



Call for Travel Award Applications

Early Career Researcher Travel Awards to Attend the International Horticultural Congress (IHC) 2026, Japan

The Future of Hort Science initiative, led by the **Australian Society of Horticultural Science (AuSHS)**, aims to inspire and nurture the next generation of researchers to contribute to horticultural science and the profession. As part of this initiative, the **Graham Gregory Horticultural Congress Trust** of AuSHS, in partnership with **Hort Innovation**, is supporting **four early career researchers** to attend and present at the IHC 2026 in Kyoto, Japan (23–28 August 2026).

The AuSHS–Hort Innovation Travel Award invites applications from early career researchers and young scientists seeking support to attend IHC 2026. This competitive award is to enable researchers to present their work to an international audience, build connections with global peers, strengthen professional development, and support knowledge exchange that benefits Australia's horticulture industry.

Eligibility

Applicants must be a PhD student, postdoctoral researcher, or early career researcher within 5 years of PhD conferral, actively engaged in horticultural research, affiliated with an Australian university, research organisation or relevant industry body, and willing to become a member of AuSHS. In assessing eligibility, consideration may be given to career interruptions, part-time appointments, and other non-linear career pathways.

Application

Applicants must submit a written statement (**maximum 2 pages**) addressing the following:

- 1. Applicant profile:** Current status (e.g. PhD student, postdoctoral researcher, early career researcher), organisational affiliation, research field or project (including Hort Innovation project code where relevant). Provide your IHC 2026 abstract title, the symposium/session name, acceptance status (submitted or accepted), and mode of presentation (oral or poster).
- 2. Commitment to horticultural science:** Demonstrated contributions to horticultural research and/or industry, evidence of engagement with the horticultural sector and commitment to advancing horticultural science
- 3. Relevance of IHC 2026 participation:** How attendance at IHC 2026 aligns with your research interests, will benefit your research outcomes and enhance your professional development
- 4. Contribution to the profession through AuSHS:** Applicants should demonstrate how they intend to contribute to AuSHS and the broader horticultural science profession.



Travel Award Value

Each successful applicant may receive **up to AUD \$5,000**. The award may be used to support economy-class return airfare, congress registration fees, accommodation and reasonable subsistence expenses. The proposed travel budget should be clearly outlined in the application.

Selection Criteria

Applications will be assessed based on applicant profile, scientific merit and relevance to horticulture, demonstrated Australian industry engagement, clarity of benefits from Congress participation, and commitment to contributing to AuSHS and the broader profession.

Congress requirements

Successful recipients are required to acknowledge support from AuSHS and Hort Innovation in their Congress presentation, including approved logos/branding where requested. Recipients should also be available to support and promote AuSHS and Hort Innovation during the Congress if requested.

Post-Congress Requirements

Successful recipients will be required to submit a report within four weeks of returning from IHC 2026. The report must be approximately 1,000 words; be suitable for publication in AuSHS and Hort Innovation newsletters; include key highlights from the Congress; outline personal and professional benefits gained; and explain how the knowledge and experience will be applied in future research, industry engagement, and contributions to AuSHS. Recipients must also provide at least one high-resolution photograph from the Congress and a statement of expenditure with supporting receipts.

Submission details

Please submit your application (maximum 2 pages) to: aushortscience@gmail.com

Subject line: AuSHS–Hort Innovation Early Career Researcher Travel Award Application – [Applicant Name]

Applications close: **16 March 2026 (5 pm AEDT)**

For further information, contact Dr SP Singh, Director, AuSHS. sp.singh@dpird.nsw.gov.au; Bianca Cairns, R&D Manager, Hort Innovation. Bianca.Cairns@horticulture.com.au