

Mannkal Economic Education Foundation

Scholarship Program 2015: Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Mannkal, and what do we do?

Mannkal is a Western Australian free-market think tank founded by Ron Manners. Our primary activity is our scholarship program. We sponsor students from Western Australian universities for periods of between four weeks and three months to undertake tasks or projects or study within a host think-tank in Australia or overseas. We refer to these positions as “scholarships”. This is a long-term investment in the young people of Western Australia; we seek to expose our future leaders to the free market / individual responsibility philosophy such that in years to come when they are in positions of influence, they will be aware of a broader range of policies than many politicians, business leaders and public servants. Additionally, they will have learned from being able to contrast Australian practices with those of their host country, and will have built a valuable network of contacts in their host institution and host country.

How does it work?

Mannkal finances scholarships through Western Australia’s universities. The scholarships cover **all** costs – including airfares, accommodation, living expenses, travel costs and insurances. The scholar is not remunerated by their host institution in any way. All the host organisation needs to do is allocate tasks or projects to the scholar. The best times are periods between June-August and November-March, which are the university holiday periods. The scholar operates in the host’s offices, undertaking whatever tasks are required on a regular Monday-Friday business hours basis. We strongly encourage students to perform tasks out of hours where required (assisting at events, attending meetings et cetera) and to take every opportunity they can to benefit from the experience.

How does the scholar selection process work?

Mannkal co-ordinates two recruitment drives per year on university campuses in Western Australia, publicising the opportunities available. Students apply and are assessed via their university marks, a sample of their writing, at least one face-to-face interview, and their attendance and participation in various Mannkal events. In organising the scholarship and choosing the right candidate, we consider the host institution’s needs: the length and timing of the scholarship, the academic background of the scholar, any other skills or focus

required (e.g. financial modelling, social media, interest in legal issues) and anything else that would make the experience more valuable to both the host think tank and the intern. Once the scholar has been provisionally chosen, their details will be provided to the host institution for its consideration. Upon confirmation that the scholar is acceptable to the host institution, they undergo a training and education program including a full-day briefing event, to ensure they have the necessary knowledge, skills, attitudes and expectations to make a valuable contribution in their placement.

What are the host's liabilities?

The host institution incurs no financial liabilities. It does not have to reimburse the student for their costs in attending, nor does it have to pay a wage. There is no expectation of future employment, although the host is free to pursue this if it wishes to do so. In short, there is no cost, liability or expectation, explicit or implicit, placed upon the host institution.

What other organisations have been involved with Mannkal's scholarship program?

Mannkal's program has been running for 17 years now, with 700 students attending internships, scholarships and conferences in Australia and overseas. The organisations that have hosted Mannkal interns include (but are not limited to):

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| The Fraser Institute, Canada | The Institute for Liberal Studies, Canada |
| Atlantic Institute for Market Studies, Canada | Canadian Taxpayer's Federation, |
| Foundation for Economic Education, USA | Atlas Foundation, USA |
| Institute of Economic Affairs, London | Lion Rock Institute, Hong Kong |
| New Zealand Initiative | Friedrich Naumann Institute, Germany |
| Lithuanian Free Market Institute | Institute of Public Affairs, Australia |
| Centre for Independent Studies, Australia | Menzies Research Centre, Australia |

What is the final output?

The final output is a student who has gained new skills and perspectives and burnished their CV; a host institution that has benefited from a free resource; and Mannkal having an intern return as a committed free marketer with new ideas and abilities to offer to Mannkal and the Western Australian community. We have found our approach produces measurable results for all concerned – an excellent example of the economic concepts of specialisation and the "gains from trade".

5th March, 2015