



Catalyst: Seeding

Ngā Aratohu Guidelines

Hōngongoi July 2026

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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 nomination to apply for each Catalyst Application you wish to make.

Hitori Putanga Version History

Version	Date	Change	Page
31	January 2026	Open programmes: Catalyst: Seeding General Change of application portal Applications to Catalyst Seeding 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.	
32	April 2026	(i) Inclusion of guidance on Trusted Research Guidance and information on use of AI Technologies (ii) Open programmes: - Catalyst: Seeding General - Dumont d'Urville NZ - France Science & Technology Support Programme	
33	July 2026	Open programmes: - Catalyst: Seeding General - New Zealand – Japan Joint Research Projects 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.	21 24 12, 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 Catalyst Fund supports activities that initiate, develop and foster collaborations leveraging international science and innovation for New Zealand's benefit. Taking a multi-institutional approach is an important element of creating benefit for New Zealand and meeting the aims of the Catalyst Fund. 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: Seeding.

Ngā Whāinga Objectives

Catalyst: Seeding facilitates new small to medium pre-research strategic partnerships **that cannot be supported through other means**, and with a view to developing full collaborations that could be supported through other research funding mechanisms, including those administered by the Ministry.

The objectives of Catalyst: Seeding

- To enhance knowledge creation in New Zealand by linking with world-class international research groups, infrastructure and initiatives.
- To create enduring international science partnerships for New Zealand by providing multiple scale pre-research collaboration for new projects which are capable of becoming 'mainstreamed' i.e. funded, after the initial work is done by the New Zealand researcher and their international partner, by other New Zealand research mechanisms.

Approximately \$1M (GST excl) is available for investment through Catalyst: Seeding in the July 2026 call.

Catalyst: Seeding programmes open (July 2026)

- Catalyst Seeding General
- New Zealand – Japan Joint Research Projects

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: Seeding provides funding for several sub-programme calls, which support the objectives and outcomes of the Catalyst Fund. An overview of included programmes and key dates are given in the tables below.

TABLE 1: Annual Call timeline

Call	Open Date	Close Date	Programmes
January	29 January 2026	23 April 2026	General
April	30 April 2026	23 July 2026	- General New Zealand – Germany Science & Technology Programme (Not available for 2026*) - Dumont d’Urville NZ - France Science & Technology Support Programme
July	30 July 2026	22 October 2026	- General - New Zealand – Japan Joint Research Projects

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

*New Zealand researchers wishing to apply for unilateral support for research collaborations with German collaborators are encouraged to apply through Catalyst Seeding General.

TABLE 2: Catalyst: Seeding Programmes

Programme	Partner	Application(s) Required	Allowable expenses	NZ\$ Funding (excl. GST)
General**	International	New Zealand	Travel, research expenses, expenses related to hosting workshops	Up to \$80,000 in total for up to two years
Sub-Programme				
New Zealand – Germany Science & Technology Programme	Germany	New Zealand and Germany	Travel, research expenses, expenses related to hosting workshops	Up to \$80,000 in total for up to two years
Dumont d’Urville NZ - France Science & Technology Support Programme	France	New Zealand and France	Travel, research expenses, expenses related to hosting workshops	Up to \$80,000 in total for up to two years
New Zealand – Japan Joint Research Projects	Japan	New Zealand and Japan	Travel, research expenses, expenses related to hosting meetings	Up to \$60,000 in total for two years

**Catalyst Fund priority research areas apply.

Ngā Whakamāramatanga Hira Key Definitions

Applicant means the New Zealand-based research organisation submitting the Catalyst Proposal.

Call means the request for proposals for 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.

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

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

Project means the unique research collaboration proposed by the Proposal.

Project Team means the Principal Investigator (Contact), Collaboration Partner(s), 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: Seeding.

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.
- The New Zealand PI must be employed at a New Zealand research organisation.
- Only one Proposal per Project will be accepted to any single Call, in other words, Applicants must not submit the same Project Proposal to both a Sub-Programme and to a General call. New Zealand Applicants must not submit multiple Proposals to Catalyst: Seeding based on the same Project.
- Should the same Principal Investigator (Contact) decide to submit more than one Project they must demonstrate significant differences between those Proposals. If the Applicant submits multiple Proposals based on the same project, all Proposals for that project will be deemed ineligible.
- The Proposal clearly identifies with a research field within research, science and technology.
- Complete Proposals including all supporting documents, must be submitted by 12.00 Noon (NZST) on the closing date as indicated in Table 1: Annual Call timeline. No late Proposals or supplementary documentation will be accepted.
- Proposals to Sub-Programmes must meet the general eligibility requirements and all specific 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 and, where applicable, partner Governments.

Paearu mō te Tīpako Selection Criteria

The assessment of applications by the Society will be through a review process involving assessment panel(s) constituted from outside of the Society. Refer to the section *Assessment of Applications* more information.

The review process will consider 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 New Zealand PI and Collaboration Partner (relative to opportunity).
- Clearly demonstrated excellence of the Partner Institution(s).
- Ability of the Project Team to deliver on proposed activities.
- Potential for building the scale of partnership from initial engagement to a substantive and enduring collaboration.

Refer to Application Form: Catalyst Seeding 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 New Zealand Project Team members' skills and knowledge.
- How the proposed collaboration will support a new partnership or a new research focus for an established collaboration.

Refer to Application Form: Catalyst Seeding Application template. Criterion 3: Strategic benefits (weight in assessment 30%)

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

- Clear line of sight to expected benefits of national and global significance in line with New Zealand's science priorities.
- Ability to leverage international investment, facilities and infrastructure not available in New Zealand.
- Ability of Project Team to use the partnership to initiate links with relevant New Zealand capabilities for the creating of additional benefits.

Refer to **Application Form: Catalyst Seeding 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: Seeding
- 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 (see previous section)

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: Seeding 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. Royal Society Te Apārangi 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 Partners

Only one key “Collaborator” per Partner Organisation should be entered in the Team Member table. Switch the Team application toggle to “On” and click “Save” or “Save and continue” to autopopulate the Principal Investigator (Contact) details in the table. For each Team Member, list email address, first name, last name, Role, country and organisation in the table. Do not add a Team name. Of the role options in the portal, Catalyst applications use only “Principal Investigator (Contact)” and “Collaborator”.

Clicking “Save” or “Save and continue” will automatically send an invitation email to the Collaboration Partner(s). Once registered with the portal (See [Appendix I](#)), Team Members must accept the invitation and provide 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.

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 (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: Seeding contracts 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). Note that the Catalyst Fund priority research area criteria do not apply to the bilateral Sub-Programmes. Specific eligibility or research priority fields for each Programme/Sub-Programme are listed in Table 2 and in the programme requirements in Section: Information on Open Programmes.

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”.

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

Travel is expected to be an integral part of the Project. Research exchanges can involve both staff and PhD students. Applicants are required to provide a summary of all research exchanges including the traveller(s), destination country, start date and duration (in days) of intended travel.

Refer to **Exchange details template**.

Milestones and Roles

Catalyst: Seeding proposals require the definition of yearly milestones to track progress and success of the project. Please refer to the **Information on Open Programmes** to see if the sub-programme you are applying for is an exception and does not require milestones.

Proposals must identify the roles of the Project Team members, including those not listed in the Team Member table. Please describe briefly the contribution that each Team Member will make to the proposed research.

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 Programme requirements (for example, priority research areas, bilateral partner applications etc.), which are outlined at the end of these guidelines. See also **Te Tātari i Ngā Tono** Assessment of Applications.

Submitting an 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.

Please note: A New Zealand application submitted to a Sub-Programme is only eligible if the Collaboration Partner additionally submits an application to the respective bilateral partner administrator, in agreement with their published guidelines.

Application Format

Please follow the instructions provided on the 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 of the Principal Investigator (Contact).
- CVs for New Zealand Principal Investigator (Contact) and Collaboration Partner(s) entered in the Team Members table (only ONE per organisation). 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 and NZ-based Partner organisation(s), agreeing to commit staff time and other resources to the project. Host support letters should be merged/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.
- 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 submitted in the same call. All Proposals to Catalyst: Seeding will be reviewed together. The number of awards for each Catalyst: Seeding sub-programme is determined by the funding allocated to the sub-programme as specified in the Open Programme Requirements. The final decision for funding lies with the Society. The Society will take into account reviewers' recommendations.

The Society will ensure that:

- subject to the number and quality of submitted applications, 75% of awarded Catalyst: Seeding 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.

Panellists are drawn from across the New Zealand research community and will represent appropriate disciplines and sectors relevant to the portfolio of submitted Catalyst: Seeding applications in a given call. However, Applicants are advised to write Proposals to a research literate audience in plain English and avoid using jargon, as panellists from outside the Proposal subject area will inevitably also be reviewing their Proposal. All applications should be written in a clear, concise manner with sufficient detail to enable the assessment panel to fully appraise the scope and implications of the Proposal.

The panel(s) will score and rank Proposals from all Programmes together in accordance with the published selection criteria above.

For Sub-Programmes, the partner country will independently assess the applications

submitted in the respective country. Subsequently, the Society and the bilateral partner will jointly determine the collaborations that will be supported.

MBIE reserves the right to nominate one assessment panel member.

The funding decision is final and is not open to discussion or appeal. However, a decision not to fund does not preclude re-application in a later round.

For more information on the review of Catalyst Seeding applications, including guidelines for Catalyst Seeding 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:

- **General Programme** – no later than 7 weeks after the close of applications.
- **Sub-Programmes** – up to 18 weeks after the close of applications.

Please note that the notification time could be extended for Sub-Programmes where bilateral decision-making processes with international agencies are involved.

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 unable 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.

If a Proposal is successful, a contract will only be entered into with a single institution. The contract will specify that:

- references to the Project (including publications) acknowledge the provision of funding using the phrase: “Catalyst: Seeding 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 (on behalf of MBIE) is one contracting party
- the New Zealand Research Organisation will be the other contracting party
- the Society will require a report on the agreed activity from the New Zealand Research Organisation
- the report may be made available to the public or otherwise as the Society sees fit
- 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 is 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.

Unless otherwise specified by the Applicant the report may be disseminated as public information. All Activity Reports provided to the Society may be shared with MBIE, and bilateral partners where relevant.

Reporting Requirements

All Programmes			
Contract Type	Contracted Activity must be complete	Activity Report required	Total Contract period
One-Year	12 months after Contract Start Date	A final report, due 1 month after Activity completed	13 months from Contract Start Date
Two-Year	24 months after Contract Start Date	A progress report due after 12 months, and a final report due after 25 months	25 months from Contract Start Date

Variations

Contract variations (including change of personnel, extensions, etc.) will be considered only in exceptional circumstances. 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. 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/>

Information on Open Programmes

Catalyst: Seeding Arowhānui General

Ngā Whakaritenga Tauwhāiti o te Kaupapa Specific Programme requirements

Background

The Catalyst Fund supports activities that initiate, develop and foster collaborations leveraging international science and innovation for New Zealand's benefit. Catalyst: Seeding supports new small and medium pre-research strategic partnerships with international partners that cannot be supported through other means, and with a view to developing full collaborations that could be supported through other funding mechanisms, including those administered by the Ministry.

Objective

- To enhance knowledge creation in New Zealand by linking with world-class international research groups, infrastructure and initiatives.
- To create enduring international science partnerships for New Zealand by providing multiple scale pre-research collaboration for new projects which are capable of becoming 'mainstreamed' i.e. funded, after the initial work is done by the New Zealand researcher and international partner, by other research mechanisms.

International Partner

- Proposals can be submitted for research collaborations with international partners from any country.

Funding

- A maximum of **NZ\$80,000 (excl. GST)** in total is available per Proposal for projects lasting up to two years.

Allowable Expenses

Project expenses allowed under this Programme include the following:

Expenses for Research Exchanges

Travel is expected to be an integral part of the Project. Expenses for flights at the lowest possible rate, accommodation, visa, travel insurance, ground transport, and meal expenses are permitted and should be based on the rules of the institution with which the individual undertaking the activity is affiliated. Research exchanges can involve both

staff and PhDs.

The cost of carbon offsets is a legitimate expense where they are directly related to the project travel.

Expenses for holding symposiums, seminars and meetings.

Expenses related to organising symposiums, hosting workshops and similar events are permitted (for example, consumables, printing and binding expenses, honoraria, transportation and telecommunications fees, meeting fees (excluding expenses for alcoholic beverages)).

Expenses for research activities

Expenses for consumables and other research expenses.

Expenses not covered

Funding for overheads, salaries, equipment purchase and depreciation, student fees, scholarships, or conference fees are not supported under this Programme.

Field of Research

Priority research areas for Catalyst: Seeding General are:

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

Subject to the number and quality of submitted Catalyst: Seeding General applications, at least 75% of awarded contracts must align with the priority research areas. The remaining 25% of awarded contracts can be in any field of research (including social sciences and the humanities).

Contract Timeframes

The earliest start date for Projects funded under the General Programme is **eight weeks** after the close of applications.

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 Application Closing Date	24 months after Contract Starting Date	Annually

New Zealand – Japan Joint Research Projects

Ngā Whakaritenga Tauwhāiti o te Kaupapa-Āpiti

Specific Sub-Programme requirements

Background

The New Zealand-Japan Joint Research Project Programme is a sub-programme of the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment's Science and Innovation Catalyst Fund. It supports a Memorandum of Understanding between the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) and the Ministry to strengthen cooperation in science and technology between Japan and New Zealand.

Objective

Applications for funding under this programme are sought from researchers wishing to establish cooperative research networks and collaborative relationships between New Zealand and Japan. The objectives are to expand and strengthen research networks and to advance cooperative relations that are sustainable over the long term.

International Partner

- Japan, in conjunction with the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS).

Activity Description

The programme facilitates bilateral research through the following areas of funding:

- funding for New Zealand researchers to travel to Japan (travel and local costs) to work on joint research projects.
- expenses for research activities.

The reciprocal costs for Japanese collaborators' travelling to New Zealand to work on supported projects will be covered by the reciprocal JSPS funding programme.

Fields of Research

Proposals will be considered from all fields of research, science and technology (including social sciences, natural sciences and the humanities).

Funding

Funding up to NZ\$180,000 has been allocated to support the New Zealand -Japan Joint Research Projects in this funding round.

- A maximum of NZ\$30,000 (excluding GST) is available per project per year, for projects lasting up to two years.
- Up to three joint research projects may be funded in the current round.

Allowable Expenses

Expenses allowed under this Programme include the following, in connection with the Project:

Expenses for Research Exchanges

Travel is expected to be an integral part of the Project. Expenses for flights at the lowest possible rate, accommodation, visa, travel insurance, ground transport, and meal expenses are permitted and should be based on the rules of the institution with which the individual undertaking the activity is affiliated. Research exchanges can involve both staff and PhDs. The cost of buying carbon offsets is a legitimate expense where those carbon offsets are directly related to the project travel activities.

Expenses for holding workshops and meetings

Expenses related to hosting workshops and meetings are permitted (for example, consumables, printing and binding expenses, honoraria, transportation and telecommunications fees, meeting fees (excluding expenses for alcoholic beverages)).

Expenses for research activities

Expenses for consumables and other research expenses.

Expenses not covered

Funding for overheads, salaries, equipment purchase and depreciation, student fees, scholarships, or conference fees are not supported under this Programme.

Additional Eligibility Requirements

In addition to the general eligibility requirements of the Seeding Work Programme: The New Zealand Principal Investigator (PI) and the Japanese PI must make applications to the respective application administrators in both Japan and New Zealand by their respective closing dates. It is essential that collaborators have coordinated their applications accordingly in each country, and are fully aware of

- each other's research intentions. The New Zealand and Japanese bid assessment processes will be consistent and coordinated (contacts for the Japanese

coordinators can be found below).

- The participation of emerging-career researchers (PhD or Post-doctoral level) is encouraged. However, proposals and projects should be led by established researchers.
- Please note that the application deadline in New Zealand is later than the application deadline in Japan.
- Applications submitted by one side only will not be accepted.

For applicants in Japan

Information on the current JSPS requirements can be obtained directly on their website at <https://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-bilat/call.html>

The deadline for submission of applications in Japan is 03 September 2026.

Notification

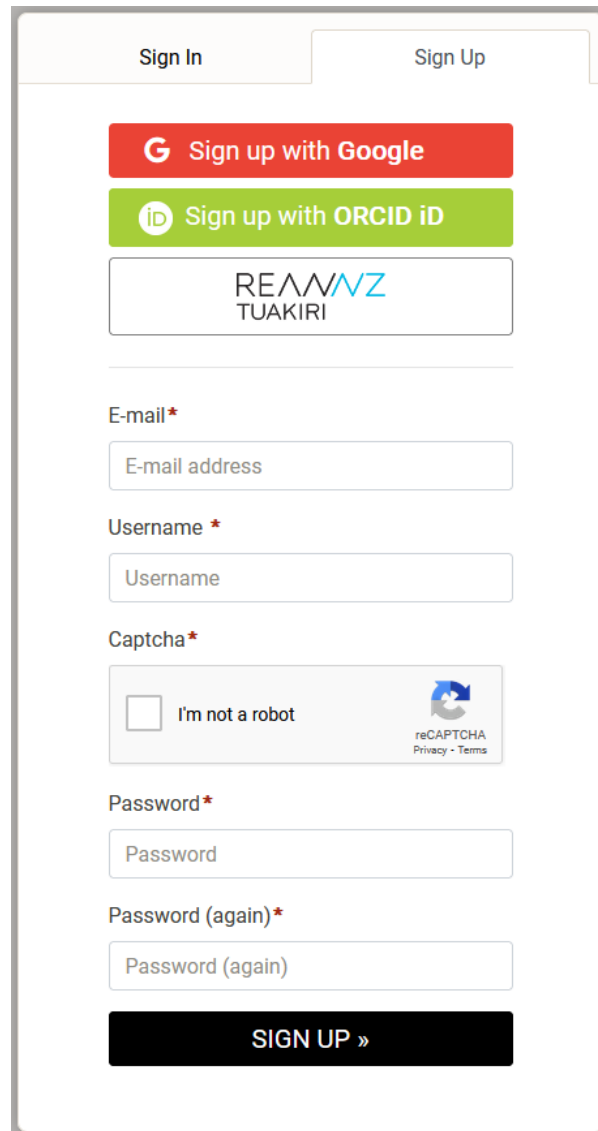
Decisions on which applicants and projects will be supported are expected to be announced simultaneously in both countries in early December 2026.

Contract Timeframes

Contracts Initiated	Required Starting Date	Contracted Activity must be complete	Activity Report(s) required
January 2027	Within the period 1 April 2027– 31 March 2028	24 months after Contract Starting Date	Annually

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 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 buttons, there are several input fields: "E-mail" (with a red asterisk), "Username" (with a red asterisk), "Password" (with a red asterisk), and "Password (again)" (with a red asterisk). There is also a "Captcha" section with a checkbox labeled "I'm not a robot" and a reCAPTCHA logo. At the bottom, there is a large black button labeled "SIGN UP »".

It is preferred that all applicants sign up with their 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

If some of this information has changed since your last interaction with the portal, ensure that you update the information.

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/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

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%20reader.pdf>

[ORangahau%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/>



**CATALYST
FUND**
SEEDING

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MINISTRY OF BUSINESS,
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HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI



Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
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