



5 August 2020

## **Subsidized Harvest Skills Training for Seasonal Labourers To Work On Farms in the 2020 Western Australian Grain Harvest**

The Grain Industry Association of Western Australia (GIWA) [www.giwa.org.au](http://www.giwa.org.au) is pitching in to help address the COVID-19 impacted seasonal skilled labour shortage on farms for the 2020 grain harvest in Western Australia.

Through the GIWA Careers in Grain project [www.careersingrain.org.au](http://www.careersingrain.org.au), GIWA is offering up to 36 scholarships for a residential 4-day, entry-level upskilling (non-accredited) Harvest Skills Program, valued in total at more than \$25,000.

GIWA CEO Larissa Taylor says, “The grain industry is looking for practical people who are current residents in Western Australia, available for full time employment in the WA wheatbelt for approx. 8 to 12 weeks to work on farms during the forthcoming grain harvest in 2020. This is a golden opportunity to experience how wonderful living and working in agricultural communities in regional WA can be.”

The COVID-19 international border closures mean farm businesses are short international 417/462 visa workers and need skilled seasonal workers to help harvest the 2020 grain crop.

GIWA is partnering with the farm skills training service provider 2 WorkIn Oz <http://2workinoz.com.au/scholarship-details/>, based 1.5 hours east of Perth in York, to offer these scholarships.

Successful scholarship recipients in the Harvest Skills Program will:

- join a small group (up to 8) on a residential training farm in York over 4 days
- make friends and gain a support network for regional work
- be inducted into farm occupational health and safety processes
- learn general farm skills, daily vehicle and machinery servicing and maintenance
- practice harvest logistics communications and decision-making
- drive farm machinery including utes with a trailer, chaser bins and headers
- operate the comms and IT systems supporting GPS enabled harvest machinery
- participate in ‘101’ entry-level fencing, sheep and livestock handling, and
- have sound English language skills

The total cost of the 4 day Harvest Skills residential training program in York is normally \$949. GIWA Careers in Grain offers a 75% subsidy of \$712 per participant.

**Successful applicants are required to:**

- submit an application including CV and a statement of intent via <http://2workinoz.com.au/scholarship-details/>
- complete an interview process
- hold a current C class licence
- contribute a 25% or \$237 upfront payment before commencing
- nominate which week they are available for training, between now and the end of September

The cost of dormitory accommodation at 2WorkInOz in York and all meals are included in the program, but participants are required to provide appropriate PPE (personal protective equipment), and make their own way to York.

**Seasonal on-farm harvest job placement:**

Job placement after the Harvest Skills Program is not guaranteed, but the following networks will make the best effort to support scholarship recipients to find seasonal harvest work on farms after completion of the program.

<http://2workinoz.com.au/>

<http://careersingrain.org.au/>

[www.jobsinwafoodandag.com](http://www.jobsinwafoodandag.com)

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**For job seekers and regional employers:** The WA Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) encourages job seekers and employers to register their skills and labour requirements via the job matching platform Studium available on [www.jobsinwafoodandag.com](http://www.jobsinwafoodandag.com)

**For all matters COVID-19:** Go to [www.wa.gov.au](http://www.wa.gov.au) which includes the latest information on entering Western Australia and any quarantine questions.