

Industry PhD Scholarship – Adelaide University and Eyre Shellfish

Adelaide University and Eyre Shellfish invite applications for this industry PhD project, exploring reef restoration in southern Australia.

Program overview

Degree

Doctor of Philosophy

Research area

Shellfish aquaculture and restoration

Academic supervisors

Dominic McAfee (Adelaide University)

Xiaoxu Li (SARDI)

Industry partners

Eyre Shellfish Pty Ltd

SARDI (South Australia Research & Development Institute)

Expected commencement

2026

The successful candidate will receive:

- Admission to a PhD program at Adelaide University;
- An Adelaide University Research Scholarship and industry top-up scholarship for 3.75 years, totalling \$46,500 p.a., as well as a tuition fee waiver;
- Supervision from research specialists at Adelaide University, SARDI and Eyre Shellfish;
- Industry embedment with Eyre Shellfish; and
- Access to professional development opportunities through the University's Graduate Research and Innovation Training program.

Shellfish restoration and activation of sustainable species for aquaculture

Habitat-forming bivalves, such as native oysters (*Ostrea angasi*) and razorfish (*Pinna bicolor*), underpin coastal ecosystems and offer emerging aquaculture opportunities for commercial production. In southern Australia, shellfish reef habitat is being restored to support biodiversity, stabilise sediments, and improve water quality. These important bivalve species have declined due to habitat loss and recent environmental stressors, emphasising the importance of hatchery production for commerce and restoration.

This Industry PhD will investigate hatchery production, restoration, and industry activation of habitat-forming bivalves of commercial and ecological importance. The project will develop hatchery and deployment techniques for native oysters and razorfish to support reef restoration and scalable aquaculture, using Eyre Shellfish facilities across the Eyre Peninsula.

The student will benefit from supervision by experienced marine ecologists at Adelaide University, aquaculture scientists at SARDI, and shellfish aquaculture experts at Eyre Shellfish.

Eligibility Requirements

This opportunity is open to candidates who can meet the requirements for PhD admission at Adelaide University (including English language proficiency in the relevant academic area), and who



can demonstrate suitable experience in Aquaculture and/or marine science (through a high-quality Honours or Masters degree).

In addition, the successful applicant should be able to demonstrate the following attributes:

1. The capacity for regular travel to work at a range of remote locations on the Eyre Peninsula.
2. The ability to operate autonomously within the hatchery and on the razorfish farm lease
3. Adaptability and problem-solving skills are crucial for addressing unforeseen challenges

The successful candidate must be able to enrol as a full-time PhD student at the University in the year of the offer. The position will require the applicant to work across the Eyre Peninsula during hatchery rearing periods for the duration of the award.

Application Process

To apply, please email the following documents to principal

supervisor Dominic McAfee
(dominic.mcafee@adelaide.edu.au)
with the subject line 'Eyre Shellfish
Industry PhD application':

- CV
- Cover Letter (of not more than 2 pages) outlining your interest in the PhD project and describing how your background and research area align with the project

- Degree certificates and relevant academic transcripts, with translations of non-English documentation

Applications close on **13 March 2025**. Please note that applications will be shortlisted on a rolling basis, and the scholarship advertisement may be withdrawn early if a suitable candidate is identified.

Enquiries

For enquiries about this opportunity please contact principal supervisor Dominic McAfee:
dominic.mcafee@adelaide.edu.au

General Enquiries

Adelaide University Graduate Research School:
E: augrs.industry@adelaide.edu.au