

The Directors of the IRDBF are calling for candidates to apply for scholarships of up to EUR2,000.00 each, which will assist them attend the March 2026 IRDBF conference in New Zealand. The conference programme and progressive updates may viewed on www.irdbf.com . This site contains six tabs with various documents and pieces of information.

There will be up to three scholarships available and the directors are seeking as many applications as possible. Directors are encouraging IRDBF member breeds to add further financial support to the successful applicants and perhaps themselves support further young breeders to attend this valuable networking and learning event.

The scholarships are open to anyone under the age of 35 years who is involved with, or has an interest in breeding and improving Red Dairy Cattle. A selection panel will assess the applications and will favour those who have an ability to communicate readily, have a proven commitment to Red Dairy Cattle, a strong interest in breeding systems, cow nutrition and commercial management of Red Dairy Cattle.

Language should not hinder any applications, as the IRDBF contains a wide range of member breeds and breeders who themselves communicate in many languages. However, IRDBF events are most often conducted in English.

Applicants should submit a written resume to the selection panel (care of graeme@hamiltonsrun.com.au) containing their career history, including any childhood and teenage experiences with Red Dairy Cattle. Applicants who are studying should list the courses undertaken and completed, while those in employment should list their various places of employment and the roles they have undertaken. Should the applicants have written references or contact details for referees who are willing to support the applicant, they would be valuable additions to the submission.

The submission should also include the applicants' view of the future of Red Dairy Cattle and how they intend to be involved.

Successful scholarship winners will be required to make a short presentation during the conference programme in 2026, summarising their experiences with and aspirations for Red Dairy Cattle.

It is the aim of the IRDBF to offer these scholarships for every IRDBF conference, which are scheduled to occur every three years in a different country. Please find attached the outline of the 2026 programme.

It is hoped that international travel to Red Dairy cow events will increase the enthusiasm of young breeders, while building their wisdom and understanding of different production systems. Opportunities for growth and development often emerge from these interactions which can only improve the abilities and popularity of Red Dairy Cattle.