



## *IRE Australia ~ a short intro ...*

*IRE is a work experience - cultural exchange training program for people 19 to 28 with experience in rural industries & ready to broaden the horizons.*

1.04

About the IRE program ~

- IRE serves 220+ who come to Aus each year. Average age 21 to 25 70+ Aussies go out
- trainees in pay IRE an A\$1020 service fee including tax. (some variations in a few cases)
- most applicants apply via home country organization (a few come direct if no IRE partner)
- intakes are mid March, July, September & October
- 3 day orientation seminar after arrival about ~ tax, visa's, travel, Aus Ag, lifestyle/culture
- an "on site" supervision visit a month later to see all is OK, about 7% are replaced
- minimum weekly allowance of A\$225 for 45 hour week plus board & keep + \$7.50/hr overtime
- the Tax Office see IRE trainees as Australian residents for tax purposes ie pay almost no tax
- normal workers compensation insurance is made by hosts
- trainees need to come with normal travel & medical insurance
- visa up to 1 year, class 416 special program - "work experience, cultural exchange"
- most trainees use IRE to work, learn & travel as part of their career development
- many take over family business & go on to become community & industry leaders

About IRE placements in Australia ~

- IRE has a nationwide network of over 220 hosts to give you access to good production systems in many regions, climates & types of farming or horticulture
- 75% of places are in farming with others in horticulture, wine & horses \*
- 2 placement types ~ industry experience (*\*in any of these*) or agri-home
- normal placement 5 to 7 months but flexible depending on seasons/climate etc
- trainee normally lives with family although not always in some industries
- majority of hosts are regular ongoing supporters & participants
- hosts pay a membership \$22 per year plus a trainee placement fee of \$275 per 6 months
- slightly different to a normal employer/employee relationship - closer

Trainee you need ~

- a minimum of one year of practical "hands on" experience in what you want as placement
- a good level of working conversational English ~ most important
- to have international car driving license + minimum of 1 year of driving experience
- to be in good health plus have a strong motivation & attitude and be willing to work
- to be flexible, open, interested & adaptable plus have a big desire to learn

About IRE organization ~

- the exchange was started in 1986 & is an incorporated community non profit association
- it's members are in all states & are hosts or past trainees
- a Board of 9 is elected at the Annual Meeting & appoints a full time National Coordinator
- the present Coordinator has 30 years experience in Aus & OS in rural exchange activity, education/training, rural lobby & community leadership and as a farmer, father & activist
- IRE has nationwide network of hosts & alumni to assist screen host & trainee applicants
- Partnerships with 26+ similar groups in N & S America, UK, Central & W Europe, S Africa, NZ

*To join IRE see [www.ire.org.au](http://www.ire.org.au) for the IRE partner in your country.*