

Guidelines for Marsden Fund Referees (for Fast-Start Proposals)

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Funding for research excellence

The Marsden Fund is administered by The Royal Society Te Apārangī, PO Box 598, Wellington 6140.

Email: marsden@royalsociety.org.nz, <http://royalsociety.org.nz/what-we-do/funds-and-opportunities/marsden>

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Introduction

The Marsden Fund invests in excellent, investigator-led research aimed at generating new knowledge, with the potential for long-term economic, environmental, or health benefit to New Zealand. It supports excellent research projects that advance and expand the knowledge base and contributes to the development of people with advanced skills in New Zealand.

Your role as a referee is an integral part of the assessment process. Your detailed comments help in the final assessment of the proposal, and to provide feedback to the applicant. Referees used by the Marsden Fund are anonymous – no identifying information is disclosed to the applicants.

- **Submission of Referee Reports is via a Web-based portal. If you are available to act as a referee, you will later receive a URL which will link to the proposal (available from 30 June onwards) and instructions on how to complete the Referee Report on-line.**
- **Section 1 of the Referee Report goes back to the applicant for comments. Section 2, including grades and the referee’s identity, remains confidential to the Marsden Fund Council.**
- **If you consider that you have a minor conflict of interest, describe its nature in Section 2 of the Referee Report Form, after appraising the proposal.**
- **If the conflict of interest is serious, please do not appraise the proposal, and inform the Marsden Fund.**
- **The contents and ideas contained in the proposal are strictly confidential. The proposal material must not be used for any purpose other than assessment of the proposal.**

Referees who have assessed proposals will receive a list detailing the successful programmes in late 2026.

Purpose and scope of the Fund*

Nature of the Marsden Fund

1. The Marsden Fund encourages New Zealand's leading researchers to explore new ideas that may not be funded through other funding streams and fosters creativity and innovation within the science, innovation and technology system. Exploring new ideas results in greater potential to develop new technologies, products, boost economic growth, and enhance New Zealand's quality of life.
2. The Marsden Fund invests in excellent, investigator-led research aimed at generating new knowledge, with the potential for long-term economic, environmental, or health benefit to New Zealand.
3. It supports excellent research projects that advance and expand the knowledge base and contributes to the development of people with advanced skills in New Zealand.
4. The Minister for Science, Innovation and Technology (the Minister) has overall responsibility for the Marsden Fund.

Objectives of the Fund

5. The objectives of the Marsden Fund are to:
 - a) enhance the quality of research in New Zealand by creating increased opportunity to undertake excellent investigator-led research.
 - b) contribute in the long-term to economic, environmental, or health impacts for New Zealand.
 - c) support the advancement of knowledge and technology in New Zealand and contribute to the global knowledge base.
 - d) contribute to the development of advanced skills in New Zealand, including support for continuing training of post-doctoral level researchers and support for the establishment of early careers of new and emerging researchers.
 - e) support research where there is a clear rationale for the research to be undertaken in New Zealand.

*The full Terms of Reference (updated November 2025) are on the Marsden Fund website:

<https://www.royalsociety.org.nz/what-we-do/funds-and-opportunities/marsden/about/tor/>

Fast-Start Initiative: For Emerging Researchers

This is one of two categories of grants available within the Marsden Fund in 2026:

- *Fast-Start*: For emerging researchers, capped at \$120,000 per year for up to three years.
- *Standard*: Open to all eligible researchers. Amount of funding is flexible, dependent on the panel and is capped (maximum \$320,000 per year for up to three years). These are larger than Fast-Start proposals. Funding can be sought for up to three years.

The Fast-Start programme is targeted at emerging researchers who are trying to establish independent research careers and create research momentum. The purpose is to support research by promising individuals and to give an impetus to their careers by promoting them as sole Principal Investigators in their own research programmes. While linkages with established researchers, as Associate Investigators, both within and outside New Zealand are useful and encouraged, the emphasis for this funding is on individual researchers in the early stages of their careers.

The applicant should be involved in independent research and not be merely part of a larger group's research programme.

A PhD degree is required to apply for a Fast-Start grant; researchers are eligible to apply if they are within seven fulltime years of completion of their PhD or ten fulltime years of the start of their research career.

The eligibility period for Fast-Start grants may be extended under the following scenarios:

- In addition to any excluded time spent on parental leave and/or on sickness leave, applicants who have had part-time employment will have their seven years' experience calculated *pro rata* for the year count.
- Eligibility may also be extended to account for any career interruptions experienced due to being the primary caregiver for young children. If the applicant is the primary caregiver of a dependent child born since their PhD, the applicant can extend the period of eligibility by two years per child. The extension of two years per dependent child is inclusive of any periods of parental leave. There is no maximum identified.

Applicants wishing to bid into the Fast-Start scheme may apply for funding for up to 3 years. This amount is capped at NZ\$120,000 per year and is roughly one-third the maximum size of Standard Marsden grants.

Fast-Start proposals may include an optional **Mentor**. The Mentor's role is to support the applicant's career development, rather than contribute to the research itself.

- Mentors may advise on project management, career guidance, and professional growth.
- Mentors are **not** expected to provide scholarly input into the proposed research.
- CVs are not required for Mentors, and their academic track records should not be considered when assessing the proposal.

Assessment Criteria

The key assessment criteria are:

Research

- Proposals must have the potential to lead to quantifiable impacts* because of the proposal's novelty, originality, insight and ambition
- Proposals must be rigorous and should have a basis in prior research and use a sound research method
- The research team must have the ability and capacity to deliver.

Benefit

- Proposals must demonstrate why the research could be of economic, environmental, or health benefit to New Zealand
- Proposals should demonstrate a clear rationale for the research to be undertaken in New Zealand
- Proposals should develop research skills in New Zealand, particularly those at the post-doctoral level and emerging researchers (for the Fast-Start initiative, this criterion is satisfied for these applicants).

Vision Mātauranga

Proposals must consider the relation of the research to the themes of Vision Mātauranga** and, where relevant, how the project will engage with Māori.

*Quantifiable impacts can be defined in various ways including how the research will:

- contribute to shifting the understanding, and advancing methods, theory and application across and within disciplines;
- lead to economic, environmental, or health outcomes for New Zealand beyond its contributions to knowledge and skills development.

**For an explanation of Vision Mātauranga, please refer to [Appendix I](#).

Assessment Process

Expression of Interest (EOI) round

Applicants to the Marsden Fund first submit a short version of their proposal for an initial EOI round. EOIs are assessed by subject-specific panels. For 2026, approximately 15% of applicants have been invited to write full proposals.

Full round

Each full proposal is sent out for review by three expert referees, based on expertise in disciplines relevant to the proposal. Applicants are asked to prepare responses to these Referee Reports, which will then be considered by the relevant panel. Note that applicant responses do not go back to the referees themselves. Final funding recommendations are made by panel members based on full proposals, Referee Reports, and applicant responses to these reports. Approximately half of the full proposals will receive funding.

The Role of the Referee

Marsden Fund proposals are assessed by panels made up of researchers from a range of disciplines. Due to the broad nature of the panels, the panellists will not necessarily be able to provide expert analyses for every proposal. Your comments as a specialist referee are essential for making final recommendations on which proposals should be funded. They can also help applicants to refine their proposals for future resubmission.

Preparing a Referee Report involves the following steps:

- Read these guidelines and familiarise yourself with the assessment criteria for the relevant Marsden Fund grant category (Fast-Start or Standard).
- Read the proposal and supporting documents carefully and thoroughly.
- Complete your Referee Report by the due date (July 20th) via the portal. Please contact the Marsden Fund at marsdenref@royalsociety.org.nz if you are unable to meet this deadline for any reason.

In your Referee Report, you will be asked to comment separately on both the *proposed research* and the *researcher(s)*, considering the above assessment criteria. The Referee Report consists of two important aspects: your **comments** on both the proposed research and researchers ([Section 1](#) below), and numeric **grades** for both the proposed research and researchers ([Section 2](#) below). Grades given in Section 2 should be consistent with the comments given. Please do not refer to the grades given in your comments, as they are not revealed to the applicants.

Your comments as an expert referee are the most important aspect of your review. Gradings alongside very limited comments may be discounted by the assessment panel.

Acting as a referee for the Marsden Fund is completely optional, and referees do not receive compensation. If requested, we will provide a letter confirming your participation as a referee. We can also record your contribution to service to your ORCID record if you wish.

Tone and Bias

Professionalism and respect are core principles of the Royal Society Te Apārangi*, and we encourage referees to follow these principles when providing feedback on proposals or applicants. Comments should be objective and constructive, with no personal attacks or derogatory language.

We encourage the use of gender-neutral pronouns when talking about applicants and their team members to avoid making unwarranted assumptions about gender identity.

Biases that we are unaware of (unconscious biases) can impact our judgement. Raising our awareness of this kind of bias can help to limit its impact. We recommend that referees watch this short (3 minutes) introduction video on unconscious bias from the Royal Society London to familiarise or reacquaint yourselves with the topic:

<https://royalsociety.org/topics-policy/publications/2015/unconscious-bias/>

Additional resources on unconscious bias:

1. Link to Harvard University implicit association tests (IAT) on unconscious bias in relation to Gender and Science, and Gender and Career: <https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/takeatest.html>
2. 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://www.microsoft.com/en-us/diversity/explore-learn>
3. “State of the Science: Implicit Bias Review” – this publication covers a wide range of issues relating to implicit or unconscious bias and general mitigation strategies:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20180120210341/https://kirwaninstitute.osu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/2017-SOTS-final-draft-02.pdf>

Note that the assessment panels may assign less weight to Referee Reports that are considered unprofessional in tone.

*Code of Professional Standards and Ethics developed by the Royal Society Te Apārangi: <https://www.royalsociety.org.nz/who-we-are/our-rules-and-codes/code-of-professional-standards-and-ethics/>

Guidance around the use of generative AI technologies

Assessment

There is growing concern around the use of generative AI tools (large language models, e.g. Chat GPT) in the assessment of grant proposals, as they could lead to confidentiality breaches and may generate fabricated content and citations.

Referees must not use large language models (LLMs) or other generative artificial intelligence (AI) technologies for assessing proposals. This is due to confidentiality concerns. Inputting substantial, detailed information into a generative AI tool forfeits control of where that data may be sent, saved, viewed, or used in the future.

Applications

The Marsden Fund has advised applicants to use caution in relation to the use of generative AI tools in developing their proposals. All applicants have signed a declaration to confirm that they take full responsibility for the content of the proposal, the suitability and validity of cited sources and originality of content, and to confirm that that proposal does not contain false or misleading information.

Important Context for Assessing Full Proposals

Full proposals are subject to strict word and space limits, which may affect how much detail applicants can include. The main research and benefit template is limited to seven pages, or six pages if the proposal does not include a Vision Mātauranga component.

When assessing full proposals, please note the following:

- **Do not consider the cost of the proposed research.** Budgets are not attached and will be considered separately by the Marsden Fund panels.
- Section 4 of the proposal lists each researcher's time involvement. Time is expressed as full-time equivalents (FTEs); for example, 0.2 FTE per year is equivalent to one day per week on the research.

Referee's Comments (Section 1)

Please address your comments primarily to each of the following, and base your judgment on them:

- I. **Comments on the proposed research**
- II. **Comments on the researcher(s)**
- III. **Comments on how the proposal could be improved (optional).**
 - I. **Comments on the proposed research**

The **overall excellence** of the proposed research. This should incorporate:

- the potential of the research for quantifiable impacts due to its novelty, originality, insight and ambition
- the rigour of the proposed research

and, where you have comfort doing so:

- the potential for economic, environmental or health benefits to New Zealand
 - the rationale for the research to be carried out in New Zealand
 - how the proposal has addressed Vision Mātauranga (if applicable).
- Your assessment of the *potential for quantifiable impacts* of the research should consider whether the work outlined in **sections 3A to 3D** of the proposal will significantly contribute to advances in theoretical understanding, develop new methodologies, contribute to new knowledge, and/or lead to advancement in a field by cross-fertilisation with ideas and results from another field.
 - *Rigour of the proposed research*: Often the design and planning of a programme of research determines its success. Good design and planning are determined by whether the overall proposal and its specific objectives have a clear focus, and the methods and experimental or sampling design are rigorous and likely to produce high quality results.
 - The Roles and Resources section of the proposal (**section 3H**) asks applicants to identify the resources and skills available or needed to conduct the research; and the Personnel table in **section 4** lists the time contributions of everyone involved in the proposed research. Please comment on these aspects where appropriate.

If you are familiar with the New Zealand research context, we also welcome comments on the following:

- *Potential for economic, environmental or health benefits to New Zealand*: These are described in **section 3E**. The research should have direct and / or indirect benefits or effects on individuals, communities or society, including broad benefits to New Zealand's economy, environment or health. What are the scale and extent of potential benefits from the proposed research? What is the extent of alignment with one or more areas of future additional value, growth, or critical need for New Zealand? Note that the demonstration of benefit does not have to be direct, or foreseeable. This includes situations where the potential benefit is not imminent or accrued in a linear fashion.
- *Rationale for the research to be carried out in New Zealand*: Described in **section 3E**. Why would a New Zealand-based team be uniquely positioned? What comparative advantages are there? What would be the likely benefits if the research is conducted in New Zealand?
- If *Vision Mātauranga* is deemed relevant, does the proposal contain good engagement with the idea and appropriateness of Vision Mātauranga? Is Vision Mātauranga well justified? Is it well integrated? For an explanation of, and more information on, Vision Mātauranga, please see [Appendix I](#).

For a glossary of Māori concepts, words and phrases commonly seen in Marsden Fund proposals, please see [Appendix II](#).

There is no prescribed maximum or minimum length for Section 1, although very short (e.g. only one or two sentence) answers are of limited use to the panel. For guidance, the average word count varies between 200-450 words.

II. Comments on the researcher(s)

The ability and capacity of the researcher to carry out the proposed research, relative to opportunity.

Please assess the researcher's potential to carry out the research by examining their **track record**. As an applicant in this programme is at the start of their career, the track record must be assessed in relation to the years of research experience. Other factors will be the quality of the research training and its appropriateness for carrying out the proposed research.

There is no prescribed maximum or minimum length for this section. For guidance, the average word count varies between 50-150 words.

III. How could the proposal be improved?

It is very helpful if you can include a paragraph on how the proposal could be improved, although this section is optional.

There is no prescribed maximum or minimum length for this section. For guidance, the average word count varies between 50-200 words.

Referees' Grades (Section 2; Confidential)

In Section 2 of the report, please provide two numeric grades.

The first grade, "A", is an overall grade for the **proposed research**, reflecting your comments on the overall excellence of the research.

Please use the following scale:

Grade 1: Outstanding (almost certain to be funded by any international agency)

Grade 2: Excellent (very likely to be funded by any international agency)

Grade 3: Well above average (worthy of funding)

Grade 4: Average (unlikely to be funded as lacks novelty or just not strong enough)

Grade 5: Below average (would not be funded as contains serious flaws)

The second grade, "B", is a grade for the **researcher(s)** on the proposal and should reflect track record **relative to opportunity**. This is especially important when considering Fast-Start applicants, as they will be at a relatively early stage in their research careers.

Please use the following scale:

Grade 1: Outstanding

Grade 2: Excellent

Grade 3: Well above average

Grade 4: Average

Grade 5: Below average

If you have received any early career research proposals for review from international funding agencies, please benchmark Marsden proposals against these.

Note that the grades will **not** be made available to applicants, which is why this scale is included in "confidential" information in Section 2.

Conflicts of Interest (Section 2; Confidential)

Please indicate any conflicts of interest in Section 2 of the Referee Report. This section is not seen by the applicant.

Conflicts of interest exist where a referee has an interest in the outcome of the funding decision, in particular where approval or rejection of the proposal may benefit or disadvantage the referee. This might occur when a referee:

- Depends on or competes with the applicant professionally
- Works at, or has recently worked at, the same organisation as the applicant
- Has recently co-authored research with the applicant
- Is a co-investigator with any of the applicants on a funded grant
- Is currently collaborating with the applicant.

If in doubt about the severity of a conflict of interest, please contact the Royal Society Te Apārangi (marsdenref@royalsociety.org.nz). Major conflicts may preclude you from acting as a referee for a proposal, so should be reported to us as soon as possible.

Additional Information

Additional information on the Marsden Fund is available on our website:

<http://royalsociety.org.nz/what-we-do/funds-and-opportunities/marsden/>

Before Submitting your Report

Before submitting your Referee Report, please ensure that the *intended grades* and all comments have been entered.

Reports are due for completion via the portal by 20 July 2026 (or as otherwise advised).

Marsden Fund Contact Details (for reference)

Marsden Fund
c/- Royal Society Te Apārangi
P O Box 598
Wellington 6140
New Zealand

E-mail: marsdenref@royalsociety.org.nz

Appendix I: 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.

<https://www.mbie.govt.nz/science-and-technology/science-and-innovation/agencies-policies-and-budget-initiatives/vision-matauranga-policy/>

For a glossary of te reo Māori terms which may be used in proposals, please refer to [Appendix II](#).

Vision Mātauranga is included as an assessment criterion:

Proposals must consider the relation of the research to the themes of Vision Mātauranga and, where relevant, how the project will engage with Māori.

There are four themes:

- Indigenous Innovation, which involves contributing to economic growth through distinctive research and development
- Taiao, which is concerned with achieving environmental sustainability through iwi and hapū relationships with land and sea
- Hauora/Oranga, which centres around improving health and social wellbeing
- Mātauranga, which involves exploring Indigenous knowledge.

The guidance for assessors on Marsden panels is included below, as this may aid referees who wish to comment.

Assessors should focus their overall assessment on the appropriateness of Vision Mātauranga to the proposed research, the justification for Vision Mātauranga in terms of that research and, in cases where Vision Mātauranga is deemed applicable, how it is integrated into the overall proposal. This assessment should then contribute to the overall holistic grade. The following considerations may help:

1. Does the decision (yes/no to relevance) seem appropriate?
2. Does the statement provide a clear justification for the decision? This can vary considerably, from institutional statements to narrative accounts. The main thing to look for is whether applicants have engaged with the idea and appropriateness of Vision Mātauranga, even if they have chosen N/A.
3. Do you have any concerns regarding how Vision Mātauranga is addressed (or not addressed) in the statement and proposal as a whole? Examples might be when Vision Mātauranga is indicated as:
 - N/A: however, there is no justification given and the project appears highly relevant for Māori (for example the use of taonga species/artefacts);
 - Relevant: however, it seems like it might not be, and the justification is absent or inadequate;
 - Relevant: there is significant inclusion of mātauranga Māori and even kaupapa Māori approaches, yet there is no further mention of this in the proposal and/or no Māori are involved in the research.

At the Full Proposal round, up to one additional page will be available for statements on Vision Mātauranga immediately following the description of research in Sections 3a-3c. This is to enable Vision Mātauranga to be more easily integrated into the conceptual framework and/or research design. Where Vision Mātauranga is appropriate to a proposal, it can contribute to the assessment of its overall excellence.

For background, guidance and resources for applicants can be found here:

<https://www.royalsociety.org.nz/what-we-do/funds-and-opportunities/marsden/marsden-fund-application-process/submitting-a-proposal/vision-matauranga/>

Appendix II: Glossary of te reo Māori terms

Definitions taken from maoridictionary.co.nz

With thanks to the late 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 whareniui (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 (e.g. 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 pōhiri / 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 whakatauāki 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