



**CATALYST
FUND**
LEADERS

Catalyst: Leaders

Ngā Aratohu Guidelines

Hōngongoi July 2026



MINISTRY OF BUSINESS,
INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI



Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

Rārangi Ūpoko Contents

Hītori Putanga Version History	3
He Whakamārama Background	4
Ngā Whāinga Objectives	4
Catalyst: Leaders programmes open (July 2026)	4
Whakapā mai Contact	5
Ngā Whai Wāhitanga Tuku Pūtea Funding Opportunities	6
Ngā Whakamāramatanga Hira Key Definitions	9
Ngā Whakaritenga Āheinga Eligibility Requirements	10
Whakakape Disclaimer	10
Paearu mō te Tīpako Selection Criteria	10
He Aratohu Tono Application Guidance	12
Tukanga Tono Application Process	17
Te Tātari i Ngā Tono Assessment of Applications	19
Whakamōhiotanga Notification	20
Ngā Takuhe i Waimarie Successful Grants	20
Information on Open Programmes	22
New Zealand-China Scientist Exchange Programme	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Japan Society for the Promotion of Science – 18th HOPE Meeting	22
Āpitihanga I Appendix I: Catalyst Application Portal Registration	26
Āpitihanga II Appendix II: Vision Mātauranga	28

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	Open Programmes: • International Leader Fellowships • Julius von Haast Fellowship • JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowships • New Zealand-China Scientist Exchange Programme Change of application portal Applications to Catalyst: Leaders must be submitted via the Society's new application portal. For more information, see He Aratohu Tono - Application Guidance. Changes to how Collaboration Partners are included in the application From January 2026, Collaboration Partners 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. Only ONE Collaboration Partner per Partner Organisation should be entered under Team Members. Changes to the application format for the New Zealand-China Scientist Exchange Programme 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.	
32	July 2026	Open Programmes: • Japan Society for the Promotion of Science – 18th HOPE Meeting Trusted Research Guidance Inclusion of guidance on Trusted Research Guidance and information on use of AI Technologies Change in how CVs and Host support letters are collected These are now uploaded by the Principal Investigator (Contact). • All CV documents and Host support documents should be merged/concatenated into one large document each in the order team members appear in the team table. • The merged file should be uploaded in the PI Curriculum Vitae and NZ-PI Host Support Letter upload boxes respectively.	22 12 14, 16

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 (July 2026)

- Japan Society for the Promotion of Science 17th HOPE Meeting

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	• 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	• JSPS 18th HOPE Meeting • New Zealand to China Scientist Exchange Programme

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

General guidance

Trusted Research Guidance

Researchers should familiarise themselves with the [Trusted Research Guidance for Institutions and Researchers](#). In case of questions, please consult your Research Office. New Zealand has an open and collaborative research and innovation system, and values academic freedom and research conducted independently by individuals and organisations. While the government is actively seeking to increase the international connectedness of the research and innovation system, there are potential risks with international partnerships that have to be identified and managed to prevent damaged reputations (including harm to researchers), lost intellectual property (IP), and harm to New Zealand's national interests. One such risk is that sensitive technologies* may be accessed by others and applied to purposes that are not consistent with New Zealand's values or interests. To manage these potential risks, a risk analysis of those projects that are offered funding through Catalyst: Leaders will be performed. In the unlikely event that any funded project contains a high level of risk, risk mitigation strategies may be required. These would be developed in discussion with the Principal Investigator and the relevant organisation(s) and may form part of the contractual conditions of the project.

**Technologies become sensitive when they: (i) have both a civil and military/security application or potential thereof ("dual use") or (ii) underpin significant economic value or potential for New Zealand.*

Use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) technologies

The use of generative AI tools (e.g. ChatGPT) presents an opportunity to assist researchers in the crafting of proposals but may raise issues around authorship and intellectual property including copyright. Content produced by generative AI may be based on the intellectual property of others or may be factually incorrect. The Catalyst Fund therefore advises applicants to use caution in the use of generative AI tools in developing their proposals. All applicants are expected to take full responsibility for the content of the proposal, the suitability and validity of cited sources and originality of content, and to submit proposals that do not contain false or misleading information.

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.

Note that the portal is compatible with Chromium-based browsers (e.g., MS Edge, Chrome) and Firefox. The Safari browser is not supported and may cause problems during data entry and submission.

Templates for all required forms can be downloaded from the portal. Do not change any of the pre-set fonts, line-spacing, margins, or similar. Forms that have been altered to provide more space for text will render the proposal ineligible for funding.

Applicants can access proposals from previous rounds if they wish to resubmit an application.

Profile

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

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 a “Collaborator” to your catalyst application, switch the Team application toggle to “On”. This will auto-populate the Principal Investigator (Contact) details into the table. Please list email address, first name, last name, Role, country and organisation into the Team Members table for only one key Collaborator from a partner organisation. There is no need to add a Team name. Of the role options in the portal, Catalyst applications use only “Principal Investigator – Contact” and “Collaborator”.

With the exception of the New Zealand – China Scientist Exchange Programme, a Catalyst: Leaders applications 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:

- Country (sourced from team table)
- Organisation (sourced from team table)
- Agreement to be part of the team

Team Members should provide their CV and host support letter to the Principal Investigator (Contact) or their Host's research office for uploading.

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 (or check that none are applicable):

- **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.

Please indicate the proportion of the proposed research that aligns with each individual Vision Mātauranga theme (this is an NZRIS reporting requirement). The combined total can exceed 100% (e.g., for a proposal that applies 100% mātauranga and has 20% relevance to hauora).

A rationale or Vision Mātauranga statement must be included for **all** proposals. It must explain the relevance of the research 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.

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'. If your scheme allows for only one research priority while your project covers several of the options, select the main one.

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.

PI Curriculum Vitae

Upload a concatenation of all CVs of all team members in the order they are listed in the team table on the application portal.

Refer to [NZ RST CV Template](#).

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

Upload a concatenation of all host support letter for all team members organisations in the order they are listed in the team table on the application portal

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 research office will provide access to the portal.

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 CVs should be merged/concatenated in the order they appear in the team table and uploaded under PI Curriculum Vitae.
- 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). Host support letters should be merge/concatenated in the order they appear in the team table and uploaded under NZ-PI Host Support Letter.

- 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

Japan Society for the Promotion of Science – 18th HOPE Meeting

Ngā Whakaritenga Tauwhāiti o te Kaupapa Specific Sub-Programme requirements

Background

Under the auspices of the New Zealand-Japan Bilateral Programme between the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) and the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE), the Royal Society Te Apārangi administers the nomination of up to five young researchers to attend the HOPE Meeting in Japan.

Objective

HOPE Meetings give opportunities to excellent graduate students selected from countries and areas in the Asia-Pacific and Africa region to engage in interdisciplinary discussions with Nobel Laureates and other distinguished scientists pioneering the frontiers of knowledge. It is hoped that the experience the students gain at the meeting will inspire and motivate them to become excellent scientists able to shoulder the future of science and technology in the region.

The title “HOPE” signifies the promise held for young scientists and optimism for a bright science and technology future in the Asia-Pacific and Africa region.

International Partner

Japan – Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS)

Activity Description

The 18th HOPE Meeting will be held from Sunday 28 February to Thursday 4 March 2027 in Yokohama-city, Japan.

The participants will comprise about 20 PhD students and young researchers from the institutions in Japan and 90 will be nominated by the Overseas Cooperating Institutions of the Asia-Pacific and Africa region; [tentative]: Australia, Bangladesh, China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Israel, Kenya, Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Philippines, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, Vietnam.

Royal Society Te Apārangi can nominate up to five excellent PhD students and/or young postdoc researchers for the 2027 HOPE Meeting.

Programme of the HOPE Meeting

The programme is expected to feature the following:

- Lectures by Nobel Laureates, distinguished researchers and cultural authorities
- Small group discussions with the lecturers (seminar style)
- Poster session including one-minute oral presentation by each participant
- Oral presentations by multinational participant teams of participants
- Cultural experience programme
- Excursion (research facilities and cultural heritage sites)

* Please note that HOPE Meetings are like intellectual short-term intensive camps. In that sense, it is quite different from a normal scientific conference

Date and Venue

Sunday 28 February to Thursday 4 March 2027 in Yokohama-city, Kanagawa, Japan.

** Hotel check-in / Registration Saturday 27 February*

** Hotel check-out Friday 5 March*

Fields of Research

Proposals received under this activity must fall under one of the eligible research fields:

- Physics
- Chemistry
- Physiology/Medicine
- Or related fields

Specific Requirements

In addition to the general eligibility requirements of Catalyst: Leaders, the young researcher applying must:

- be a PhD student or young researcher receiving a PhD in the past 5 years (after 2 April 2021) excluding periods of maternity/paternity, and childcare leave
- have an excellent record of research and a high interest in the societal influence of scientific knowledge and its application
- be able to participate in the entire Meeting programme from 28 February - 4 March

- possess ample English proficiency to do so
- complete the JSPS HOPE Application Form (application form and JSPS instructions are available on the Catalyst: Portal)
- not have participated in past HOPE Meetings

It is furthermore expected that HOPE Meeting participants have a strong desire to participate actively in the meeting exchanges and discussions, have a strong interest in a wide scope of science and research and will initiate joint research and/or build collegial networks in the future.

Participants are obliged to submit all required documents, including abstracts for poster presentations, and meeting reports to JSPS. Attendance at all components of the Meeting is also mandatory.

JSPS does not recommend traveling with accompanying persons (e.g., family members). As each day's program will stretch uninterruptedly over the full day from morning to night, non-participants will not be allowed to attend the meeting programs.

Supporting documents

In addition to the JSPS HOPE Application Form, a letter of support and a declaration must be uploaded to the Catalyst: Portal (an additional CV and a letter of support from the overseas partner institution is not required).

Japan Society for the Promotion of Science HOPE website

<https://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-hope/index.html>

Assessment of HOPE Applications

When assessing HOPE applications, the Society appointed assessment panel will be asked to apply the Catalyst: Leaders assessment criteria, but rank the applications based on the PI's track record relative to opportunity, motivation for participating in the HOPE Meeting, and the application's "strategic benefits" to New Zealand.

The final decision on what proposals will be nominated to JSPS lies with the Society. The Society's decision will be based on the recommendations made by the assessment panel. The Society will also consider the spread of research fields and Institutional representation across the nominated applications as instructed by JSPS.

Nominations

The Society is the Nominating Authority for all JSPS schemes in the Catalyst: Leaders scheme with final approval by JSPS.

Notification

The notification is expected for early December 2026.

Successful Grants

Expected Timeframes

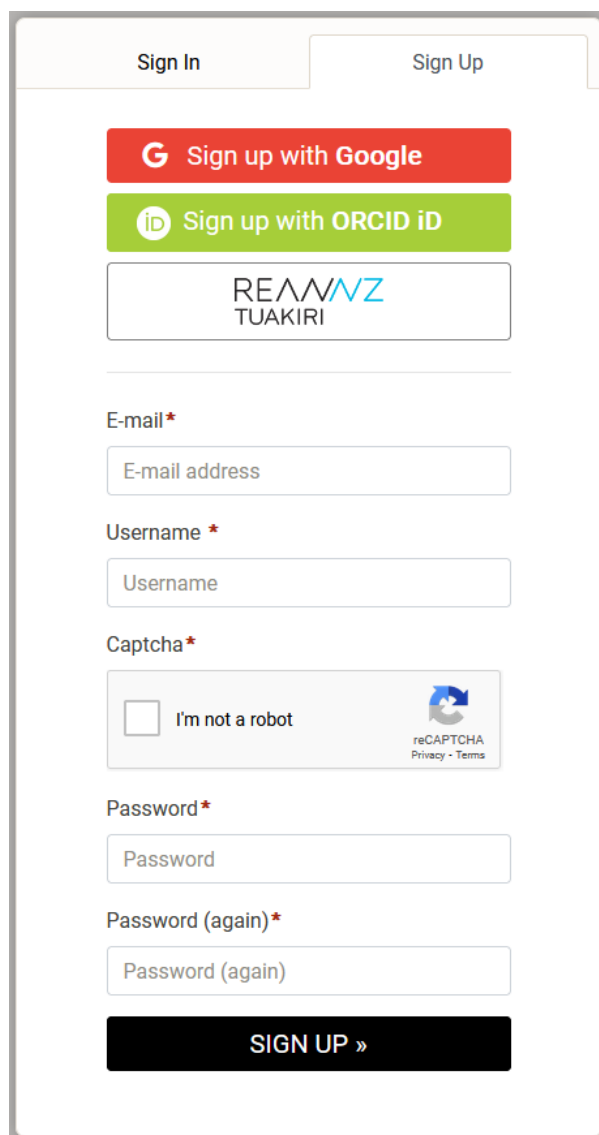
Nomination Finalised	Required Starting Date	Contracted Activity must be complete	Activity Report(s) required
December 2026	HOPE Meeting scheduled for Sunday 28 February to Thursday 4 March 2026	The conclusion of the HOPE Meeting	One month after Meeting attendance

Reporting

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

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 screenshot shows the registration page of the Catalyst Application Portal. At the top, there are two tabs: "Sign In" and "Sign Up". Below the tabs, there are three main options for signing up: "Sign up with Google" (red button), "Sign up with ORCID iD" (green button), and "REANVZ TUAKIRI" (white button with blue text). Below these options, there are several input fields: "E-mail*" (with a sub-label "E-mail address"), "Username*" (with a sub-label "Username"), "Captcha*" (with a sub-label "I'm not a robot" and a reCAPTCHA logo), "Password*" (with a sub-label "Password"), and "Password (again)*" (with a sub-label "Password (again)"). At the bottom, there is a black button labeled "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
- 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](#)).

Profile

Personal Data including Title (e.g. Professor), Name and voluntary demographic data

Address

Organisation postal address and contact telephone number.

Privacy statement

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

External IDs (optional)

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

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”.

Āpitianga 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/Als 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

The following non-exhaustive list of resources provides examples how Vision Mātauranga and kaupapa Māori may be approached across disciplines and methodologies.

Allen, W., Jamie M. Ataria, J. M., Apgar, J. M., Harmsworth, G., and Tremblay, L. A. (2009). Kia pono te mahi putaiao—doing science in the right spirit. *Journal of the Royal Society of New Zealand*, 39:4, 239-242. DOI: [10.1080/03014220909510588](https://doi.org/10.1080/03014220909510588)

Crawford, S. (2009). Mātauranga Māori and western science: The importance of hypotheses, predictions and protocols, *Journal of the Royal Society of New Zealand*, 39:4, 163-166. DOI: [10.1080/03014220909510571](https://doi.org/10.1080/03014220909510571)

Broughton, D. (Te Aitanga-a-Hauiti, Taranaki, Ngāti Porou, Ngāpuhi), and McBreen, K. (Waitaha, Kāti Māmoe, Ngāi Tahu). (2015). Mātauranga Māori, tino rangatiratanga and the future of New Zealand science. *Journal of the Royal Society of New Zealand*, 45:2, 83-88. DOI: [10.1080/03036758.2015.1011171](https://doi.org/10.1080/03036758.2015.1011171)

Kana, F. and Tamatea, K. (2006). Sharing, listening, learning and developing understandings of Kaupapa Māori research by engaging with two Māori communities involved in education. *Waikato Journal of Education*, 12, 9-20.
<https://researchcommons.waikato.ac.nz/bitstream/handle/10289/6198/Kana%20Sharing.pdf?sequence=3&isAllowed=y>

Macfarlane, S., Macfarlane, A. and Gillon, G. (2015) Sharing the food baskets of knowledge: Creating space for a blending of streams. In A. Macfarlane, S. Macfarlane, M. Webber, (eds.), *Sociocultural realities: Exploring new horizons*. Christchurch: Canterbury University Press, 52-67.

Moewaka Barnes, H. (2006). Transforming Science: How our Structures Limit Innovation. *Social Policy Journal of New Zealand Te Puna Whakaaro*, 29, 1-16.
<https://www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publicationsresources/journals-and-magazines/social-policy-journal/spj29/29-pages-1-16.pdf>

Pihama, L., Tiakiwai, S.-J., and Southey, K. (eds.). (2015). *Kaupapa rangahau: A reader. A collection of readings from the Kaupapa Rangahau workshops series*. (2nd ed.). Hamilton, New Zealand: Te Kotahi Research Institute.

https://researchcommons.waikato.ac.nz/bitstream/handle/10289/11738/Kaupapa%20Rangahau%20-%20A%20Reader_2nd%20Edition.pdf?sequence=7&isAllowed=y

Smith, L. T., Maxwell, T. K., Puke, H., and Temara, P. (2016). Indigenous knowledge, methodology and mayhem: What is the role of methodology in producing indigenous insights? A discussion from Mātauranga Māori. *Knowledge Cultures*, 4(3), 131–156.

A video resource is available at: <https://www.royalsociety.org.nz/what-wedo/funds-and-opportunities/marsden/marsden-fund-applicationprocess/information-for-applying-to-the-marsden-fund/>

He Āpiti Supplement: Ngā Ahua o te Ao Hurihuri - Rethinking our shared futures (2019). Journal of the Royal Society of New Zealand, Volume 49, Issue sup1
<https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/tnzr20/49/sup1?nav=tocList>

New Zealand Science Review (2019). Mātauranga and Science – Part 1.
<https://ojs.victoria.ac.nz/nzsr/issue/view/866>

New Zealand Science Review (2019). Mātauranga and Science – Part 2.
<https://ojs.victoria.ac.nz/nzsr/issue/view/865>

Rauika Māngai (2020). A Guide to Vision Mātauranga: Lessons from Māori Voices in the New Zealand Science Sector. Wellington, NZ: Rauika Māngai.
<https://www.rauikamangai.co.nz/resources-hub/>

Kukutai, T., McIntosh, T., Boulton, A., Durie, M., Foster, M., Hutchings, J., Mark-Shadbolt, M., Moewaka Barnes, H., Moko-Mead, T., Paine, S-J., Pitama, S. & Ruru, J. (2021). Te Pūtahitanga: A Tiriti-led science policy approach for Aotearoa New Zealand. Auckland: Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga. <https://www.rauikamangai.co.nz/resources-hub/>

Royal Society Te Apārangi (2023). Mana Raraunga Data Sovereignty.
<https://www.royalsociety.org.nz/assets/Mana-Raraunga-Data-Sovereignty-web-V1.pdf>

ANZCCART (2024). New animal ethics resources include Māori knowledge (link to further resources): <https://www.royalsociety.org.nz/news/new-animal-ethics-resources-include-maori-knowledge/>



Research Funding (International)

Royal Society Te Apārangi

11 Turnbull Street
Wellington 6011
PO Box 598
Wellington 6140
New Zealand

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

Email: International.Applications@royalsociety.org.nz

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