. Contractual arrangements can be finalised at a later date but prior to commencement of scholarship. Please contact Willunga Farmers Market on 08 8556 4297 if you require more information or assistance finding land available on which to farm.

Critical Dates

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The scholarship recipient will be announced in May 2022

Recipient will be required to undertake a 3-month pre-planning period with appointed mentors before commencing farming. In this period the business plan and budget will be refined with appointed mentors, to be submitted to selection panel for approval. Once this plan is approved the recipient will receive an initial payment of \$5,000 to break ground and commence farming. Balance of payments will be made in instalments inline with agreed business plan and reporting requirements.

An additional 3-month planning period may be undertaken prior to initial payment of scholarship funds if recipient is requested to make changes to business plan.

Applicant details

Name

Date of birth

Address

Home phone number

Mobile phone number

Email address

Please list the names and contact details of two referees:

Name:

Position:

Contact number:

Name:

Position:

Contact number:

The Farmers Scholarship allows for a collective of no more than six people to apply, all of whom must meet the eligibility criteria detailed above. If you are applying as a collective please provide the full names, date of birth and contact details of each member below:

Full Name	Date of Birth	Primary Contact Number

Your Proposed Business

Are you able to participate in small business and agricultural training?

Yes No

Please list any relevant training / workshops you have already attended

Do you have any medical conditions that are likely to be exacerbated by or preclude you from operating this business? If yes, please provide details.

Yes No

Have you ever operated a commercial agricultural or horticultural business before? If yes, please provide details

Yes No

Have you ever received financial assistance for a commercial agricultural or horticultural business before?

Yes No

Do you understand that your proposed business must comply with all relevant statutes, regulations, by-laws and requirements of any Commonwealth, state or local authority laws?

Yes No

Will your proposed business be established, located and solely operated within the Fleurieu Peninsula?

Yes No

Do you have land on which to grow your produce?

Yes No

If yes, please provide the street address and details of access to water

Provide a brief description of your proposed business and **attach a business plan, including any market research undertaken, to this application.**

Briefly describe your employment history, with particular reference to any farming experience in no more than 200 words:

Briefly describe why you want to farm in no more than 200 words:

Briefly describe your understanding of the time required, and the amount of manual labour required to undertake a farming enterprise

List areas of mentorship you believe would benefit you most

Budget

\$12,000 will be made available to the successful applicant.

Applicants must include a budget proposal for this \$12,000 with this application.

This can include items such as insurance, seeds, tools, land rental, water etc.

These funds will be made available to recipients in the first 12 months of the program, with the scholarship recipient aiming to be self sufficient by the end of the scholarship period.

Requirements

- Individuals or groups of not more than 6 people, are eligible for the Willunga Farmers Market Farmers Scholarship.
- All applicants must fulfil the requirements of the application package and recipients will be bound by a contract issued by Willunga Farmers Market.
- All recipients must attend small business mentorship sessions and industry specific agricultural mentorship sessions in the 12 months after commencing the scholarship.
- Recipients will be responsible for all costs associated with developing, growing and selling fresh produce for Willunga Farmers Market, including but not restricted to rent of land and insurance.
- Recipients must prioritise selling their produce at Willunga Farmers Market. Recipients are not restricted from selling their produce elsewhere, however they must ensure that there is always enough produce to fill a weekly stall at Willunga Farmers Market.
- Willunga Farmers Market reserves the right to undertake a financial audit of any operation using Willunga Farmers Market scholarship funds and to issue directives based on the outcome of that audit where necessary.
- Recipients must remain in the program (growing primary produce and selling this produce at Willunga Farmers Market) for a minimum period of 24 months. If a recipient leaves the program before the 12-month anniversary of receiving the initial scholarship payment, the recipient may be eligible for reimbursement of all funds awarded under the scholarship.

In return, Willunga Farmers Market will provide:

- Research and options for land on which to farm or prospective partnerships with existing farmers/ land owners (any and all agreements and rent with the land owner to be the recipient responsibility.)
- Small business and industry specific agriculture/ horticulture mentorship
- A permanent stall site in the market as long as the recipient continues to grow Primary Produce on the Fleurieu Peninsula. This stall site will be given to scholarship recipient free for the first 6 months, then charged at the current stallholder rate
- Support and information on produce gaps and produce needed in the market.

Your declaration

I certify that I have read the conditions governing the Farmers Scholarship and the information I have provided in this application is complete and correct to the best of my knowledge. I acknowledge that false information may lead to refusal, suspension or termination of my involvement in the program.

Signature: _____

Date: / /