



**CATALYST
FUND**
LEADERS

Catalyst: Leaders

Ngā aratohu arotake Review Guidelines 2026



MINISTRY OF BUSINESS,
INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI

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TE APĀRANGI

Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

Rārangi Ūpoko Contents

Hītori putanga Version history.....	3
He whakamārama Background.....	3
Mō ngā Kaiārahi: Whakahohoro About Catalyst: Leaders.....	3
Priority research areas	4
Ngā whakamāramatanga Key definitions	5
Te mahi a ngā kaiarotake Role of Reviewers.....	6
Kopounga Appointment.....	6
Ngā mātāpono ārahi Guiding principles	6
Whakatoihara rehu Unconscious bias	7
Ngā take whai taharua Conflicts of interest.....	7
Hātepe arotake Evaluation procedure.....	8
Wātaka Timeline	9
Hui ataata whakamārama a te kaiarotake Reviewers recommendation video conference.....	10
Mata Confidentiality	10
Tūmataitinga Privacy	10
Paearu whiriwhiri a Whakahohoro: Ngā Kaiārahi Catalyst: Leaders selection criteria.....	11
Vision Mātauranga	13
Te mahi a ngā kaimahi a Te Apārangi Role of Society staff	13
Honoraria for Catalyst reviewers	14
Ngā mihi Thank you.....	14
Mō ētahi atu mōhiotio More information.....	14
Appendix I: He Hōtaka ā-tau Annual call times and programme information for Catalyst: Leaders	15
Appendix II: Specific Programme Information for Catalyst Leader Programmes	16
International Leader Fellowships	16
Specific Programme Information	16
Julius von Haast Fellowship	18
Specific Programme Information	18
Japan Society for the Promotion of Science – Postdoctoral Fellowships	20
Specific Programme Information	20
New Zealand-China Scientist Exchange Programme	22
Specific Programme Information	22
Appendix III: He Kuputaka Glossary of te reo Māori terms	24

Hītori putanga Version history

Version	Date	Change	Page
4.0	January 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Information on simplified application process for New Zealand to China Science Exchange programme.	
3.0	January 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Added information on the Catalyst Fund's priority research areasAmended Criterion 3 to further reward applications that articulate a clear line of sight to expected benefits of national and/or global significance in line with New Zealand's science priorities, and which initiate link with relevant New Zealand research capabilities to facilitate research/knowledge transfer.	Page 4 Page 12
2.0	January 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Information on honoraria for Catalyst Leaders reviewers has been added (page 12).International Leader and Julius Von Haast Fellowships are reviewed together in the January cal.	

He whakamārama Background

The Catalyst Fund supports activities that initiate, develop and foster collaborations leveraging international science and innovation for New Zealand's benefit. It targets investment in leadership, influence, seeding and strategic cooperation through four funding streams.

Royal Society Te Apārangi (the Society), on behalf of the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE), administers a number of opportunities in the funding streams Catalyst: Leaders, Catalyst: Seeding, and Catalyst: Influence.

These guidelines are intended to facilitate the smooth operation of the Catalyst Fund Assessment process for the appointed Reviewers to Catalyst: Leaders.

Mō ngā Kaiārahi: Whakahohoro About Catalyst: Leaders

Catalyst: Leaders supports incoming and outgoing targeted international fellowships for exceptional individuals that cannot be supported through other means.

The objectives of Catalyst: Leaders are to:

- promote the importance of international cooperation in science and New Zealand's science and innovation capabilities
- catalyse science and innovation through placement of international experts in key science and innovation hubs, to meet specific capability needs for New Zealand benefit.

Priority research areas

The Catalyst Fund investment plan released in December 2024, identifies six priority research areas for the Fund. These are:

- Quantum technology
- Health and biomedicine
- Biotechnologies
- Artificial Intelligence
- Antarctic research
- Space and Earth observations

Subject to the number and quality of submitted applications, proposals aligning with the Catalyst Fund priority research areas are expected to make up 75% of awarded Catalyst: Leaders contracts unless otherwise noted in the specific programme requirement for each sub-programme. The remaining 25% of awarded contracts can be in any field of research (including social sciences and the humanities)

For more information on the specific (sub) programmes included in the respective Kotitātea January, Paenga-Whāwhā April and Hōngongoi July calls for Catalyst: Leaders, please refer to *Appendix I: Annual Call times and programme information for Catalyst: Leaders* and *Appendix II: Specific Programme Requirements*.

Ngā whakamāramatanga Key definitions

The assessment criteria below should be read in conjunction with the following key definitions:

Applicant means the New Zealand research organisation submitting the Catalyst Proposal on behalf of the Leader or Principal Investigator (PI).

Call means the request for proposals towards specific Programmes or Sub-Programmes, as outlined in Appendix I of this document, *Table I: Annual call timeline*.

New Zealand Principal Investigator (PI) means the New Zealand individual nominated by the Applicant, who is responsible for the proposed activity if awarded funding.

Collaboration Partner means the international researcher (and New Zealand researcher(s) from organisations other than the Applicant organisation if applicable) collaborating with the Principal Investigator.

Host means the New Zealand or international research organisation that will be hosting the Leader or Principal Investigator (PI).

Leader or Fellow means the travelling individual researcher nominated by the Applicant, who would carry out the proposed activity if awarded funding.

For Leaders coming to New Zealand, the Leader is the Collaboration Partner. For New Zealand Leaders travelling abroad, the Leader is the Principal Investigator (PI).

Partner Institution means the international research organisation (and New Zealand organisation other than the Applicant organisation if applicable) of the Collaboration Partner.

Programme (or Sub-Programme) means the individual funding opportunity within Catalyst: Leaders, identified in *Appendix I, Table I: Annual call times and programme information for Catalyst: Leaders*.

Project means the unique research collaboration proposed by the Proposal.

Project Team means the Principal Investigator, Collaboration Partner and supporting individuals collectively identified in the Proposal as critical to the success of the Project.

Proposal (or Application) means the application submitted by the Applicant to Catalyst: Leaders.

Research Organisation means an organisation that has internal capability to carry out substantive research, science, technology or related activities. Public service departments as listed in [Schedule 1 of the State Sector Act 1988](#) are not eligible to apply under the Catalyst Fund.

Te mahi a ngā kaiarotake Role of Reviewers

Reviewers are essential to the Catalyst Fund assessment process. Significant funding decisions will be made on the basis of your assessment. As an independent expert, you are asked to grade and comment on the proposals assigned to you in a given call. All proposals will be reviewed remotely and there is no requirement to attend a meeting in person.

- The Society endeavours to ensure that each reviewer will review a **maximum of 25 proposals**, and that the review activities will not take more than one day to complete.
- Each proposal is between 15-20 pages long with the principal content contained within 3-5 pages depending on the programme applied for (excluding CVs, letters of support, etc.). Consequently, we expect few applications will take longer than 30 minutes to assess.
- Reviewers are responsible for carrying out the evaluation of the proposals. Delegating the work to another person is not permitted.
- Reviewers may be asked to review applications that are outside their specific field of research.

Kopounga Appointment

The Reviewers assessing applications submitted to the Catalyst: Leaders programmes are appointed by the Society. For more information on the appointment process, please refer to the [Catalyst Reviewer Expression of Interest](#) document.

All Catalyst Fund Reviewers used by the Society will be listed on our website but are not expected to give feedback to applicants.

Note, that when you agree to the terms and conditions set out in these guidelines, you additionally agree to being named as a reviewer on the website.

Ngā mātāpono ārahi Guiding principles

In evaluating proposals, Reviewers should be cognisant of the following guiding principles:

- **Independence:** Reviewers are evaluating in a personal capacity, you do not represent your employer.
- **Impartiality:** Reviewers must treat all proposals equally and evaluate them impartially on their merits, irrespective of their origin or the identity of the applicants.
- **Objectivity:** Reviewers must evaluate each proposal as submitted; meaning on its own merit, not its potential if certain change were to be made.
- **Accuracy:** Reviewers must make their judgement against the official evaluation criteria and the call or topic the proposal addresses, and nothing else.
- **Consistency:** Reviewers must apply the same standard of judgment to all proposals.

Whakatoihara rehu Unconscious bias

Unconscious bias refers to a bias which we are unaware of and which happens outside of our control. The Society wants to ensure that this bias has minimal influence on funding recommendations being made by Society-appointed Reviewers. The literature suggests that awareness of unconscious bias can limit the impact of this bias. We therefore encourage Reviewers to watch the short (3 minutes) introduction video below from the Royal Society London to familiarise/reacquaint yourself with the topic.

[Royal Society of London – Understanding unconscious bias](#)

Some recommendations to blunt the impact of unconscious bias are to:

- be prepared to **recognise** the impact of unconscious bias
- deliberately **slow down** decision making
- **reconsider** reasons for decisions
- **question** cultural stereotype.

Please also feel free to explore some of the additional resources below:

- <https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/takeatest.html>

Link to Harvard University implicit association tests (IAT) on unconscious bias in relation to Gender and Science, and Gender and Career.

- <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/inclusion-journey/learn>

Short Microsoft eLesson course designed to help participants understand what unconscious bias is, how it works, and strategies to counter it in the workplace.

- <https://kirwaninstitute.osu.edu/sites/default/files/pdf/2017-implicit-bias-review.pdf>

“State of the Science: Implicit Bias Review” from Ohio State University’s Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity – this publication covers a wide range of issues relating to implicit or unconscious bias and general mitigation strategies.

- <https://www.awis.org/creating-equitable-stem-workplaces-by-addressing-unconscious-bias/>

Material from Association for Women in Science.

Ngā take whai taharua Conflicts of interest

The Society takes the issue of conflicts of interest very seriously. A rigorous position is taken in order to maintain the credibility of the allocation process and to ensure that applications are subjected to fair and reasonable appraisal. During reviewer selection the Society will try, as far as possible, to minimise the known conflicts of interest in any reviewer. However, where further conflicts of interest arise for Reviewers, the following rules will apply:

- All conflicts of interest must be declared in writing to the Society. Society staff will note all conflicts of interest and actions taken.

- Where a reviewer is a family member or close friend of any applicant(s), that person will not assess the proposal and take no part in the consideration of that proposal. They will hear about the outcome of that proposal when official letters are sent to all applicants.
- If a reviewer has an interest in an application, such as collaborating with an applicant or an applicant's group, then that member shall not assess the proposal.

Hātepe arotake Evaluation procedure

The Society will forward each Catalyst: Leaders reviewer a PDF containing the applications they will be required to assess and a spreadsheet to record their scores. In the instance where Reviewers are not required to evaluate all proposals, all submitted proposals will still be made available to the Reviewers.

The scores are automatically combined in the scoring spreadsheet to produce an overall assessment using the weighting for each of the three scoring criteria below.

In evaluating proposals, Reviewers are asked to adhere to the following guidelines:

- Each proposal is graded on three criteria using a scale from 1 (poor) to 10 (exceptional). For a list of assessment criteria for Catalyst: Leaders, see below.
- The reviewer must be cognisant of the Guiding Principles for assessing proposals above.
- The grades must be submitted on the spread sheet template supplied by the Society.
- The grades should be returned to the Society by 5pm, on the deadline for reviewer's submission of grades as tabled under Timeline.
- The reviewer will score and rank proposals submitted to each sub-programme independently.

Reviewers are additionally asked to consider

- if each reviewed proposal is deemed "worthy of funding. Due to funding limitations, it is expected that many excellent proposals cannot be funded. However, by answering "No" to the above question, the reviewer indicates that a proposal does not have the quality to be considered for funding no matter the amount of funding available.
- If the proposed research is aligned with the indicated research priority area where applicable.

Following the closing of the review round, the Society will use the collated grades from the Reviewers to create a ranked list of applications. The final decision on what proposals will be funded lies with the Society. In making its decisions, the Society will take into account recommendations made by the Reviewers and, where relevant, alignment with the Catalyst Fund priority research areas. The Society may also take into account the total investment across Catalyst: Leaders to ensure it is a balanced portfolio across both

research fields and country relationships supported, while still ensuring quality. This means, for example, ensuring that:

- subject to the number and quality of submitted applications, proposals aligning with the Catalyst Fund priority research areas make up 75% of awarded Catalyst: Leaders contracts where applicable. The remaining 25% of awarded contracts can be in any field of research (including social sciences and the humanities).
- the Society is not over-investing in collaborations with one country or topic area to the neglect of others
- funding is balanced across longer and shorter-term projects
- funding is not disproportionately invested in either research with short-term impact horizon versus research with a long-term impact horizon
- joint decision making with bilateral partners is enabled.

Wātaka Timeline

Tabled below is the calendar of events for the 2026 Catalyst Fund ‘Call for Proposals’ and associated review activities. Each call includes programme activities in both Catalyst: Leaders and Catalyst: Seeding. For more information on included programmes, please refer the Society’s [Catalyst Fund](#) website.

2026 Activity	Catalyst Leaders Call for Proposals		
	Kohitātea January Call	Paenga- whāwhā April Call	Hōngongoi July Call
Call for proposals via Catalyst Portal	29 January	NA	30 July
Reviewer EOI closing date for current Catalyst Call	1 April		1 October
Catalyst application closing date	23 April		22 October
Notification of selected Reviewers	No later than 30 April		No later than 29 October
Collated applications forwarded to Reviewers	30 April		29 October
Deadline for reviewer’s submission of grades	2 June		30 November
International Leader Fellowship/Julius Von Haast Reviewers video meeting	In period 3-5 June		
Award announcement	11 June		10 December

*The Reviewers video conference is only applicable for Reviewers assessing applications for the International Leader Fellowship and the Julius Von Haast Fellowship.

Hui ataata whakamārama a te kaiarotake Reviewers recommendation video conference

Reviewers assessing applications for the International Leader Fellowship and the Julius Von Haast Fellowship are asked to participate in quick videoconference at the completion of the review process to finalise the panel's recommendations. The video conference MUST take place in the week starting with the deadline for submitting grades, as indicated in the timeline below.

Mata Confidentiality

The applications, Reviewers' worksheets and grades are confidential in every respect. An application is submitted on the understanding that: (i) it will only be used in the appraisal process; (ii) it is confidential to the reviewer appointed by the Society; and, (iii) that it will not be made available to the public. The Society takes the issue of confidentiality very seriously.

- Reviewers must ensure the safe keeping of all applications and related confidential documents (for example, application spreadsheets, scoring summaries, letters of recommendation, referee reports).
- At the conclusion of the assessment (concludes with the announcement of successful applicants), Reviewers must destroy/delete any documentation.
- Reviewers should not enter into correspondence or discussion of the contents of the applications with referees, third parties, or the applicants. Any necessary correspondence shall be addressed by the Society upon receipt.
- The intellectual property of the ideas and hypotheses put forward in the applications must be treated by the reviewer in strict confidence.

Tūmataitinga Privacy

The Society has obligations under the [Privacy Act 2020](#) to keep confidential certain information provided by individuals. During the course of assessing applications to the selection round, Reviewers may have access to personal information about individuals associated with an application. Where this occurs, the principles of the Privacy Act must also be adhered to.

Paearu whiriwhiri a Whakahohoro: Ngā Kaiārahi Catalyst: Leaders selection criteria

Criterion 1: Enduring collaboration (weight in assessment 30%)

Will the proposed activity establish an enduring collaboration with world class international partners?

Reviewers should base their grading of this criterion measured by:

- track record of the Leader (relative to opportunity)
- potential for building the scale of partnership from initial engagement to a substantive and enduring collaboration.
- ability of the Host and the Leader to deliver on proposed activities
- ability of the Leader to be a catalyst for capability and capacity building in New Zealand
- ability of the Host to maximise the opportunity of the Leader's visit
- clearly demonstrated excellence of the international Partner Institution (where the Leader is an outgoing New Zealander).

In scoring this criterion as 10: The Leader will have demonstrated a combined record of achievement and/or research translation that is outstanding by international standards of their research field and for their career stage; the Host and Leader has demonstrated ability to deliver on the proposed activities and there is a strong commitment between the Host and Leader to build a substantive and enduring collaboration; the Leader will be a strong catalyst for capability and capacity building in New Zealand, and the host has created substantial opportunities to maximise this (where Leader is a visiting international researcher)

In scoring a 1: the Leader has not demonstrated an outstanding research record and capacity to be a strong catalyst for capability and capacity building in New Zealand; the Host and Leader has not demonstrated a commitment and ability to build a substantive and enduring collaboration; the Host has not created opportunities for maximising opportunities of the Leader's visit.

Criterion 2: Novel knowledge and partnership (weight in assessment 40%)

Will the activity lead to the creation of new knowledge and a novel research partnership?

Reviewers should base their grading of this criterion measured by:

- how the Collaboration Partner will bring world-leading knowledge that complements the expertise of New Zealand Principal Investigator and the New Zealand Host
- how the proposed collaboration will support a new partnership or a new research focus for an established collaboration.

In scoring this criterion as 10: the Collaboration Partner will possess international standing and skills that complement, and not simply duplicate, those of the New Zealand

Project Team; and the proposed linkage is either an entirely new collaboration between partners, or a novel and exciting change in research direction building from an existing collaboration. In scoring a 1: the Collaboration Partner will not appear able to add anything of significance to the New Zealand Project Team, with the proposal being a continuation of business-as-usual.

Criterion 3: Strategic benefits (weight in assessment 30%)

Will the activity lead to a collaboration of strategic benefit to New Zealand?

Reviewers should base their grading of this criterion measured by:

- Clearly articulated line of sight to expected benefits of national and global significance in line with New Zealand's science priorities.^{1,2}
- ability to leverage international investment, and access to facilities and infrastructure not available in New Zealand
- Ability of the Host to use the partnership to initiate links with relevant New Zealand capabilities for the creating of additional benefits.
- ability of Host to leverage strategic benefit of the Leader to catalyse capability and capacity development in New Zealand (where the Leader is a visiting international researcher).

In scoring 10: the expected benefits are in line with New Zealand's science priorities, are of national and global significance, and there is well articulated and believable line of sight to how they can be realised; the Collaboration Partner will provide access to major resources that cannot be found in New Zealand; the project will catalyse capability and capacity in New Zealand, and the project partners have the capabilities to facilitate research/knowledge transfer or has identified a plan for how to work with additional relevant capabilities to facilitate this.

In scoring a 1, the expected benefits are not aligned with a New Zealand science priority, are not of national and/or international significance, and there is no believable line of sight to how any benefits can be realised; the Collaboration Partner(s) does not bring access to resources or infrastructure that is not already available in New Zealand; the project has no effect on capability and capacity in New Zealand, and the project partners neither have the capabilities to facilitate research/knowledge transfer, nor identified a plan for how to work with additional relevant capabilities to facilitate this.

¹New Zealand science priority may refer to any high priority research fields as evidenced by links to a CoRE, Horizon Europe, biodiversity documents, central or local government priorities, or any other science priority argued in the proposal. In this regard, research in a Catalyst Fund priority research area is also a New Zealand science priority.

²A research project in a Catalyst Fund priority research area does not automatically score higher in Criterion 3 than projects that have demonstrated alignment with a New Zealand science priority in other ways. The expectation to award 75% of contracts to proposal aligned with a Catalyst Fund priority research area will be considered by the Society and should not be considered by reviewers in their scoring.

Vision Mātauranga

[Vision Mātauranga](#) is a policy about innovation, opportunity and the creation of knowledge that highlights the potential contribution of Māori knowledge, resources and people.

Where research projects are of particular relevance to Māori or involve Māori, the Society expects that applicants are in consultation with Māori to ensure that the research is well planned, that appropriate etiquette is observed when access to Māori sites, culturally sensitive material and knowledge is sought from their owners, and that Māori intellectual and cultural property rights are respected. Cultural understanding is required to ensure good quality research. As a first step it is expected that researchers will have sought advice from their institution, many of which have established processes for consultation with Māori.

Consultation with Māori is not expected, and may not be appropriate, for proposed projects where no specific interest for Māori can be identified. In this case, the relevant section in the proposal will be left blank.

Vision Mātauranga is not explicitly part of the scoring criteria but, where it is appropriate to a proposal, it can contribute to the overall excellence. Aspects of Vision Mātauranga relating to relevant experience may be included in the “Roles and Resources” section of the proposal application.

Te mahi a ngā kaimahi a Te Apārangi Role of Society staff

In addition to the above roles, the Society will furthermore:

- record funding decisions
- record any conflicts of interest and identify problem areas
- convey funding decisions to applicants and their Host organisations – all decisions related to a decision should occur through Royal Society Te Apārangi staff
- negotiate contract details with Host institutions.

Honoraria for Catalyst reviewers

Royal Society Te Apārangī acknowledges Catalyst Seeding and Catalyst Leaders review activities deemed to take a day or more to complete by paying reviewers a honorarium of \$200 per round reviewed. For more information, please see [Honoraria for Catalyst Seeding and Leaders Reviewers](#).

Ngā mihi Thank you

Royal Society Te Apārangī appreciates the time and effort that Reviewers put into the Catalyst Fund assessment process. The time, advice, contribution to the research community and suggestions for improvements from Reviewers on the assessment process is highly valued.

Mō ētahi atu mōhiohio More information

For more detailed information on the funding opportunities the review activity supports, refer to the [Catalyst Fund](#) webpage.

For any queries or further information, please contact Royal Society Te Apārangī Research Funding (International) team at: International.Applications@royalsociety.org.nz

Appendix I: He Hōtaka ā-tau Annual call times and programme information for Catalyst: Leaders

TABLE 1: Annual call timeline Catalyst: Leaders

Call	Open Date	Close Date	Sub-Programmes
Kohitātea January	29 January 2026	23 April 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Leader Fellowship Julius von Haast Fellowship JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship New Zealand to China Scientist Exchange Programme
Paenga-whāwhā April	No Catalyst: Leaders call		
Hōngongoi July	30 July 2026	22 October 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18th HOPE Meeting (tbc)

TABLE 2: Catalyst: Leaders Sub-Programmes

Sub-Programme	Brief Description	Duration	NZ\$ Funding (excl. GST)	Awards available per call
International Leader Fellowships	Supports exceptional individuals from any country outside New Zealand to catalyse science and innovation capability and capacity in New Zealand for a minimum of 4 weeks per year for up to 3 years	1 to 3 years	<u>Per annum:</u> \$20,000 Stipend \$20,000 Research support \$10,000 Host admin	Up to 3
Julius von Haast Fellowship Award	Supports an internationally recognised researcher from Germany to undertake research in New Zealand for a minimum of 4 weeks per year	3 years	<u>Per annum:</u> \$20,000 Stipend \$20,000 Research support \$10,000 Host admin	Up to 1
JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship* (funded by JSPS)	Supports young and excellent New Zealand postdoctoral researchers doing research in Japan	12–24 months	Flights, insurance and living allowance	Up to 4
New Zealand to China Scientist Exchange Programme	Supports the development of research linkages with China by enabling New Zealand researchers to visit Chinese research organisations	4 weeks	Flights and daily living allowance	Up to 10
JSPS HOPE Meeting	Supports excellent PhD students and/or postdoctoral fellows to attend the HOPE Meetings with Nobel Laureates in Japan	Approx 4 days	Flights, accommodation, and meeting registration	Up to 5

Appendix II: Specific Programme Information for Catalyst Leader Programmes

International Leader Fellowships

Specific Programme Information

Background

International Leader Fellowships supports incoming targeted international fellowships for exceptional individuals that cannot be supported through other means. The International Leader Fellowships is a new initiative under Catalyst: Leaders. The Programme enables a Fellow to catalyse science and innovation capability and capacity development in New Zealand for a minimum of four weeks per year for up to three years.

Objective

The International Leader Fellowships are intended to support the attraction by New Zealand Research Organisations (the Hosts) of international fellows who can have a catalytic impact on New Zealand science capabilities and promote the importance of international cooperation in science.

International Partner

- Proposals can be submitted by New Zealand research organisations for Fellows from any country.
- International Leaders coming to New Zealand must not already hold employment in New Zealand

Activity Description

The successful Leader will: be internationally recognised for excellence in their research field; and have the ability to support an increase in New Zealand's capability in their area of expertise.

The Applicant must be a New Zealand-based Research Organisation, which will act as the New Zealand Host (the Host). The Host will have the ability to leverage strategic benefit of the Leader to catalyse capability and capacity development in New Zealand. The Host is expected to connect the Fellow to other institutions.

- Each year up to **three** International Leader Fellows may be awarded.
- The Fellow must spend a minimum of **4 weeks per year** in New Zealand with the Host institution for a period of **up to three years**.

Funding

The International Leader Fellowships will provide the following funding (GST exclusive) per annum of the Award:

- NZ\$20,000 maximum contribution towards supporting the cost of the Fellow's time paid to the Leader via the New Zealand Host. Where the Fellow's time is being covered by the Fellow's employer, this funding can be used for other expenses relating to the Fellowship.
- NZ\$20,000 maximum research and travel allowance paid to the Host; and
- NZ\$10,000 maximum host institution administration allowance paid to the Host.

Note on research, travel and other expenses.

- The cost of carbon offsets is a legitimate expense where they directly relate to project travel.
- Expenses for holding symposiums, seminars and meetings is an allowable expense where this activity supports the Host's requirement to connect the Leader beyond its own institution AND the activity takes place in New Zealand.
- The Travel allowance can be used to pay for the Fellow's return travels to New Zealand, and their domestic travel activities in New Zealand.
- The research and travel allowance cannot be used for salaries, equipment purchase and depreciation, student fees, or scholarships.

Specific Requirements

- The New Zealand Host is expected to connect the Leader to other institutions.

Fields of Research

Priority research areas for the International Leader Fellowship are:

- Quantum technology
- Health and biomedicine
- Biotechnologies
- Artificial Intelligence
- Antarctic research
- Space and Earth observations

Subject to the number and quality of submitted applications, proposals aligning with the priority research areas are expected to make up 75% of awarded International Leader Fellowship contracts. The remaining 25% of awarded contracts can be in any field of research (including social sciences and the humanities).

Notification

The Society will notify Applicants of the outcome by email through their Host Institutional Research Coordinator no later than **7 weeks** after the close of applications.

Julius von Haast Fellowship

Specific Programme Information

Background

The Julius von Haast Fellowship is offered to internationally recognised German researchers in conjunction with the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment and the [Alexander von Humboldt Foundation](#). The application process is administered by the Society.

Objective

The Fellowship allows internationally recognised German researchers to spend time working collaboratively with their New Zealand colleagues, and to establish, or enhance, collaborative research of benefit to both countries.

International Partner

- Germany – in partnership with the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (AvH).

Activity Description

The successful Julius von Haast Fellow will be internationally recognised for excellence in their research field and have the ability to support an increase in New Zealand's capability in their area of expertise.

The Applicant must be a New Zealand-based Research Organisation, which will act as the New Zealand Host (the Host). The Host will have the ability to leverage strategic benefit of the Fellow to catalyse capability and capacity development in New Zealand. The Host is expected to connect the Fellow beyond its own institution.

- Each year up to **one** Julius von Haast may be awarded. Unsuccessful applications for the Julius Von Haast Fellowship will automatically be considered for an International Leader Fellowship in the same call.
- The successful Fellow will undertake research in New Zealand for a minimum of four weeks per year over the three-year award period.

Funding

A Julius von Haast Fellowship will be awarded for three years. Each year of tenure the Fellowship Award will comprise an annual payment of:

- A contribution towards supporting the cost of the Fellow's time of **up to \$20,000** paid to the Host. Where the Fellow's time is being covered by the Fellow's

employer, this funding can be used for other expenses relating to the Fellowship

- **NZ\$20,000** maximum research and travel allowance* paid to the Host and
- **NZ\$10,000** host institution administration allowance paid to the Host

*The cost of buying carbon offsets is an allowable expense where those carbon offsets are directly related to the project travel activities. If applicable, New Zealand quarantine fees for the Julius Von Haast Fellow visiting New Zealand is also allowable expense.

The research and travel allowance cannot be used for salaries, equipment purchase and depreciation, student fees, or scholarships.

Fields of Research

The Julius von Haast Fellowship is open to all fields of research, science and technology (including social sciences and the humanities), and related areas of expertise.

Specific Requirements

In addition to the general eligibility requirements of the Catalyst: Leaders:

- The Fellow must be a German national or permanent resident that is well established in the German research system and has an international reputation as an innovative researcher. He/she must be currently working within the German research/science sector and have been employed for no less than five years (in total) in public or private German research or academic institutions (unless otherwise agreed to by Royal Society Te Aparangi).
- The Julius von Haast Fellow coming to New Zealand must not already hold employment in New Zealand
- The New Zealand Host is expected to connect the Leader to other institutions.
- Previously unsuccessful applicants are not excluded from re-applying.
- Previous recipients of the Julius von Haast Fellowship are not eligible to apply.

The application must include a copy of one of the following documents for the German researcher to prove their eligibility:

- Passport or Birth Certificate or Certificate of Permanent Residency.

Notification

The Society will notify Applicants of the outcome by email through their Host institutional Research Coordinator no later than **7 weeks** after the close of applications.

Japan Society for the Promotion of Science – Postdoctoral Fellowships

Specific Programme Information

Background

The Postdoctoral Fellowship programme is offered to New Zealand researchers under the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) and the New Zealand Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE). The application process is administered by the Society.

Objective

The objective of the scheme is to assist young and excellent New Zealand postdoctoral researchers to further develop and enhance their skills and knowledge in all fields of social sciences, natural and physical sciences, and health/medical sciences and, wherever possible, to focus some of this development and enhancement into perceived areas of need for New Zealand.

Activity Description

The programme provides opportunities for excellent postdoctoral researchers from New Zealand to conduct, under the guidance of their Japanese Hosts, co-operative research with leading research groups in Japanese universities and research institutes. The program allows such researchers to advance their own research while contributing to the progress of research in Japan and the counterpart countries.

Fellowships

- Up to **4** fellowships may be awarded in this funding round, depending on the quality of applications received.
- The period of fellowship is from **12 - 24 full months**.

Value of the Award

A round trip air-ticket (based on JSPS regulations), a monthly maintenance allowance (set by JSPS), a settling-in allowance (set by JSPS) and overseas travel accident and sickness insurance coverage.

Fields of Research

Under the MOU, Proposals support collaborative research in all fields of research including the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences.

Specific Requirements

In addition to the general eligibility requirements of Catalyst: Leaders:

- A requirement that an applicant holds a doctorate degree, or is scheduled to receive a doctorate degree before the chosen start date of the Fellowship.

Please note: CV templates and Budget forms are not required for this programme.

Supplementary documents

- Copy of PhD Degree certificate (signed or stamped with an official seal). If the degree has not yet been awarded, a letter is required from the applicant's institution stating the date that s/he will officially receive the degree.
- Letter of acceptance/invitation from the Japanese Host (signed by the host himself/herself)
- Letter of recommendation signed by the applicant's doctoral supervisor

Notes on eligibility

- Applicants that are not currently associated with a New Zealand research organisation can seek permission from the Society to apply as a private individual.
- When nominating candidates to JSPS, the Society must give preference to New Zealand citizens or permanent residents.

Nominations

Please note: For the JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship scheme in Catalyst: Leaders the Society is the Nominating Authority, with all applicants' subject to final approval by JSPS.

The Society assesses the applications and nominates the successful candidates to JSPS.

Notification

- The Society will notify Fellows of their nomination to JSPS through their institutional Research Coordinator by email no later than **7 weeks** after the close of applications.

New Zealand-China Scientist Exchange Programme

Specific Programme Information

Background

In February 2009 the New Zealand Ministry of Research, Science and Technology (now the Ministry of Business, Innovation, and Employment) and the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) signed an arrangement to encourage and facilitate greater understanding and development of research linkages between New Zealand and China. The arrangement provides for that support to be provided through the New Zealand-China Scientist Exchange Programme.

Objective

The objectives of the scientific exchange programme are to encourage and facilitate greater understanding and development of research linkages between early to mid-career researchers of the two countries in jointly agreed priority research fields for collaboration.

International Partner

- People's Republic of China – Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) and the China Science and Technology Exchange Center (CSTEC)

Activity Description

Each year the Society runs a New Zealand-based call for applications to enable **up to 10** excellent New Zealand researchers to travel to mainland China and collaborate with researchers in mainland Chinese institutes for a **four-week period**¹. Reasons for a shorter visit (not less than two weeks) or a longer visit (no more than six weeks) can be given in the application.

During the visit, the New Zealand researchers can apply to visit more than one Chinese research institute as part of the exchange. Additional visits to research institutes in the Beijing area can be accommodated following the Beijing Orientation event. Additional visits are subject to approval by CSTEC, which will be sought by the Society prior to the contracting of successful applications.

The exchange should take place in October to coincide with an Orientation event in Beijing. In the instance where the proposed research necessitates travel at a different time of year, prior agreement from the Society and CSTEC (via the Society) is required.

¹ **For Chinese researchers visiting New Zealand** CSTEC will operate an independent China-based call to enable up to 10 excellent Chinese researchers to visit New Zealand in 2026. If you are interested in hosting a researcher by supporting their application, contact CSTEC for more information.

Beijing Orientation

All exchange Leaders are expected to start their exchange participating in an orientation ceremony in Beijing unless otherwise agreed to by the Society and CSTEC. Following the orientation ceremony, exchange Leaders will travel to their chosen Chinese institution to meet with their Host researcher.

- In 2026, the Beijing orientation ceremony will be held on 8th October 2026.

The Society will provide successful Leaders with a NZ\$3,000 travel grant for travel between New Zealand and Beijing.

MOST will cover the costs of local accommodation and domestic travel between Beijing and host cities. MOST will also pay each researcher a daily allowance to cover meals and incidental expenses.

The exchange programme does not provide funds for research costs.

Each successful Leader is responsible for their own visa application, travel and medical insurance.

Fields of Research

Preference will be given to those applications under the listed priority research fields. However, applications for other fields of research will be accepted as well:

- Environment science
- Food science
- Health and biomedical sciences.

Appendix III: He Kuputaka Glossary of te reo Māori terms

Definitions taken from maoridictionary.co.nz

Ka mihi ki a Ahorangi Angus Macfarlane, Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha, mō tēnei. With thanks to Professor Angus Macfarlane, University of Canterbury, for his input.

Aotearoa	the Māori name for New Zealand
Aroha	affection, sympathy, charity, compassion, love, empathy
Atua	ancestor with continuing influence, god, demon, supernatural being, deity, ghost, object of superstitious regard, strange being – although often translated as ‘god’ and now also used for the Christian God
Hapū	kinship group, clan, tribe, subtribe – section of a large kinship group and the primary political unit in traditional Māori society. It consisted of a number of whānau sharing descent from a common ancestor, usually being named after the ancestor, but sometimes from an important event in the group's history. A number of related hapū usually shared adjacent territories forming a looser tribal federation (iwi)
Hau kāinga	home, true home, local people of a marae, home people
Hauora	health, wellbeing
Hui	gathering, meeting, assembly
Iwi	extended kinship group, tribe, nation, people, nationality, race – often refers to a large group of people descended from a common ancestor and associated with a distinct territory
Kāinga	home, address, residence, village, settlement, habitation, habitat, dwelling
Kaitiaki	trustee, minder, guard, custodian, guardian, caregiver, keeper, steward
Kaitiakitanga	guardianship, stewardship, trusteeship
Kaumātua	adult, elder, elderly man, elderly woman, senior person – a person of status within the whānau or iwi
Kaupapa	philosophy, topic, policy, matter for discussion, plan, purpose, scheme, proposal, agenda, subject, programme, theme, issue, initiative
Kaupapa Māori	Māori approach, Māori topic, Māori customary practice, Māori institution, Māori agenda, Māori principles, Māori ideology – a philosophical doctrine, incorporating the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values of Māori society
Koha	gift, present, offering, donation, contribution – especially one maintaining social relationships and has connotations of reciprocity
Kōiwi tangata	human bones or remains
Kōrero	to tell, say, speak, read, talk, address; speech, narrative, story, news, account, discussion, conversation, discourse, statement, information

Mamae	be painful, sore, hurt
Mana	prestige, authority, control, power, influence, status, spiritual power, charisma - mana is a supernatural force in a person, place or object. Mana goes hand in hand with tapu, one affecting the other. The more prestigious the event, person or object, the more it is surrounded by tapu and mana. Mana is the enduring, indestructible power of the atua and is inherited at birth, the more senior the descent, the greater the mana. The authority of mana and tapu is inherited and delegated through the senior line from the atua as their human agent to act on revealed will. Since authority is a spiritual gift delegated by the atua, man remains the agent, never the source of mana. This divine choice is confirmed by the elders, initiated by the tohunga under traditional consecratory rites (tohi). Mana gives a person the authority to lead, organise and regulate communal expeditions and activities, to make decisions regarding social and political matters. A person or tribe's mana can increase from successful ventures or decrease through the lack of success
Manaakitanga	hospitality, kindness, generosity, support – the process of showing respect, generosity and care for others
Māori	Māori, Indigenous New Zealander, Indigenous person of Aotearoa/New Zealand – a new use of the word resulting from Pākehā contact in order to distinguish between people of Māori descent and the colonisers
Marae	courtyard – the open area in front of the wharenui (meeting house), where formal greetings and discussions take place. Often also used to include the complex of buildings around the marae
Mātauranga	knowledge, wisdom, understanding, skill – sometimes used in the plural; education – an extension of the original meaning and commonly used in modern Māori with this meaning
Mauri	life principle, life force, vital essence, special nature, a material symbol of a life principle, source of emotions – the essential quality and vitality of a being or entity. Also used for a physical object, individual, ecosystem or social group in which this essence is located
Moana	sea, ocean, large lake
Te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa	the Pacific Ocean
Pākehā	English, foreign, European, exotic – introduced from or originating in a foreign country; New Zealander of European descent – probably originally applied to English-speaking Europeans living in Aotearoa/New Zealand
Pepeha	tribal saying, tribal motto, proverb (especially about a tribe), set form of words, formulaic expression, saying of the ancestors, figure of speech, motto, slogan – set sayings known for their economy of words and metaphor and encapsulating many Māori values and human characteristics
Pūrākau	myth, ancient legend, story
Rangatahi	younger generation, youth

Rangatira	chief (male or female), chieftain, chieftainess, master, mistress, boss, supervisor, employer, landlord, owner, proprietor – qualities of a leader is a concern for the integrity and prosperity of the people, the land, the language and other cultural treasures (for example, oratory and song poetry), and an aggressive and sustained response to outside forces that may threaten these
Rangatiratanga	chieftainship, right to exercise authority, chiefly autonomy, chiefly authority, ownership, leadership of a social group, domain of the rangatira, noble birth, attributes of a chief
Rohe	boundary, district, region, territory, area, border (of land)
Rūnanga	council, tribal council, assembly, board, boardroom, iwi authority – assemblies called to discuss issues of concern to iwi or the community
Tamariki	children – normally used only in the plural
Tāne	husband, male, man
Tangata whenua	local people, hosts, indigenous people – people born of the whenua, i.e. of the placenta and of the land where the people's ancestors have lived and where their placenta are buried
Taonga	treasure, anything prized – applied to anything considered to be of value including socially or culturally valuable objects, resources, phenomenon, ideas and techniques
Tapu	be sacred, prohibited, restricted, set apart, forbidden, under atua protection; restriction, prohibition – a supernatural condition. A person, place or thing is dedicated to an atua and is thus removed from the sphere of the profane and put into the sphere of the sacred. It is untouchable, no longer to be put to common use
Te reo Māori	Māori language
Te Tiriti o Waitangi	The Treaty of Waitangi
Tikanga	correct procedure, custom, habit, lore, method, manner, rule, way, code, meaning, plan, practice, convention, protocol – the customary system of values and practices that have developed over time and are deeply embedded in the social context
Tino rangatiratanga	self-determination, sovereignty, autonomy, self-government, domination, rule, control, power
Tipuna	ancestor, grandparent, grandfather, grandmother – singular form of tīpuna and the eastern dialect variation of tupuna
Tohunga	skilled person, chosen expert, priest, healer – a person chosen by the agent of an atua and the tribe as a leader in a particular field because of signs indicating talent for a particular vocation
Tupuna	ancestor, grandparent – singular form of tūpuna and the western dialect variation of tipuna

Tūrangawaewae	domicile, standing, place where one has the right to stand – place where one has rights of residence and belonging through kinship and whakapapa
Wairua	spirit, soul – spirit of a person which exists beyond death. It is the non-physical spirit, distinct from the body and the mauri
Wahine/wāhine	wahine – woman, female, lady, wife; wāhine – women, females, ladies, wives – plural form of wahine; female, women, feminine
Wairuatanga	spirituality
Wānanga	seminar, conference, forum, educational seminar; tribal knowledge, lore, learning – important traditional cultural, religious, historical, genealogical and philosophical knowledge; tertiary institution that caters for Māori learning needs – established under the Education Act 1990
Whaikōrero	oratory, oration, formal speech-making, address, speech – formal speeches usually made by men during a pohiri/pōwhiri and other gatherings
Whakapapa	genealogy, genealogical table, lineage, descent – reciting whakapapa was, and is, an important skill and reflected the importance of genealogies in Māori society in terms of leadership, land and fishing rights, kinship and status. It is central to all Māori institutions. There are different terms for the types of whakapapa and the different ways of reciting them including: tāhū (recite a direct line of ancestry through only the senior line); whakamoe (recite a genealogy including males and their spouses); taotahi (recite genealogy in a single line of descent); hikohiko (recite genealogy in a selective way by not following a single line of descent); ure tārewa (male line of descent through the first-born male in each generation)
Whakataukī	proverb, significant saying, formulaic saying, cryptic saying, aphorism. Like whakataukāki and pepeha they are essential ingredients in whaikōrero
Whānau	extended family, family group, a familiar term of address to a number of people – the primary economic unit of traditional Māori society. In the modern context the term is sometimes used to include friends who may not have any kinship ties to other members
Whānaungatanga	relationship, kinship, sense of family connection – a relationship through shared experiences and working together which provides people with a sense of belonging. It develops as a result of kinship rights and obligations, which also serve to strengthen each member of the kin group. It also extends to others to whom one develops a close familial, friendship or reciprocal relationship
Whenua	land – often used in the plural; territory, domain; country, land, nation, state



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