

MSA Innovation Program

Manufacturing Skills Australia – Innovation Program Study Award

Manufacturing Skills Australia is pleased to announce the establishment of our Innovation Program for the manufacturing and automotive industries.

The purpose of the MSA Innovation Program is to extend the capability and performance of Australian manufacturing and automotive industries through education and training, and workforce development.

The MSA Innovation Program is offering a Study Award to the nominal value of \$10,000. Applications are invited from Vocational Education and Training (VET) students, VET teachers and trainers, assessors, enterprise employees and owners. There are no limitations on age or background.

This award will provide an opportunity to gather international intelligence on skills and technologies not available in Australia – ones that will benefit Australian manufacturing and automotive industries and support skills and workforce development. With growing leading edge technologies and innovative practices, the Australian manufacturing and automotive industries can build on world's best practice for all Australian manufacturers.

It is anticipated that the successful applicant would spend three (3) to four (4) weeks involved in a study program and/or visits to industry and/or educational/training institutions outside of Australia. The recipient of the Study Award must complete their travel by December 2010.

The MSA Innovation Program Study Award is open to people involved in any sector covered by MSA, including:

- Competitive Manufacturing
- Aerospace
- Chemicals, Hydrocarbons Refining
- Furnishing
- Automotive Manufacturing
- Automotive Retail Service and Repair
- Laboratory Operations
- Manufactured Mineral Products
- Metal, Engineering and Boating
- Plastics, Rubber and Cabling
- Textiles, Clothing and Footwear

MSA Innovation Program

Benefits for the manufacturing and automotive industries:

- Identify potential skills gaps within manufacturing and automotive industries.
- Learn and build new leading technologies and innovation skills into manufacturing practices.
- Build the world's best practice for Australian manufacturing and automotive industries.
- Engage people who are passionate about re-vitalising manufacturing and automotive practices.
- Share the wealth of knowledge with other stakeholders within the manufacturing and automotive industries through the MSA Annual Conference, website, e-newsletter and other industry-focused publications.

Who can apply?

MSA Innovation Program Study Award is open to:

- Vocational Education and Training (VET) students
- VET teachers and trainers, assessors
- Enterprise employees and owners
- There are no limitations on age or background.

How to apply

- Applications must be made using the Application Form (available at the end of this document).
- The applicant must meet the Conditions of Entry and applications must address the selection criteria as shown below.
- Typed applications of no more than ten (10) pages are to be sent to MSA by via email to bernadetteshiel@mskills.com.au

Alternatively, applications can be posted to:

Bernadette Shiel
Promotions and Communications Manager
Manufacturing Skills Australia
PO Box 289
North Sydney NSW 2059

Contact Bernadette Shiel on 02 9955 5500 or mobile 0410 912 896 for more information on eligibility or for assistance with the application process.

MSA Innovation Program

Funding for MSA Manufacturing Skills Australia – Innovation Program Study Award

Manufacturing Skills Australia will contribute a nominal value of \$10,000 towards the costs of overseas study, for an estimated three (3) to four (4) weeks duration, for the successful applicant. The funds are to cover such expenses as airfares, living and meal allowances, accommodation and materials for the study. Should costs exceed \$10,000 then the recipient must provide the additional funds.

Conditions of Entry

1. The applicant must be an Australian Citizen and be at least 18 years of age.
2. The applicant must be a vocational education and training (VET) student, or a VET teacher/trainer/lecturer, or a workplace assessor, or an enterprise employee (at any level) or enterprise owner.
3. There are no geographic restrictions for applicants.
4. Completed applications must be submitted to MSA by the **due date Friday 18th December, 2009** and signed by the applicant's senior manager where indicated on the application form.
5. Three (3) letters/statements of support must accompany the application form. (**Note: these letters are not personal recommendations and will be verified by MSA before any Study Award is granted**)
6. The Study Award funding cannot be used for study topics / areas that are already covered by a national or state accredited vocational qualification or university course in Australia.
7. The duration of the overseas component of the study program will be approximately three (3) to four (4) weeks and must be taken by December 2010.
8. The overseas component of the study program must be approved by MSA and cannot be altered without the prior consent of MSA.
9. The successful applicant will be required to enter into an agreement with MSA (The Agreement) to fulfil the program's requirements.
10. The successful applicant will be required to submit a final detailed written analysis / report on their study tour, based on their original winning submission.
11. The final report is to be in writing and submitted to MSA within three (3) months of returning from the overseas program.
12. The final report must be based on the stated research objectives, findings, experiences, and outline how these can benefit the Australian manufacturing and/or automotive industries.
13. The successful applicant of the MSA Innovation Program Study Award agrees that their final report will be published by MSA and present final report at the next MSA National Conference.
14. The MSA selection panel's decision will be final and binding and no further correspondence will be entered into. Documented evaluation of applications will not be provided. However, MSA will provide verbal feedback to any unsuccessful applicants.

Note: Applicants may be experts in their field but need not necessarily hold formal qualifications. Applicants may have existing qualifications, but have moved into other occupations. This is not part of the key selection criteria.

MSA Innovation Program

Selection criteria

The following selection criteria will be used to evaluate applications:

- The applicant must provide a clear focus for the study and demonstrate a commitment to innovative solutions, learning and sharing their skills with others.
- Applications should provide clear evidence of skills and knowledge, workplace practice and employer support.
- Applications must be high quality, demonstrating clear communication and reporting skills.
- Applications must show how the proposed study will benefit the Australian manufacturing and/or automotive industries.
- Applications must show how the outcomes of the proposed study will benefit the applicant in progressing his/her further studies and innovation.
- The application must include a proposed itinerary and draft budget, showing details of venues/institutions that you are proposing to visit.

Selection process

- MSA has established an impartial selection panel to view all valid applications and to select a successful applicant.
- The MSA selection panel's decision will be final and binding and no further correspondence will be entered into. Documented evaluation of applications will not be provided. However, MSA will provide verbal feedback to any unsuccessful applicants.

MSA Innovation Program

Manufacturing Skills Australia – Innovation Program Study Award Application Coversheet

Checklist

My application includes:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Applicant's details | <input type="checkbox"/> Employer endorsement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Summary of proposed study | <input type="checkbox"/> Details of study program |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Itinerary | <input type="checkbox"/> Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resume/qualifications | <input type="checkbox"/> Letters of support |

Applicant's details

Name:	
Home address:	
Phone:	Fax:
Email:	
Date of birth:	Gender (Optional): <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
Occupation:	
Name of employer:	
Address of employer:	

Employer endorsement (Must be signed by Director, CEO or Senior Manager)

I endorse (name of applicant)
to participate in the MSA Innovation Program Study Award, recognise, and support his
/her meeting the obligations of the Program including:

- Undertaking the overseas program within twelve (12) months of being awarded.
- Submitting a detailed report on findings within three (3) months of returning from the overseas program.

Signature:	Date:
Name:	Position:
Email:	Phone:

Note: Your application should demonstrate how you meet the selection criteria. In addition to filling in the coversheet, please provide details of your proposal including itinerary and budget. Refer to the Application Details below for guidance.

MSA Innovation Program

Manufacturing Skills Australia – Innovation Program Study Award

Application details

Summary of proposed study

(Provide a brief and clear summary of half a page max. of your proposed study program)

- What is the focus of your proposal and why is it important?
- List in brief point form the specific technology and/or skills that will be the focus of the proposed program. Be specific. Avoid generalities such as 'research:-, study:-, examine:-, explore:- understand'.
- Utilise specifics such as *how to;- to learn efficient ways to;- to identify ways to;- to identify materials used to*'.

Details of study program

(Provide details of up to four pages of your proposed study program)

- Describe the background to your quest and why you think it is important.
- Describe the skills to be developed in detail – expand on your summary points.
- State where the education/training/learning can be acquired.
- Identify the benefits to Australian manufacturing and/or automotive industries.
- List the benefits to your professional and personal development.

Proposed itinerary and budget

- Provide details of your proposed itinerary based on your initial research. Include number of days, locations, names of organisations, etc.
- Provide a draft budget showing estimated costs for airfares, accommodation, meals, etc. These estimated costs should be realistic and based on current rates.

Information about you

Qualifications

- Attach your resume and list any courses/qualifications.
- Include relevant membership of professional organisations.

Letters of Support

- Attach a minimum of three (3) letters of support. These should be from people in senior positions who endorse the skills and knowledge you seek to obtain. At least one letter of support must be from your senior manager.

-END-