



**CATALYST
FUND**
LEADERS

Catalyst: Leaders

Ngā Aratohu Guidelines

Kohi-tātea January 2026



MINISTRY OF BUSINESS,
INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI

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Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

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Note

- Please note that this document will be released three times a year: Kohi-tātea January, Paenga-whāwhā April and Hōngongoi July.
- Information on open programmes is updated at each call release.
- Application Templates are available for downloading via the Catalyst: Portal, please contact your Research Office for a URL Link to the Catalyst: Portal.

Hītori Putanga Version History

Version	Date	Change	Page
31	January 2026	<p>Open Programmes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Leader Fellowships • Julius von Haast Fellowship • JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowships • New Zealand-China Scientist Exchange Programme <p>Change of application portal</p> <p>Applications to Catalyst: Leaders must be submitted via the Society's new application portal. For more information, see He Aratohu Tono - Application Guidance.</p> <p>Changes to how Collaboration Partners are included in the application</p> <p>From January 2026, Collaboration Parters will receive an email notifying them of the application with a link to the portal. They will then have to register with the portal (if not previously registered), agree to be part of the application, and upload their own CV and a letter of support from their organisation.</p> <p>Only ONE Collaboration Partner per Partner Organisation should be entered under Team Members.</p> <p>Changes to the application format for the New Zealand-China Scientist Exchange Programme</p> <p>The overall size of the application template for the New Zealand – China Scientist Exchange Programme has been reduced from a maximum of three pages to minimum one page and a maximum of two pages.</p>	

He Whakamārama Background

International science and innovation connectivity provides an opportunity to drive increasing excellence and the potential for impact of New Zealand science.

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment's (MBIE) Catalyst Fund supports activities that initiate, develop and foster collaborations leveraging international science and innovation for New Zealand's benefit. The Catalyst Fund is delivered through four instruments: Influence, Leaders, Seeding and Strategic. Investments by the Catalyst Fund is guided by the [Catalyst Fund Investment Plan](#).

On behalf of the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE), Royal Society Te Apārangi (the Society) administers Catalyst: Leaders.

Ngā Whāinga Objectives

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

The objectives of Catalyst: Leaders

- 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.
- Meet specific capability needs for New Zealand benefit.

Two Catalyst: Leaders calls will take place throughout this year.

Catalyst: Leaders programmes open (January 2026)

- International Leader Fellowships
- Julius von Haast Fellowship Award
- New Zealand to China Scientist Exchange Programme
- JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship

Whakapā mai Contact

For any queries, please contact Royal Society Te Apārangi:

Research Funding (International)

Royal Society Te Apārangi

PO Box 598 | 11 Turnbull Street, Thorndon, Wellington 6011

Phone: +64 4 470 5756 | +64 4 470 5764

Email: International.Applications@royalsociety.org.nz

Ngā Whai Wāhitanga Tuku Pūtea Funding Opportunities

Catalyst: Leaders provides funding for several sub-programmes. An overview of included sub-programmes and key dates are given in the tables below:

TABLE 1: Annual Call timeline

Call	Open Date	Close Date	Sub-Programmes
January	29 January 2026	23 April 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• International Leader Fellowship• JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship• New Zealand to China Scientist Exchange Programme• Julius von Haast Fellowship
April	30 April 2026	23 July 2026	There is no Catalyst Leaders call for April 2026.
July	30 July 2026	22 October 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• JSPS 18th HOPE Meeting

Please note: Information on sub-programmes is updated at each call release.

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	Per annum: \$20,000 Salary support \$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	Per annum: \$20,000 Salary support \$20,000 Research support \$10,000 Host admin	Up to 1
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 young researchers to attend the HOPE Meetings with Nobel Laureates in Japan	5 days	Flights, accommodation, and meeting registration	Up to 5
JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship***	Supports young and excellent New Zealand postdoctoral researchers doing research in Japan	12 – 24 months	Flights, insurance and living allowance	Up to 4

* Catalyst Fund priority research areas apply.

** New Zealand-China Scientist Exchange Programme priority research areas apply.

*** This programme is fully funded by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS).

TABLE 3: Catalyst: Leaders Sub-Programmes administered by other parties

Sub-Programme	Brief Description	Duration and approximate timing	International Partner Agency
China to New Zealand Scientist Exchange Programme (for Chinese researchers visiting New Zealand)	Supports the development of research linkages with China by enabling Chinese researchers to visit New Zealand research organisations	4-6 weeks, October-November (TBC)	Chinese Science and Technology Exchange Center in Beijing (CSTEC)

Please note: The Society does not administer Table 3 Sub-Programme calls. All eligibility and application requirements are determined by the International Partner Agency.

Ngā Whakamāramatanga Hira

Ngā Whakamāramatanga Hira 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 *Table 1: Annual Call* timeline.

New Zealand Principal Investigator (Contact) 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 (Contact).

International researcher means an overseas-based researcher who is not employed by a New Zealand research organisation(s).

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

Partner Institution means the research organisation of the international Collaboration Partner(s).

Programme (or Sub-Programme) means the individual funding opportunity within Catalyst: Leaders, identified in *Table 2: Catalyst: Leaders Sub-Programmes*.

Project means the unique research collaboration proposed by the Proposal.

Project Team means the Principal Investigator (Contact), 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.

Nomination means the process of the Applicant New Zealand-based research organisation registering a proposal on the portal and nominating a New Zealand Principal Investigator (Contact) to fill out the application.

Ngā Whakaritenga Āheinga Eligibility Requirements

- The Proposal must be made by a New Zealand-based research organisation or their representing legal entity, unless otherwise agreed by the Society.
- Complete Proposals including all supporting documents, must be submitted by **12.00 Noon (NZST)** on the closing date indicated on *Table 1: Annual Call timeline*. No late Proposals or supplementary documentation will be accepted.
- International Leaders coming to New Zealand must not already hold employment in New Zealand.
- In addition to the general eligibility requirements, the Proposal must meet all **specific Sub-Programme eligibility** criteria, as listed in the 'Information on Open Programmes' section at the end of these guidelines.
- The Project must not benefit a Russian state institution (including but not limited to support for Russian military or security activity) or an organisation outside government that may be perceived as contributing to the war effort.
<https://www.mbie.govt.nz/about/news/new-eligibility-criteria-restricts-science-research-funding-that-could-contribute-to-russias-war-effort/>

Whakakape Disclaimer

All Programmes are subject to Budget decisions, no particular level of funding is guaranteed and all commitments made or implied in the guidelines are subject to suitable appropriations being made by the New Zealand Government and, where applicable, bilateral partner Governments.

Paearu mō te Tipako Selection Criteria

The assessment of Proposals by the Society will be through a review process involving assessment panel(s) from outside of the Society. Refer to the section on application assessment for more information. *Please also refer to each Sub-Programme – Specific Requirements*. The review process will consider the proposals against the following assessment criteria:

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

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

- 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 (where the Leader is a visiting international researcher).
- Clearly demonstrated excellence of the international Partner Institution (where the Leader is an outgoing New Zealander).

Refer to **Application Form: Catalyst: Leaders Application template**.

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?

- 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.

Refer to **Application Form: Catalyst: Leaders Application template**.

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

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

- Clearly articulated line of sight to expected benefits of national and global significance in line with New Zealand's science priorities.
- 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 the 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),

Refer to **Application Form: Catalyst: Leaders Application template**.

When assessing the Proposals against the assessment criteria, the assessment panel(s) may also take the following factors into account, including the extent to which the overall mix of investments:

- is likely to achieve the objectives of the Catalyst: Leaders scheme
- is likely to unlock the science and innovation potential of Māori knowledge, resources,

and people for the benefit of New Zealand in accordance with the aim of the Vision Mātauranga policy

He Aratohu Tono Application Guidance

The Application Portal

As of January 2026, all Catalyst Fund applications must be submitted through the new Catalyst Portal. Contact your organisational research office to request a nomination to apply for a Catalyst funding opportunity. The portal will then send you an onboarding link. If this is your first time using the new Royal Society Te Apārangi portal, please see [Appendix I](#) for information on how to register. You must have a separate nomination for each Catalyst application you wish to make.

Profile

Every Person interacting with the portal for the first time must create a profile. For more information, please see Appendix I.

Note that the curriculum vita of the Principal Investigator (Contact) is uploaded in the application separately from the profile. On the other hand, curriculum vitae from collaboration partners are taken from their profile.

Application

Team

Principal Investigator (Contact)

Principal Investigator (Contact) information will be sourced from your profile. Please edit this information if it is inaccurate or incomplete.

Collaboration Partner

To add Collaboration Partners to your catalyst application, switch the Team application toggle to “On”. Please list email address, first name, last name, Role, country and organisation into the Team Members table for each Collaboration Partner. There is no need to add a Team name.

With the exception of the New Zealand – China Scientist Exchange Programme, a Catalyst: Leaders application can only have ONE international partner.

Clicking “Save” or “Save and continue” will automatically send an invitation email to the Collaboration Partner(s). It is the responsibility of the Applicant to ensure that Team Members have received the invitation (note the risk that portal-generated e-mails may be routed to spam folders). Once registered with the portal (See [Appendix I](#)), Team Members must accept

the invitation and complete the following:

- Curriculum Vitae (please update if previously uploaded to the portal)
- Host support letter
- Country (sourced from team table)
- Organisation (sourced from team table)
- Agreement to be part of the team

A short description of the role of the Team Members in the table and all other researchers contributing to the project should be entered under the Roles section in the application template.

Categories

Years of Research Experience

Enter your years of research experience since your PhD conferral minus periods of career gaps (e.g. parental leave or sick etc.) if applicable. The information is used to assess your application relative to opportunities.

Type of Research Activity

The four types of Research Activity are:

Pure basic research: Basic research carried out for the advancement of knowledge, without seeking long-term economic or social benefits or making any effort to apply the results to practical problems or to transfer the results to sectors responsible for their application.

- **Strategic basic research:** Experimental and theoretical work undertaken to acquire new knowledge directed into specified broad areas in the expectation of practical discoveries. It provides the broad base of knowledge necessary for the solution of recognised practical problems.
- **Applied research:** Original investigation undertaken in order to acquire new knowledge. It is, however, directed primarily towards a specific, practical aim or objective.
- **Experimental research:** Systematic work, drawing on knowledge gained from research and practical experience and producing additional knowledge, which is directed to producing new products or processes or to improving existing products or processes.

Socio-economic objectives (SEO)

The Australian and Aotearoa New Zealand Standard Research Classification (ANZSRC) and SEO classification allow Research and Development (R&D) activity in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand to be categorised according to the intended purpose or outcome of the research rather than the processes or techniques used in order to achieve this objective. The purpose categories

include processes, products, health, education and other social and environmental aspects in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand that R&D activity aims to improve. Please enter up to FIVE codes from the drop-down field, using codes that are as specific as possible. For a list of codes, please refer to the Socio-Economic Objectives Calculator at: <https://royalsociety.org.nz/what-we-do/research-practice/socio-economic-objectives-calculator/>

As part of our NZRIS obligations, we report the share of each SEO code to the proposed research. Please indicate the percentage share of each SEO code to the proposed research. The shares must add up to 100%.

Fields of research (FOR)

The FOR classification allows R&D activity to be categorised according to the field of research. In this respect, it is the methodology used in the R&D that is being considered. Please enter a minimum of THREE and up to FIVE codes from the list of research codes supplied in “Fields of Research Classification Codes” here. For a list of codes, please refer to the Field of Research Calculator at: <https://royalsociety.org.nz/what-we-do/research-practice/field-of-research-calculator/>. Please use codes that are as specific as possible, i.e. 6 digits.

As part of our NZRIS obligations, we will be required to report the share of each FOR code to the proposed research. Please indicate the percentage share of each FOR code to the proposed research. The shares must add up to 100%.

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.

Applicants **must** identify which of the four Vision Mātauranga themes below are associated with the proposed research. A rationale or Vision Mātauranga statement must be included for all research that has relevance for Māori. This statement can contribute to the assessment of the overall excellence of the proposal. If Vision Mātauranga is not relevant to your proposed research, you must tick N/A **and** provide a rationale for this decision.

The four themes are:

- **Indigenous Innovation**, i.e. contributing to economic growth through distinctive research and development.
- **Taiao**, i.e. achieving environmental sustainability through iwi and hapū relationships with land and sea.
- **Hauora/Oranga**, i.e. improving health and social wellbeing.
- **Mātauranga**, i.e. exploring indigenous knowledge.

The percentage contribution of each Vision Mātauranga theme to the proposed research is part of the Society’s NZRIS reporting requirement. Please indicate the proportion of the

proposed research that aligns with each individual Vision Mātauranga theme. Note that the combined total can exceed 100% (for example, if the proposed research is entirely Mātauranga and also has a Hauora/Oranga theme, the contributions could be 100% and 10% respectively).

For more guidance on the Vision Mātauranga Policy see [Appendix II](#).

Priority research area

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, at least 75% of awarded Catalyst: Leaders contracts in specified Sub-Programmes must align with the Catalyst Fund priority research areas. The remaining 25% of awarded contracts can be in any field of research (including social sciences and the humanities).

Please tick the priority research area(s) applying to the proposed research. If none of the priority research areas apply, select 'Other'.

Alignment with priority research areas must be easily recognizable from the project description as well. If this is not the case, panellists may assess a proposal as "not aligned with a priority research area".

Note that the Catalyst Fund priority research area criteria apply only to the International Leadership Fellowship Sub-Programme and not to the bilateral Sub-Programmes. Specific eligibility or research priority fields for each Programme/Sub-Programme are listed in Table 2 and in Section: Information on Open Programmes.

Summary

The Summary provides a concise outline of the project and its aims that can be used as a public statement. It should be written for a non-scientific audience and should not contain commercially sensitive information. The Summary of successful applications will be published on the Royal Society Catalyst Fund website (200-word maximum).

Budget and Other funding sources

Applicants are required to provide a budget following the portal template. The budget must identify all other funding sources. The activity must not previously have been funded from

another source. It must not form an integral part of a project that has previously been funded, e.g., by MBIE, Marsden Fund, or Health Research Council.

Refer to **Budget: Catalyst Budget template**.

Research Exchange Details

Catalyst: Leaders only support travel activities for the Leader. Please list the approximate start dates and durations (in days) of each planned exchange.

Refer to **Exchange details template**.

Milestones and Roles

Some Sub-Programmes require the definition of yearly milestones to track progress and success of the project. Certain Sub-Programmes may also ask for a brief description of the role that each Project Team member will have in the proposed research. Please refer to the **Information on Open Programmes** to see if your application requires a description of milestones and roles.

Refer to the **Milestones and Roles application template**.

Host Support Letter

This is a letter from the New Zealand host organization, stating that it supports the application and will provide resources as appropriate for the success of the project. Note that support letters from Partner Organisations are uploaded by Team Members during their portal registration.

Tukanga Tono Application Process

Make sure that you are familiar with any specific Sub-Programme requirements (for example, priority research areas, eligibility requirements, bilateral Partner applications, etc.), which are outlined under the relevant Information on Open Programmes at the end of these guidelines. See also **Te Tātari i Ngā Tono** Assessment of Applications.

Submitting Your Application

All Proposals must be submitted on the Catalyst: Portal. Your access to submit a proposal on the portal will be made available through your research office.

If your organisation has not yet been registered with the portal, please contact the Society on the email International.Applications@royalsociety.org.nz.

Information provided by Applicants will be administered in accordance with the requirements

of the Privacy Act 2020.

Application Format

Please follow the instructions provided on the application template(s), keeping to the space requirements.

- Proposals and any supporting documents submitted to the Society must be typed in English or te reo Māori, unless prior approval by the Society has been granted.
- Applications must be fully self-supporting.
- Cited references may be included as part of the application form(s) in the relevant sections. These can be inserted wherever appropriate as referenced footnotes (reduced to font size 10 if necessary), but please be aware the page limit does still apply.

Applying in Te Reo Māori

Applicants can complete some, or all, sections of their proposal in te reo Māori. However, because some panellists will not be fluent in te reo Māori, an English translation of the section(s) will be necessary. Therefore, Applicants can provide a translation as supplementary material via email to International.Applications@royalsociety.org.nz by the application closing time. Translations do not count towards the page limits for the relevant section of the proposal. Please note that the portal does not allow additional documents or pages and the page limits for the portal-based submission must be met. If an applicant chooses not to provide a translation, then the Society will arrange for a third-party translation but cannot guarantee its accuracy.

Supporting Documents Required

- Letter of support from the New Zealand institution.
- CVs for the New Zealand Principal Investigator (Contact) and Collaboration Partner(s) entered in the Team Member table (not applicable to HOPE Meeting and JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship applications). New Zealand-based researchers should use the New Zealand RS&T CV template section 1 to 2a. International researchers can use a different format, but the CV must not exceed five pages. Please highlight in yellow a maximum of five publications with the highest relevance to the proposed project under section 2a. The Principal Investigator and each team member upload their own CV.
- Letter of support from the overseas Partner organisation(s) agreeing to commit staff time and other resources to the project (not applicable to HOPE Meeting applications). The Collaboration Partner uploads the letter of support from their own organization (except for Japanese Hosts of a JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship, who send their

acceptance/invitation letter to the applicants for upload).

- Budget, including co-funding/in-kind support (not applicable to HOPE Meeting and JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship applications).
- Exchange details

Te Tātari i Ngā Tono Assessment of Applications

The Society will appoint an independent assessment panel(s), which will review all eligible Proposals for each Sub-Programme separately.

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 assessment panel.

The Society may also consider the total investment across Catalyst: Leaders to ensure it is a balanced portfolio across research fields and partner countries, while ensuring quality.

The Society will ensure that:

- subject to the number and quality of submitted applications, 75% of awarded Catalyst: Leaders contracts align with the Catalyst Fund priority research areas where applicable. The remaining 25% of awarded contracts can be in any field of research (including social sciences and the humanities).
- Research excellence is the main criterion for funding
- the Society is not over-investing in collaborations with one country or topic area at the neglect of others
- funding is proportionately invested in research with short-term and long-term impact horizons
- decisions are made jointly with bilateral partners.

Please note that panel members are drawn from across the New Zealand research community, and Applicants are therefore advised to write Proposals to a research literate audience.

Panelists will represent appropriate disciplines and sectors. The Society recommends that Applicants write in plain English and avoid using jargon, as panelists from outside the Proposal subject specialty will inevitably also be reviewing their Proposal. All applications should be written in a clear, concise manner with sufficient detail to enable the reviewers to appraise fully the scope and implications of the Proposal.

MBIE reserves the right to nominate one assessment panel member.

The panel(s) will score and rank Proposals within each Sub-Programme pool in accordance with the published selection criteria above.

The funding decision is final and is not open to discussion or appeal. However, a decision not to

fund does not preclude a re-application in a later round.

For more information on the review of Catalyst Leaders applications, including guidelines for Catalyst Leaders Reviewers, please visit <https://www.royalsociety.org.nz/what-we-do/funds-and-opportunities/catalyst-fund/reviewing-proposals/>.

Whakamōhiotanga Notification

The Society expects to notify Applicants of the outcome of their Proposal by email through the institutional Research Coordinator.

For more information on the expected notification timeframes, refer to the individual Programme requirements at the end of these guidelines.

The successful Applicant will have one month from the date of notification in which to accept the award, following which the offer will be withdrawn.

Feedback

Because of the large number of Proposals received, the Society is not able to provide specific feedback to Applicants about individual Proposals.

Ngā Takuhe i Waimarie Successful Grants

Conditions of Contract

In making its investment decisions, the Society may also:

- set pre-contract conditions, which must be met before the investment is contracted
- set special conditions in addition to the general terms and conditions set out in these guidelines
- assess the appropriateness of the budget submitted with the proposal
- ensure that the appropriate ethics approval has been given for specific collaborative Projects involving research on animals or humans.

The contract will specify that:

- references to the Project (including publications) acknowledge the provision of funding using the phrase: “Catalyst: Leaders funding is provided by the New Zealand Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment and administered by Royal Society Te Apārangi” or similar wording
- the Society will require a report on the agreed activity from the Applicant

- the report may be made available to the public or otherwise as the Society sees fit unless otherwise specified by the Applicant
- all other funding sources relating to the activity have been identified
- the Society retains the right to audit expenditure and the outputs produced by the funded activity. In the event that a dispute cannot be resolved, the parties agree to submit the matter for resolution to a mutually agreed neutral party whose decision shall be final and binding.

Contract Timeframes

Please refer to timeframes for each Sub-Programme in the relevant specific programme requirements at the end of these guidelines.

Reporting

Annual activity reports must be submitted via the portal to the Society by the New Zealand Research Organisation, with the final report due one month after the completion of the project. A reminder of each report will be sent one month prior to the report due date. The reports must account for the progress made on the annual milestone activities identified in the proposal, and must be submitted on the template provided on the portal.

Payment may be dependent on the report meeting the quality criteria identified in the Conditions of Contract. The quality criteria include submission of the report(s) by the specified date, clarity of the report, and proof that the activity has achieved the contracted deliverables and met the objectives of the Programme.

All Activity Reports provided to the Society may be shared with MBIE and bilateral partners, where relevant.

Variations

Contract variations (including change of personnel, extensions, etc.) will be considered only in exceptional circumstances. For more information, go to <https://www.royalsociety.org.nz/what-we-do/funds-and-opportunities/catalyst-fund/information-for-catalyst-grant-recipients/contracting-and-variations/>

Requests must be addressed to the Director – Research Funding, sent from the institutional Research Coordinator, justified in writing and are subject to approval by the Society.

Information on Open Programmes

International Leader Fellowships

Ngā Whakaritenga Tauwhāiti o te Kaupapa Specific Sub-Programme requirements

Background

International Leader Fellowships supports incoming targeted international fellowships for exceptional individuals that cannot be supported through other means. 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 New Zealand Research Organisations (the Hosts) in attracting 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 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;
- 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.

Successful Grants

Contract Timeframes

Contracts Initiated	Required Starting Date	Contracted Activity must be complete	Activity Report(s) required
No later than 7 weeks after close of Call	No later than 12 months after the Application Closing Date	12, 24 and 36 months after contract commence, for 1, 2 and 3 year projects respectively.	Annually

Payments

The Fellowship will be paid over four payments. The first payment will be made upon signing of the contract, with additional annual payments being made following the acceptance of a satisfactory annual report detailing progress on milestone activities achieved within each year.

Any deviation from this principle must be justified and accepted by the Society's Director – Research Funding, in advance.

Payment will be by direct credit, upon receipt and assessment of the Annual activity report.

Julius von Haast Fellowship

Ngā Whakaritenga Tauwhāiti o te Kaupapa Specific Sub-Programme requirements

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 to other institutions.

- 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:

- **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
- **NZ\$10,000** 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 the 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.

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. However, as all applications to a Julius von Haast Fellowship are also considered for an International Leadership Fellowship, the applicant should select the priority research area(s) of the proposed research. If none of the priority research areas apply, select 'Other'.

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. They 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 (to be uploaded by the New Zealand based Applicant):

- 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.

Successful Grants

Contract Timeframes

Contracts Initiated	Required Starting Date	Contracted Activity must be complete	Activity Report(s) required
No later than 8 weeks after close of Call	No later than 12 months after the Application Closing Date	36 months after contract Starting Date	Annually

Payments

The Fellowship will be paid over four payments. The first payment will be made upon signing of the contract, with additional annual payments being made following the acceptance of a satisfactory annual report detailing progress on milestone activities achieved within each year.

Any deviation from this principle must be justified and accepted by the Society's Director – Research Funding, in advance.

Payment will be by direct credit, upon receipt and assessment of the Annual activity report.

About Julius von Haast

Julius von Haast Sir Johann Franz "Julius" von Haast was a German geologist, explorer and writer who founded Canterbury Museum in Christchurch New Zealand in 1861. ¹Haast was the provincial geologist of Canterbury from 1861-1871 and his explorations are remembered in New Zealand by locations such as the Haast Pass and Franz Joseph Glacier, which Haast named after the Emperor of the Austro-Hungarian Empire². In his explorations, he collected many plants previously unknown to science, and many genera and species named after him today.



Figure 1: Johann Franz Julius von Haast



Figure 2: Cyathea dealbata Swartz

Image credits:

Figure 1: Johann Franz Julius Von Haast. Ref: 1/4-002124-G. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand.

Figure 2: Herbarium specimen CHR 290246 collected by Julius von Haast, reproduced courtesy of Landcare Research 2015.

¹ Peter B. Maling, 'Haast, Johann Franz Julius von', from the Dictionary of New Zealand Biography. Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand, [website cited 25 March 2015]; Available from: <http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/biographies/1h1/haast-johann-franz-julius-von>

² Our History - Canterbury Museum, [website cited 25 March 2015]; Available from: <http://www.canterburymuseum.com/about-us/our-history>

New Zealand-China Scientist Exchange Programme

Ngā Whakaritenga Tauwhāiti o te Kaupapa **Specific Sub-Programme requirements**

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**². 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.

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

² **For Chinese researchers visiting New Zealand** CSTEC will operate an independent China-based to enable up to 10 excellent Chinese researchers to visit New Zealand in October-November (TBC) 2026. If you are interested in hosting a researcher by supporting their application, contact CSTEC for more information.

agreement from the Society and CSTECH (via the Society) is required.

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 CSTECH. 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 equivalent to **NZ\$56.25 or RMB Yuan 300** 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 applications in 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.

Specific Requirements

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

- Applicants must be able to travel and arrive in Beijing on the required dates unless otherwise agreed to by the Society and CSTECH.
- Applicants must meet all passport and visa requirements for a visit to China.
- Applications are subject to final approval by CSTECH

Please note: Budget forms and Exchange Schedules are not required for this Sub-Programme.

China support contact

For enquiries regarding the China – New Zealand Exchange call, please contact CSTEC:

Ms Li Xin

Director of China Science & Technology Exchange Center

Email: meida@cstec.org.cn

Successful Grants

Expected Timeframes

Nomination of exchange confirmed by Society	Required starting date	Activity must be complete	Activity Report(s) required
No later than 7 weeks after close of Call	October 2026	Before 30 November 2025	30 days after end of exchange

Reporting

Successful exchange Leaders are required to submit a report of their visit no later than 30 days after returning to New Zealand. The reports may be made available to both MOST and MBIE.

Japan Society for the Promotion of Science – Postdoctoral Fellowships

Ngā Whakaritenga Tauwhāiti o te Kaupapa Specific Sub-Programme requirements

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.

This programme call is for the Japanese fiscal year FY2026 (01 April 2026 - 31 March 2027)

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

- The award will cover:
- A round-trip airline ticket (based on JSPS regulations)
- A monthly maintenance allowance of ¥362,000
- A settling in allowance of ¥200,000
- Overseas travel accident and sickness insurance coverage.

Fields of Research

All fields of the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences are included under this program

Specific Requirements

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

- JSPS requires that awarded Fellowships commence between 1 April 2026 and 30 November 2026. For FY2026 the Society strongly recommends a Start Date of **01 September 2026** or later to allow for JSPS processing time.
- Applicants must meet all of the JSPS criteria stipulated in the JSPS Application Guidelines FY2026 PDF available from the Catalyst Portal. This includes:
- 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.
- The doctoral degree must have been awarded on or after 2 April 2020. Dates before this cut-off can be considered to accommodate time taken for maternity and/or parental leave as discussed under Note 3 of the JSPS Application Guidelines.
- Applicants must have arranged in advance a research plan with their host in Japan.
- Applicants must complete both the Catalyst JSPS PDF Application Form **AND** the JSPS FY2026 Application Form (Standard). Both forms are available from the Catalyst portal and must be submitted through the portal.
- Applicants must be a citizen of a country that has diplomatic relations with Japan. (JSPS treats Taiwanese and Palestinian researchers in this manner.)

It is the applicant's responsibility to familiarise themselves with the JSPS Application Guidelines.

Required documents

The following documents must be uploaded by the Applicant to the portal (note that the Japanese Host cannot upload the application/invitation letter but must send it to the applicant):

- Catalyst (RSTA) JSPS application form
- JSPS FY2026 application form
- 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

Note that no budget document and no CVs are required for this application.

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

The Society assesses the applications and nominates the successful candidates to JSPS. The funding decision is subject to final approval by 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.

Successful Grants

Expected Timeframes

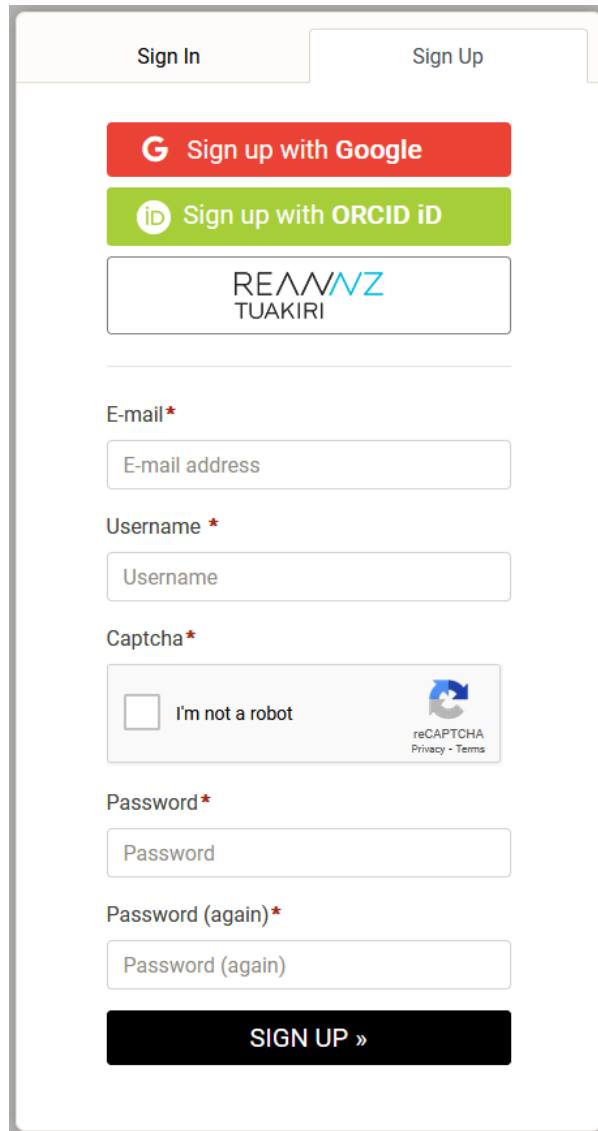
Nomination to JSPS by Society	Nomination confirmed by JSPS	Start dates	Activity Report(s) required (if requested)
No later than 7 weeks after close of Call	No later than 19 weeks after the close of call	The Fellowship must start between 01 September 2026 and 30 November 2026	Not applicable

Reporting

Successful applicants are required to fulfil the reporting requirements stipulated by JSPS. The Society may request a short report after the completion of the Fellowship.

Āpitihanga I Appendix I: Catalyst Application Portal Registration

Contact your research office to receive a link via email to the application portal. If your link does not arrive as expected, check your “junk” folder. If you have applied via this portal before (e.g., for the Prime Ministers Science Prize, Ngā Puanga Pūtaiao or Tāwhia Fellowships), you will already have a profile. Please use this existing Username and Password for your application. Otherwise, you will need to sign up to the portal.



The image shows a registration form for the Catalyst Application Portal. At the top, there are two tabs: "Sign In" and "Sign Up", with "Sign Up" being the active tab. Below the tabs are three large buttons for social login: "Sign up with Google" (red), "Sign up with ORCID iD" (green), and a button for "REANVZ TUAKIRI" (white with blue text). Below these is a horizontal line. The form contains several input fields: "E-mail*" with a placeholder "E-mail address", "Username*" with a placeholder "Username", a "Captcha*" section with an "I'm not a robot" checkbox and a reCAPTCHA logo, "Password*" with a placeholder "Password", and "Password (again)*" with a placeholder "Password (again)". At the bottom of the form is a large black button with the text "SIGN UP »".

It is preferred that all applicants sign up by adding or creating an ORCID iD. Alternatively, you can sign up using, e.g. TUAKIRI, Google or create a new account.

- To sign up with ORCID click the green “Sign up with ORCID iD” option and add your 16 digit ORCID iD and password.

- To create an ORCID iD click the green “Sign up with ORCID iD” option and follow the link “Don’t have an ORCID iD yet? Register now” and follow the instructions.

Please continue to **use the same logon** for all interactions with Royal Society Te Apārangi portals. Creating multiple user accounts will cause problems with your portal profile and records.

Personal profile

Every person (including applicants and referees) using the portal for the first time must create a profile and input at a minimum of the following (some fields may be auto filled from nomination, please ensure these are accurate):

- Name
- Contact email address
- Current primary place of employment or education (Include completion date of current employment if on fixed term contract)
- Agree to the Privacy Statement
- Provide Protection Pattern settings

Update any information that has changed since your last interaction with the portal.

Other questions during the profile set-up are optional (i.e. they do not form part of your application). To skip an optional question, please press “Next” or “Skip and Complete”. It is also possible to import the data for many of these sections from your ORCID profile.

Note: Royal Society Te Apārangi must ask to collect the Personal Profile information to be compliant with the New Zealand Research Information System ([NZRIS](#)).

Privacy statement

You will need to read and agree to the “Privacy Statement” by ticking the check box.

Organisation affiliations (compulsory)

The organization whose research office nominated you for the application will automatically be identified as your primary organisation. If this is not your current place of employment, please correct this. If the information does not auto populate correctly, you can enter your organisation manually. Optionally you can add any other organisations, incl. position/job title and dates, that you are associated with. Please add a new entry for each organisation and role

Career stages (optional)

Please select the research career stage that applies to you, and when you think this first applied. If not applicable or you do not wish to answer, please leave blank or select “Not Applicable”. This information is used for NZRIS reporting purposes only.

External IDs (optional)

Please enter any authenticated ORCID iD, Scopus ID, ResearcherID or other Identifier here.

Curriculum vitae (compulsory)

Please upload an up-to-date version of your curriculum vitae. For NZ-based researchers, a current CV in the NZ RST CV Template is preferred. Overseas researchers can provide a CV in their preferred format.

If you do not have a CV associated with your portal profile, you will be prompted to upload one when you submit your application (Principal Investigator (Contact) or consent to be a part of a Catalyst application (all other team members).

Academic record (optional)

Please enter your qualifications and course of study.

For applicants, please enter the details of your PhD Qualification including the date that your PhD was conferred under “Academic records”. If your degree has not yet been conferred, enter the date you expect to graduate (if known).

Please note that the Royal Society Te Apārangi will fill in your PhD conferment date in your profile if you have not done this yourself. We do this to confirm your eligibility for the Mana Tūāpapa Future Leader Fellowship Scheme.

Prizes and/or medals (optional)

Please enter information about any prizes or medals you may have won.

Professional bodies (optional)

You can enter any professional bodies that you belong to.

Protection pattern (compulsory)

You control how your information can be used by specifying the protection to be applied to your data. By default, your demographic details (gender) and birth date are kept private.

Demographic data on gender and ethnicity will be used for statistical purposes to monitor the profile of different groups of applicants and identify funding trends and gaps.

If you are comfortable with sharing demographic information with the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment, you may do so by de-selecting the tick box for the protection you wish to relax, or by toggling “no protection needed”.

Āpitihanga II Appendix II: Vision Mātauranga

(Guidance updated December 2024)

Background

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

Applicants **must** identify which of the four Vision Mātauranga themes below are associated with the proposed research. A rationale or Vision Mātauranga statement must be included for all research that has relevance for Māori. This statement can contribute to the assessment of the overall excellence of the proposal. If Vision Mātauranga is not relevant to your proposed research, you must tick N/A **and** provide a rationale for this decision.

The four themes are:

- **Indigenous Innovation**, i.e. contributing to *economic growth* through distinctive research and development
- **Taiao**, i.e. achieving *environmental sustainability* through iwi and hapū relationships with land and sea
- **Hauora/Oranga**, i.e. improving *health and social wellbeing*
- **Mātauranga**, i.e. exploring *indigenous knowledge*.

The percentage contribution of each Vision Mātauranga theme to the proposed research is part of the Society's NZRIS reporting requirement. Please indicate the proportion of the proposed research that aligns with each individual Vision Mātauranga theme. Note that the combined total can exceed 100% (for example, if the proposed research is entirely Mātauranga and also has a Hauora/Oranga theme, the contributions could be 100% and 10% respectively).

How do I decide whether to include a Vision Mātauranga statement in my proposal?

A Vision Mātauranga statement must be included for all research that has relevance for Māori. The research category descriptions outlined in the next section may help you decide if this applies to your project. Please note that those categories are fluid, may overlap, and not every point in each category need apply. It is important to explain your choices.

Categories of Research

The five categories identified below have been adapted from those on the National Science Challenge, Biological Heritage website <https://bioheritage.nz/about-us/visionmatauranga/>

hosted by Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research. Please note that there may well be overlap between categories as in categories 2 and 3 in terms of the nature and degree of relevance to Māori.

The original categories were set out by MBIE in information for the Endeavour Fund 2015.

Research with no specific Māori component

- This category includes research projects where: No mātauranga Māori (Māori knowledge) is used.
- Māori are not associated with the research process (for example: there are no Māori involved in relation to any research management / advisory / governance panels; the proposal does not involve or relate to Māori land or institutions; Te Ao Māori or Māori communities are not part of any component of the research).
- Work is not likely to be of direct relevance to Māori.
- It is critical that the researchers involved carefully consider the possibility whether the proposed research has direct (and possibly indirect) implications or benefits for Māori. For example, if a research project is developing a virtual reality programme that seeks to simulate a societal context, the panel should reasonably expect that it would have a Vision Mātauranga dimension.
- There are occasions where researchers have consulted with their organisation's appropriate advisor, who may have indicated the researchers that Vision Mātauranga is not applicable. It is best to explain why this was deemed to be the case (for example, the applicant may be new to New Zealand)

Research specifically relevant to Māori

This category includes research projects where:

- There is specific relevance to Māori.
- Mātauranga Māori may be used in a minor way to guide the work and its relevance to Māori. It includes work that contributes to Māori aspirations and outcomes.

Research involving Māori

This category includes research projects where:

- Mātauranga Māori may be incorporated in the project, but is not central to the project.
- Research is specifically and directly relevant to Māori and Māori are involved in the design and/or undertaking of the research.
- The work typically contributes to Māori (for example: iwi, hapū, organisations) aspirations and outcomes.

Māori-centred research

This category includes research projects where:

- The project is Māori-led, and where mātauranga Māori is used alongside other knowledges (for example: through frameworks, models, methods, tools, etc.).
- Kaupapa Māori research is a key focus of the project.
- Research is typically collaborative or consultative, with direct input from Māori groups, commonly including Māori researchers or a collaboration with Māori researchers or researchers under the guidance/mentoring of Māori. There is alignment with and contribution to Māori (for example: iwi, hapū, organisations) aspirations.

Kaupapa Māori research

This category includes research projects where:

- Mātauranga Māori is incorporated, used and understood, as a central focus of project and its findings.
- Research is grounded in te ao Māori and connected to Māori philosophies and principles.
- Research typically uses kaupapa Māori research methodologies.
- Te reo Māori may be a central feature to this kaupapa or research activity, and key researchers have medium to high cultural fluency or knowledge of tikanga and reo.
- The research is generally led by a Māori researcher; non-Indigenous researchers may carry out research under the guidance/mentoring of a Māori researcher.
- Māori participation (iwi, hapū, mara, individual) is high.
- The work contributes strongly to Māori (for example: iwi, hapū, organisations) aspirations and outcomes and is mana enhancing.

Māori Research Workforce Development

One of the purposes of the Vision Mātauranga policy is capability development. This is to build the capability of Māori individuals, businesses, incorporations, rūnanga, trusts, iwi, hapū, and marae to engage with research, science and technology. All applicants are asked to consider opportunities in addition to the categories of research above, for building the capacity of Māori researchers or students in their discipline.

Developing a Vision Mātauranga statement

It is important to keep in mind that there are many possible ways of addressing Vision Mātauranga. Vision Mātauranga requires a holistic approach that considers reciprocity and relationships. It should not be seen as an add-on, nor should it be treated as separate from the research, methods or people involved in the project.

Vision Mātauranga does not begin and end with your Vision Mātauranga statement. If you have indicated that the research is relevant to Māori, involves Māori, is Māori-centred or is a kaupapa Māori proposal, you need to demonstrate how you have considered Māori throughout all parts of the research, and how Vision Mātauranga underpins different dimensions of the research including the problem identification or design, research team composition, community partners, methods, analysis and intended impact. You should demonstrate actions and relationships throughout the various stages of the proposed research.

The following questions may be useful to consider when conceptualising and writing your project:

- Have you co-created the research topic/issue with an iwi or Māori organisation?
- What does working in partnership with iwi mean to you as researchers?
- To what extent have you discussed the research with Māori partners and agreed on the methodology you will use?
- Was there full disclosure and informed consent to the proposed research with Māori partners? How has that agreement/informed consent been agreed to?
- Has the budget been disclosed and agreed to with Māori partners? Is there provision in that budget for Māori involvement, capability development and consultation?
- Is there appropriate Māori researcher involvement in the project, both in terms of PI/AIs and capability development?
- What provisions have you made to ensure there is advice from appropriate Māori organisations throughout the life of the research project? If there are concerns or disagreements with Māori partners, how are these to be resolved?
- What provisions have you made to ensure there is appropriate technology transfer to Māori partners as the research proceeds and as findings become available towards the end of the project?
- What are the benefits to Māori? How have these been agreed with Māori partners?
- Have all people named in the proposal given their support or endorsement to the proposed research or to be involved?
- How is the project an opportunity to build the capacity of Māori researchers or students in your discipline, both now and for the future?
- How are you and your team working to increase understanding of te ao Māori and iwi aspirations in your area of research?
- How might this research build new, or enhance existing, relationships with Māori?
- How will you share the research outcomes with Māori?
- Has there been agreement about the intellectual property ownership of research findings with Māori partners? What is the nature of that agreement?
- Is there a need for members of the research team to be proficient in te reo? How has

this aspect been addressed?

- Is there a Tiriti o Waitangi component or requirement in your research?

Vision Mātauranga resources

Below you will find a non-exhaustive list of published resources that describe, discuss, and talk about how researchers have engaged with Vision Mātauranga and kaupapa Māori research. These range from early conceptions of Vision Mātauranga to more recent frameworks. The resources underscore the diverse ways Vision Mātauranga may be approached across disciplines and methodologies.

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