

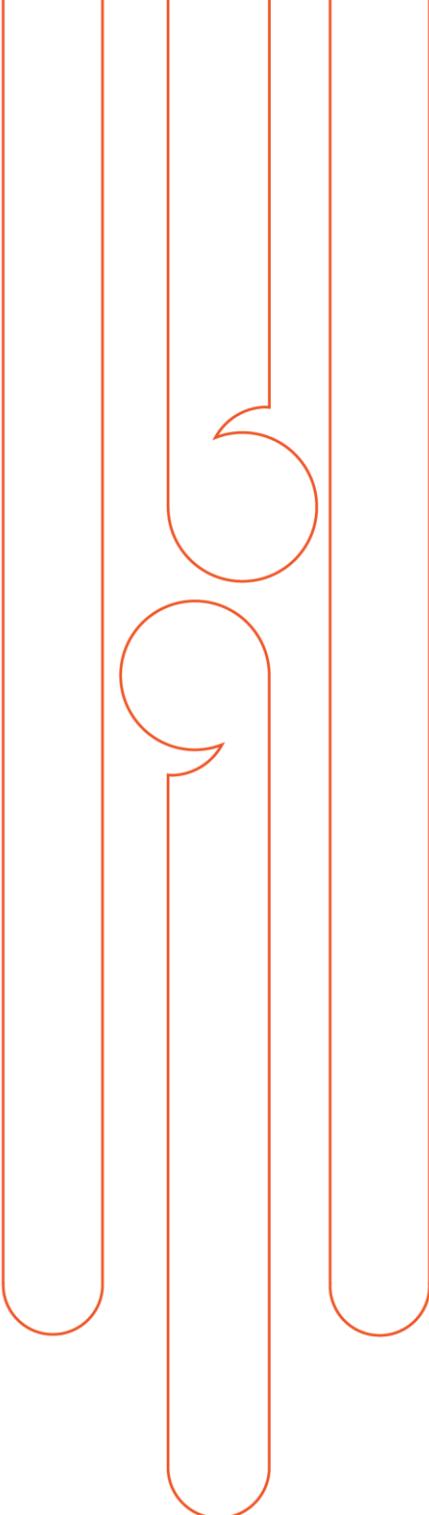
2026

Ngā aratohu o te
Whakapuakanga Hiahia
mā ngā kaitono

Expression of Interest guidelines for applicants

FUNDING FOR RESEARCH
EXCELLENCE

VERSION 1.2



MARSDEN FUND
TE PŪTEA RANGAHAU
A MARSDEN

ROYAL
SOCIETY
TE APĀRANGI

Ngā kaupapa

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These guidelines pertain to both Fast-Start and Standard proposals.



Ngā rerekētanga mō te tau 2026

Changes for 2026

- No Marsden Fund Council Awards will be offered in 2026
- Registration for Expressions of Interest will be required two weeks before the EOI deadline, to enable appropriate time to assess panel interest and plan accordingly.
- The Marsden Fund Council will pass recommendations for funding to the new Research Funding New Zealand board at the end of the 2026 round. This has resulted in the following changes:¹
 - The Terms of Reference and Investment Plan have been updated
 - Another tick box, around the potential to support the development of new technologies, has been added for reporting purposes, but is **not** included as a benefit category
- The benefit statement has been moved to the research template; some section numbers updated as a result
- The FTE / personnel table has an added tick box to indicate whether Marsden funding is sought for that person
- Instructions in research templates updated slightly

Wording for panel descriptors updated for consistency

Kōrero whakataki

Introduction

The Marsden Fund operates a yearly funding cycle and makes an annual call for proposals in November / December.

Te Kaunihera Pūtea a Marsden Marsden Fund Council (Role updated)

The Marsden Fund Council (the Council) is appointed by the Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology. The Council consists of up to nine eminent researchers spanning a range of disciplines. In previous years, the Council was responsible for making funding decisions. However, for the 2026 round Council will:

- Invite Expressions of Interest to proceed to the Full Proposal round
- Determine which full proposals do not meet the eligibility criteria and, therefore, will not be considered by the Research Funding New Zealand Board for funding

¹ Links:

- *Terms of Reference:* <https://www.royalsociety.org.nz/what-we-do/funds-and-opportunities/marsden/about/tor/>
- *Investment Plan:* <https://www.royalsociety.org.nz/assets/Uploads/FINAL-Marsden-Fund-Investment-Plan.pdf>
- *Funding Decisions for the 2026 Marsden Round Gazette notice:* <https://gazette.govt.nz/notice/id/2025-go6842?stageDraft>



- Provide recommendations to the Research Funding New Zealand board, who will make the final funding decisions.

To assist the Council, eight discipline-based assessment panels make recommendations on the proposals in their area of research. See “Ngā whakamāramatanga mō ngā wāhanga Panel definitions” in this document.

Marsden Fund Council mission statement

To drive world-class research for New Zealand by supporting and incentivising excellent researchers to work on their best and boldest ideas leading to new knowledge and skills with the potential for significant downstream impacts for New Zealand.

Ngā wāhanga o ngā tohu Award categories (UPDATED)

Two categories are available in 2026:

Fast-Start: For emerging researchers, capped at a maximum amount of \$120,000 per year. Funding can be sought for up to three years.

Standard: Open to all eligible researchers, amount of funding is flexible and is capped. Funding can be sought for up to three years.

The Marsden Fund Council Award category is not available in 2026.

Fast-Start and Standard proposals are assessed through a two-stage process, with an Expression of Interest to be submitted by the February deadline. The EOI consists of one page of proposed research and a section to outline the rationale and potential benefits, along with references, roles and resources, CVs and other supporting information. EOIs are assessed by discipline-based panels.

In May, successful applicants are invited to submit a larger full proposal, with a deadline in June. Full proposals consist of 6-7 pages of proposed research and potential benefits, plus supporting information. They are assessed by international expert reviewers in addition to the panels.

Ngā mōhiohio mō te tono Information on applying

Information on applying is available:

- From your research coordinator or research office if you are at an organisation with a track record of applying for Marsden funding (e.g. a tertiary education organisation, public research organisation (PRO), independent research organisation)
- On the Marsden Fund website: <https://www.royalsociety.org.nz/what-we-do/funds-and-opportunities/marsden/marsden-fund-application-process/>
- From the Marsden Fund office (marsden@royalsociety.org.nz)



Tomokanga mō te tono Proposal portal

All Marsden Fund proposals should be submitted on the web-based portal. Researchers should write their proposals directly into this portal using the templates provided.

Researchers who submit proposals through an organisational co-ordinator should contact their Research Office for log-in details for the portal. Independent researchers and researchers from organisations who have not applied to the Fund previously should contact the Marsden Fund (marsden@royalsociety.org.nz) for further details.

Ngā paearu āheitanga Eligibility criteria

The Marsden Fund is fully contestable and is open to applicants who meet the Fund's eligibility criteria. The criteria are determined by the Marsden Fund Council.

- Eligibility to apply for funding as a contact Principal Investigator (PI) is restricted to New Zealand-based researchers. The research should be carried out in New Zealand, except in cases where its nature demands that it be carried out elsewhere.
- For Standard proposals, "New Zealand-based," for researchers who have overseas appointments, has been defined by the Marsden Fund Council as being employed at a New Zealand host organisation, and present, in New Zealand for 0.5 FTE (or more) per year.
- Fast-Start applicants must be employed entirely in New Zealand for the duration of their grant. Applicants may apply from outside New Zealand with the support of a New Zealand host organisation, with the intent of moving to New Zealand to undertake their Fast-Start research.
- The requirement to be "New Zealand-based" for the duration of the grant applies to **contact PIs only**. It does not apply to co-PIs or associate investigators (AIs).
- If an applicant is a panellist, they cannot apply to the panel on which they are sitting, either as a PI or as an AI.
- For a proposal to be eligible for funding, it 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. More information is available at <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/about/news/new-eligibility-criteria-restricts-science-research-funding-that-could-contribute-to-russias-war-effort>

Whakamāramatanga mō te kaitūhura mātua, tuarua hoki Definition of Principal and Associate Investigators

Principal Investigators (PIs) lead the research, contribute the main ideas and are responsible, with their host organisation, for the achievements of the objectives and the management of the contract.

Associate Investigators (AIs) play a lesser role than PIs and may only be involved with limited aspects of the work. These can include, for example, cultural advisors.



Mentors (Fast-Start proposals only) are people who should play a role in advising the PI on various aspects of project management, career guidance and professional development; they should **not** have a scholarly input into the proposed research (if they do, they should be listed as AIs instead). Mentors should ideally be based at the applicant's organisation. CVs are not required for mentors.

Collaborators providing a service may be named in the Roles and Resources section. CVs are not required for collaborators.

Te maha o ngā tono mā ia tangata **Number of proposals per person**

For each annual funding cycle, eligible applicants must:

- Be involved in no more than ONE proposal as a PI per funding round (assuming no exclusion – see below).
- Be involved in no more than TWO proposals in total per funding round; either as a PI on one and an AI on another, or as an AI on two proposals.
- In addition to the limit of two proposals per year, an applicant may also be listed as a mentor on one or more Fast-Start proposals. There is no limit to the number of proposals per year someone can be named as a mentor on.

This applies across both categories of grants; for example, if an applicant is a PI on a Fast-Start proposal, they cannot be a PI on a Standard proposal in the same funding round.

Te ture aukati i te kaitūhura mātua **Principal Investigator exclusion rule**

If successful as a PI in a particular funding year, a researcher will be excluded from applying for another Marsden Fund grant as a PI for the next two funding rounds. The exclusion period is not affected by any approved contract time extensions. **This applies across all grant categories, and applies to all PIs, whether they are contact PIs or co-PIs.**

For example:

- A PI who was awarded a Marsden Fund grant in the 2024 round will not be permitted to apply as a PI to the Marsden Fund in 2026 but will be permitted to apply in the 2027 round.
- A PI who was awarded a Marsden Fund grant in the 2025 round will not be eligible to apply as a PI in 2026 or 2027 but will be permitted to apply in the 2028 round.
- A PI who was awarded a Marsden Fund grant in the 2023 round is eligible to apply in the 2025 round, even if their 2023 contract has been extended past its original completion date.

Any PI who is excluded by this rule in any particular funding round may still apply as an AI on a maximum of two proposals. The maximum FTE is 0.05 for each year that the AI is involved in the project.

On the very rare occasions where a new PI is appointed on an existing grant (for example if the original contact PI moves overseas), new PIs are **not** subject to the PI exclusion rule.



Paearu aromatawai

Assessment criteria

Research

- Proposals must have the potential to lead to quantifiable impacts² because of the proposal's novelty, originality, insight and ambition.
- Proposals must be rigorous, and should have a basis in prior research and use a sound research method.
- The research team must have the ability and capacity to deliver.

Benefit

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

Vision Mātauranga

- Proposals must consider the relation of the research to the themes of Vision Mātauranga and, **where relevant**, how the project will engage with Māori³.

The cost of the project is not considered until the full proposal stage. Once the overall grades and rankings have been determined, the cost of each proposal is then considered with a view to each panel funding the top ranked proposals up to the overall level of funds available.

All proposals funded must:

- Comply with the terms and process of any government policy or directive; and
- Be consistent with the nature and objectives of the Marsden Fund and the criteria set out above.

² *Quantifiable impacts* can be defined in various ways including how the research will:

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

³ For clarity, this criterion is interpreted as follows: where applicable, proposals must consider the relevance of the Vision Mātauranga policy. We expect that Vision Mātauranga will not be relevant to all proposals. Proposals that give effect to Vision Mātauranga should demonstrate the relevance and use of a fit-for-purpose approach.



How the criteria will be assessed

Proposals submitted to the Marsden Fund must meet each individual criterion to the satisfaction of assessors to be considered for funding.

Once assessors are satisfied that a proposal meets each criterion individually, they will score the proposal based on a holistic assessment across all relevant criteria and relative to other proposals being considered by the panel.

Research: Proposals with an inspirational, robust and sound research goal that transcends the sum of the individual assessment criteria are likely to score more highly in this process.

The 'ability and capacity to deliver' criterion will be judged relative to opportunity, with career achievements assessed in the context of career history, allowing for breaks for family or other responsibilities. Where applicants already hold a Marsden Fund contract in a related area, performance on this will also be considered as evidence of ability, but existing award holders will not be privileged versus new applicants because of this.

Fast-Start: Note that a Fast-Start applicant is at the start of their career so in assessing the 'potential', the track record must be considered in relation to the years of research experience. Other factors are the quality of their research training and its appropriateness for carrying out the proposed research.

Benefit: Proposals that clearly demonstrate the following are likely to score more highly:

- The comparative advantages of a New Zealand-based team
- The benefits that could accrue if the research were carried out in New Zealand
- That the team is well positioned to carry out globally relevant research with a high likelihood of bringing benefit (economic, environmental, health), to New Zealand
- Ways in which the proposed research has the potential to lead to economic* benefits to New Zealand

** The Fund will be monitored to ensure that approximately 50% of the Fund supports proposals that have the potential to result in economic benefit to New Zealand*

Vision Mātauranga: Where Vision Mātauranga is deemed applicable, proposals that clearly demonstrate the following are likely to score more highly:

- Engagement with the idea and appropriateness of Vision Mātauranga
- The justification for Vision Mātauranga in terms of that research
- A description of how Vision Mātauranga is integrated and resourced

Me pēhea te tono

How to apply (UPDATED)

Applicants should register their intent to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI).

A registration deadline of 5 pm (NZDT) on Wednesday 4th February 2026 has been introduced, two weeks before the EOI deadline. **For each proposal, the grant category, panel, and names and email addresses of all PIs, AIs and Fast-Start mentors will be required.**



It is not intended that any pre-selection of proposals should occur within organisations, and there are no organisational caps applied in terms of numbers of proposals. However, researchers must ensure that any proposal they submit has the approval of their host organisation.

Trusted Research Guidance

Researchers should familiarise themselves with the [Trusted Research Guidance for Institutions and Researchers](#). If there are any questions arising from this, 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 ([Trusted Research Guidance for Institutions and Researchers](#)).

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 in the 2024 Marsden Fund selection round will be performed. In the unlikely event that any funded project appears to contain a high level of risk, risk mitigation strategies may need to be employed. These would be developed after a 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: are or could become dual use i.e., have both a civil and military/security application; or, underpin, or have the potential to underpin, significant economic value 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 this 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 also be factually incorrect.

The Marsden Fund therefore advises applicants to use caution in relation to the use of generative AI tools in developing their proposals.

All applicants will be required to sign a proposal declaration on the portal to confirm that they take full responsibility for the content of the proposal, the suitability and validity of cited sources and originality of content, and to confirm that that proposal does not contain false or misleading information.

Ngā whakamāramatanga mō ngā wāhanga Panel definitions (Updated)

Panel descriptors have been updated for consistency of wording. There are no changes to the disciplines covered by each panel.

A broad, discipline-based assessment framework is used. This framework is as follows:



Biomedical Sciences (BMS) – Research related to human health and disease. This includes physiology, pathology, pharmacology, molecular biology, genetics, cell biology, microbiology, neurobiology, human genomics, and bioinformatics.

Cellular, Molecular and Physiological Biology (CMP) – Research related to cellular and tissue functions, and their integration within living organisms across the biological, agricultural, veterinary and biochemical sciences. This includes animal and plant physiology, molecular and cell biology, animal and plant genetics, functional genomics, bioinformatics, animal and plant pathology, and microbiology.

Ecology, Evolution and Behaviour (EEB) – Research related to how organisms evolve, behave, and interact with their environments. This includes ecology, evolution, behaviour, biodiversity, and biogeography, spanning molecular to ecosystem scales and incorporating theoretical, experimental, and modelling approaches.

Economics and Human & Behavioural Sciences (EHB) – Research related to human behaviour and economic systems. This includes psychology (experimental, cognitive, and neuropsychology), cognitive science, linguistics, archaeology, biological anthropology, business studies, commerce, management studies, marketing, communication science, and demography.

Engineering and Interdisciplinary Sciences (EIS) – Research related to the fundamentals of engineering. This includes biomedical, bioprocessing, civil, chemical, electrical, electronic, environmental, materials, mechanical, and robotic engineering; and cross-disciplinary research relating to engineering.

Earth Sciences and Astronomy (ESA) – Research related to Earth systems and processes, and the universe beyond Earth's atmosphere. This includes geology, geophysics, physical geography, oceanography, hydrology, meteorology, atmospheric science, earth sciences, astronomy, and astrophysics.

Mathematical and Information Sciences (MIS) – Research related to mathematics and information sciences. This includes pure mathematics, applied mathematics, statistics, operations research, logic, computer science, information systems, and software engineering.

Physics, Chemistry and Biochemistry (PCB) – Research related to the physical world. This includes materials science, physics, chemistry, biophysics, chemical biology, and structural biochemistry.

Timata-Wawe Fast-Start

The Fast-Start programme is targeted at early-career researchers who are employed at New Zealand-based research organisations and who are trying to establish independent research careers and create research momentum. **The applicant should be involved in their own independent research and not merely be part of a larger group's research programme.**

It is not mandatory for an applicant to have a permanent position, but the host organisation must agree to employ the applicant for at least the duration of the grant, and in a position that allows them to develop an independent research career.

Researchers wishing to submit a Fast-Start proposal may apply for up to \$120,000 per year (GST exclusive) for research programmes lasting up to 3 years. The purpose is to support excellent research



by promising individuals and to give an impetus to their careers by promoting them as sole PIs in their own research programmes. While linkages with established researchers as AIs, both within and outside New Zealand, are useful and encouraged, the emphasis for this funding is on individual researchers in the early stages of their careers.

The application process, timetable, selection criteria and assessment are the same as for a Standard Marsden Fund proposal, apart from one of the selection criteria (the development of research skills in New Zealand), which is considered satisfied for these applicants. Fast-Start proposals are ranked separately from Standard proposals.

Applicants who meet the eligibility criteria for this programme, but who wish to apply for larger grants, should submit a Standard proposal.

Eligibility

Researchers are eligible to apply if they:

- Have not previously been a PI on a Marsden Fund contract
- Have a PhD degree, or an equivalent NZQA level 10 qualification. **Recent graduates must have completed all requirements for conferment of their PhD by the EOI closing date in February.**
- Are normally within 7 fulltime years of their PhD (track A) or 10 fulltime years of the start of their research career (Track B). Career interruptions can extend the eligibility timeframe.

For the 2026 funding round, eligibility for Fast-Start funding is restricted to:

- Track A: those who have been awarded their PhD at any time since the beginning of 2019 (or within the equivalent of 7 years' fulltime experience).
- Track B: those who began their research careers in 2016 or later (or within the equivalent of 10 years' fulltime experience).

For more detailed information about eligibility and career interruptions, please see Appendix 1.

A useful eligibility calculator is available at <https://royalsociety.org.nz/what-we-do/funds-and-opportunities/marsden/application/submitting-a-proposal/career-gaps-calculator>

If there is doubt about eligibility, applicants should contact their Research Office in the first instance. If in further doubt, please contact the Marsden Fund.

Eligibility Breaches

Should any panel members assessing proposals be unclear about Fast-Start eligibility, the Marsden Fund office will check with the relevant Research Office. If information provided by the relevant Research Office cannot confirm eligibility, the proposal will be deemed ineligible and feedback to this effect will be provided.

Any applicants who have had career interruptions due to being primary carers of dependent children or have had their eligibility confirmed by the Marsden office, should explain this in their CV (section 1e of the standard CV template, or the "career break" section of the narrative CV template).



Mentor (optional)

For Fast-Start proposals, there is an option to name a mentor, where no funding / FTE is sought for that person. This person would play a role in advising the applicant on various aspects of project management, career guidance and professional development; they would **not** have a scholarly input into the proposed research. While CVs are not required for mentors, their expected contribution should be outlined in the Roles and Resources section. Mentors should ideally be based at the applicant's organisation. No more than one mentor can be named for each Fast-Start proposal.

If a researcher is to act as a mentor and also plans to have an input into the proposed research, they should be listed as an AI instead. Any mentoring done by an AI should be detailed in the proposal under the Roles and Resources section along with their other contributions. They should **NOT** also be listed in the "Mentor" category.

A researcher can be named on a Fast-Start proposal as a mentor, or an AI, but not both.

If Fast-Start applicants do not have an AI on their proposal, it is advised that they have a named Mentor.

Vision Mātauranga

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

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

Vision Mātauranga is included as an assessment criterion:

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

For the EOI round, applicants indicate whether Vision Mātauranga is relevant and, if so, which themes apply, with a brief justification. Please refer to instructions for Section 2.

For more information on Vision Mātauranga, including guidance and resources for applicants, please see Appendix 2.

Nui o te kaupapa (Ngā tono arowhānui) Project size (Standard proposals)

Although the cost of the project is not considered until the Full Proposal stage, information is included here on what can be funded, as well as the maximum size of Standard Proposals. The Terms of Reference state that funds awarded are to cover the full costs of a proposal. Full costing includes direct costs, associated personnel costs and overhead costs. Please note that collaborating researchers from outside New Zealand can be included in proposals but cannot receive direct funding support for their time or institutional costs. However, costs associated with collaboration (in other words: travel and accommodation) may be covered under "direct costs".



The Marsden Fund Council particularly wants to provide support for individual researchers in contrast to supporting large teams assembled to undertake programmes of research that could be supported by other funding agencies.

The preferred types of projects are those from individuals or small teams, to investigate bright new ideas, involving the assistance of a post-doctoral fellow, research assistants or postgraduate students where appropriate.

The Council has set a maximum amount per proposal, which differs between panels. There is no minimum. Amounts applied for may vary from year to year, as long as the total amount over 3 years is no greater than the maximum amount.

The **maximum amounts** are as follows:

Panel	Maximum total amount over 3 years
BMS	\$960k
CMP	\$960k
EHB	\$870K
EIS	\$960k
EEB	\$960k
ESA	\$960k
MIS	\$720k
PCB	\$960k

These amounts are **exclusive of GST**.

Ētahi atu pūtea **Other funding**

Applicants are asked whether they have sought or received any other funding for the Marsden Fund-proposed research.

At the EOI stage, any applicants who have sought or received other funding for a grant for the same purpose should provide the following information:

- Name of funding organisation
- Amount requested
- Title

You may provide an explanation if you wish.

There is provision to enter more than one instance of other funding, if required.

It is appreciated that some applicants will apply to other funding sources, for the same work. This will not affect assessment of the EOI. Should applicants be invited to submit a Full Proposal, more details of funding sought or received will be required.



Should the proposed research be funded by more than one funding agency, this will be followed up by the Marsden Fund administration.

Takotoranga o ngā tono

Format of proposals

All proposals should be submitted via the portal using the prescribed document templates. These can be downloaded from the portal with the original format retained from the templates. The layout of the entire proposal is automatic on the portal (seen via the “Print Preview” function). The limit on space in all sections of the templates should be adhered to. The typeface should be 12 point, Times or of similar size font, single spacing as set in the template, with margins of 2 cm on the left and 2 cm on the right side of the page. **Instructions may be removed, but the template settings should not be changed.** No additional pages or attachments will be accepted other than where requested (unless a translation is supplied – see “Applying in te reo Māori” below).

IMPORTANT: Coloured images / text may be included in the abstract (3a) and roles and resources (3d) sections of the proposal.

The guidelines on formatting must be followed. Failure to do so may result in the proposal being deemed ineligible.

EOI formatting breaches

From time to time, panellists raise issues with the Marsden Fund office and panel convenors around irregularities in EOIs. If anything is raised, the Marsden Fund office will investigate. If the issue is not due to a portal error, it may lead to the proposal being deemed ineligible. Below is a list of irregularities which could lead to a proposal being deemed ineligible. It is not exhaustive.

Significant material advantage:

- The abstract (section 3a), including any diagrams or footnotes, is greater than one page long
- Font size, line spacing and/or margins have been altered from the templates to give the applicant a material advantage
- The description of the proposed research has expanded significantly from the abstract (3a) into other sections (e.g. as footnotes in the reference section or added to the roles and resources section).

Applicant error

- The abstract (section 3a) is missing (e.g. overwritten by a different template), thus making it impossible to assess the proposed research
- The contact PI’s CV is not there (e.g. it may have been duplicated with an AI’s CV), thus making the track record of the PI impossible to assess from the proposal.



Applying in te reo Māori

If applicants wish to complete some, or all, sections of their proposal in te reo Māori, they can do so. However, because some of the panellists (and possibly referees) who will be assessing their proposal will not be fluent in te reo Māori, an English translation of the section(s) will be necessary. Applicants, therefore, are able to provide a translation for those sections as supplementary material over and above the page limits set for the relevant section of the proposal. Applicants must still keep to the set page limits for the “official” proposal, but can use additional pages for the translation.

The portal at present will not allow additional documents or pages, so we ask that anyone who is providing a translation sends it **by email** to rachel.averill@royalsociety.org.nz by the EOI closing date. If an applicant chooses not to provide a translation, then we will arrange for a translation to be made by one of the third-party translation services that we use for our own publications. Please note that because this will be carried out by a third-party service, we will not be able to guarantee the accuracy of the translation.

Registration

A registration deadline of 5 pm (NZDT), 4th Feb 2026 has been introduced. This is to enable appropriate time to assess panel interest and EOI numbers, and plan accordingly. After this date, no new proposals or new team members can be added.

Requirements for registration:

- **Category** of proposal: Fast-Start or Standard.
- Choose one of the eight **panels**. It is not possible to apply to more than one panel. If you are unsure which panel to apply to, please seek advice from your Research Office. Any queries from panel convenors about panel choice will be followed up with applicants.
- **The names and email addresses** of all team members who will be PIs, AIs, or Fast-Start mentors. We will not need the agreements of these team members until the EOI deadline.

When all required details have been filled in, the contact PI should click on the “Mark Registration Complete” button on the first page of the proposal.

When your proposal is registered on the portal under your name, a unique proposal number will automatically be generated. This consists of 26-(Organisation)-(Number).

- The first two numbers refer to the year of application (2026).
- The organisation is a three-letter abbreviation. For example: CAW is the Cawthron Institute, UOW is University of Waikato.
- The numbers are consecutive 3-digit numbers. Your number can be obtained from your organisation’s Research Office. Private individuals or researchers need to contact the Marsden Fund for their proposal number.

The information entered will appear automatically at the top of each page of the proposal form, along with the name and initials of the contact PI (see notes on “Contact Person and Principal Investigators” below).

Example (Standard Proposal) for Dr HR Taumata:

Proposal	Contact PI's surname	Initials	Application Number	Panel
Standard	Taumata	HR	26-ESN-001	PCB



Ngā here o te NZRIS

NZRIS obligations

Royal Society Te Apārangi is one of the data providers for the New Zealand Research Information System (NZRIS). In 2020, several new data elements were introduced for each proposal, which will form data to be collected in the future as part of NZRIS:

- Percentage share of Fields of Research (FOR) codes in the proposed research (visible on the EOI)
- Socio-Economic Objectives (SEOs), % shares, and associated keywords required (visible on the EOI)
- Type of research activity (not accessible to anyone involved in the assessment of proposals)
- Share of the proposed research to each Vision Mātauranga theme (not accessible to anyone involved in the assessment of proposals)
- Personal statistical information for each applicant such as date of birth, gender and ethnicity. These are not mandatory and are not accessible to anyone involved in the assessment of proposals.

For more information about NZRIS, please see <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/science-and-technology/science-and-innovation/research-and-data/nzris/>

Our provision of data to the NZRIS system will consist of the characteristics of awarded proposals and the names and organisations of supported investigators.

ia wāhanga o te tono

Proposal section by section

Portal instructions, along with FAQs, are available at:

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

Follow-on Funding tick box

Please tick this box if this proposal is following on in any way or arising from previous Marsden funding. If so, note in the text box the Marsden Fund contract(s) which the proposed research follows on from. The tick box and previous contract information provided here will be used for monitoring and evaluation purposes only and will not be accessible by anyone involved in the assessment of proposals. For this reason, any relationship to previous Marsden funding should be described in the proposed research.

Section 1a. Research Title

The title of your proposal should be in plain language, written for panellists and referees, be descriptive, and no more than 25 words in length. Please avoid puns, proverbs, colloquialisms, whimsical or obscure popular culture references. Note that the title helps potential reviewers decide whether to assist in the review process. This title will be publicly available if the proposal is successful and used for contracting and



reporting purposes. Marsden Fund Council reserves the right to alter your title, should your proposal be funded.

Section 1b. Contact person, and Principal and Associate Investigators

This section should contain the title, first name, first and middle initials, and last name of all PIs and AIs, and a contact email address for all investigators. Although contact details of all investigators are required, only the names, organisations and countries (if outside New Zealand) of the investigators will be displayed when previewed as a document on the portal.

The contact person is also called the contact Principal investigator (contact PI), under whose name the proposal is registered.

Fast-Start category: Only one PI may be named; this is the contact PI.

Standard category: It is possible to name more than one PI in the case of partnerships or other sharing of responsibility for the project. One should be nominated as the contact PI for the proposal. This is for administrative purposes.

It is important to list all PIs and AIs, including those based overseas, as new PIs and AIs cannot be added after the registration deadline, or at the Full Proposal stage, except in extraordinary circumstances.

For Fast-Start researchers, an optional "Mentor" category is present in Section 1b. Only one Mentor can be named per proposal. No CV or FTE input is required for Mentors, but their contribution must be outlined in the Roles and Resources section. **New Mentors cannot be added after the registration deadline.**

All PIs and AIs (and Mentors if applicable) on each proposal will need to confirm their own contact details via an individual URL, which will be emailed to each person after their email address has been entered into the portal by the contact PI. Each individual person will therefore be able to provide their own contact details, Fields of Research (FOR) codes, statistical information, and give consent for their involvement in each proposal that they are involved in, without a requirement for the contact PI to provide details. These details can be confirmed after the registration deadline.

Individual URLs

Anyone who is named as a contact PI, co-PI, AI, or mentor will receive an individual URL. Your URL will give you access to your personal details and a list of all proposals in the round that you are named on.

When you log in, you will reach a screen that is personalised for you.

Personal details

Check and amend if necessary (using edit & save), and work your way down the left-hand side of the menu:

CONTACT DETAILS

ORCID: An ORCID ID is preferred for all named investigators but is not mandatory. Click on the "Create or Connect your ORCID ID" button on the top right of the "Contact Details" section and follow instructions.



PHD DETAILS (FAST-START CONTACT PIS ONLY)

Fast-Start applicants are required to include the title of their PhD thesis, year PhD awarded, and the name of their supervisor(s) in this section.

RESEARCH EXPERTISE

All named PIs and AIs are requested to provide up to five Fields of Research (FOR) codes about their own research interests and expertise. A list of codes will be available on the portal, and can also be referred to at:

<https://aria.stats.govt.nz/aria/#ClassificationView:uri=http://stats.govt.nz/cms/ClassificationVersion/d3TYSTsmzzuc8CY1>

This is used for statistical purposes only. It is not accessible to anyone involved in the assessment of proposals.

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

The data provided in this section is used for statistical purposes only. It is not accessible to anyone involved in the assessment of proposals.

APPLICATIONS (PLUS TERMS AND CONDITIONS)

Personal terms and conditions: Each person named in the proposal needs to tick their acceptance at the bottom of the personal Terms and Conditions page. **Agreement of personal Terms and Conditions is carried over from previous years.**

An example is shown below:

Please tick the "Agreed" boxes to indicate your acceptance of the Terms and Conditions.

I, Dr _____, acknowledge that on 2nd December 2025 I read and agreed to the above statements. Agreed

If I am on a proposal(s) associated with research organisations other than my own, I give my permission for the role(s) and institution(s) to be made available to my home organisation. Agreed

List of Applications:

At the top of the "Applications (plus Ts and Cs)" page, you will see a list of the proposals that you are named on for the current round. You can access any application by clicking on the triangle on the right. At any time, you can navigate back to your personal pages by clicking on the blue "Researcher" link on the bottom left.

If you are a contact PI, you will be able to access and edit your proposal. If you are co-PI or AI, you will have read-only access only to the proposal.

Each person will need to click on the "I Agree" box next to each proposal they are named on to indicate agreement. **Agreement is not carried over from previous years, as it relates to specific proposals.**



An example is shown below where agreement needs to be given. When clicked, the "I Agree" wording will be replaced by a date.

not apply to mentors on Fast-Start applications.
If you are on any of the applications, clicking the ► button will take you to that application.

Application	Stage	Status	Involvement As	Involvement Agreed	
26-DUM-004	EOI	New	Principal Investigator (Contact)	<input type="button" value="I Agree"/>	<input type="button" value="►"/>

Section 1c. Metadata (Updated)

This section will be displayed on the front page of the proposal and includes Fields of Research (FOR) codes, SEOs and Type of Research Activity, along with the "benefit category" tick boxes and a new tick box around the potential to support the development of new technologies.

Fields of Research (FOR) codes, SEOs and Type of Research Activity are all part of the Australian and New Zealand Standard Research Classification (ANZSRC). Further information can be found at:

<https://www.mbie.govt.nz/science-and-technology/science-and-innovation/research-and-data/anzsrc/>

Fields of Research (FOR) codes and keywords

Please enter up to THREE 6-digit FOR codes, using codes that are as specific as possible, and indicate the percent share of each code to the proposed research. The shares should add up to 100%. A list of codes and a search field is below:

<http://aria.stats.govt.nz/aria/#ClassificationView:uri=http://stats.govt.nz/cms/ClassificationVersion/d3TYS Tsmzzuc8CY1>

Please also give key words or key phrases of no more than 255 characters in total, in a single list (separated by commas or semi-colons; avoid using the return key). This information will be used to assist the process of finding referees and to provide data for a strategic report on funding.

Socio-Economic Objectives (SEOs)

Please choose up to THREE codes from the drop-down field and indicate the percent share of each code to the proposed research (the shares should add up to 100%). For a list of codes and a search field, please refer to the Socio-Economic Objectives Calculator at:

<http://aria.stats.govt.nz/aria/#ClassificationView:uri=http://stats.govt.nz/cms/ClassificationVersion/d1iJya EzjWHJiRej>

Please also give key words or key phrases associated with the chosen SEOs, of no more than 255 characters in total, in a single list (separated by commas or semi-colons; avoid using the return key).

The SEO codes, shares and keywords will be visible to those involved in proposal assessment. These will be used for reporting purposes and will not be used for proposal assessment.



Type of Research Activity

Collection of research activity data for Marsden Fund proposals will form part of our reporting obligations for NZRIS (see “NZRIS obligations” earlier).

Pure basic research is 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 is 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 is original investigation undertaken in order to acquire new knowledge. It is, however, directed primarily towards a specific, practical aim or objective.

Experimental research is 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.

More information can be found at:

<http://aria.stats.govt.nz/aria/#ClassificationView:uri=http://stats.govt.nz/cms/ClassificationVersion/Wg615FKY3OhnyOzL>

This information will not be accessible to anyone involved in the assessment of proposals.

Benefit categories (section number updated)

Applicants should identify using tick boxes which of the three benefit categories can be associated with the proposed research. More than one category may apply. The categories are:

- **Economic**
- **Environmental**
- **Health**

Any selections should align with the benefit statement in section 3b.

New technologies (NEW)

For 2026, applicants will be asked to indicate via a tick box if their research has the potential to support the development of new technologies. This will be displayed on the front page of the proposal, underneath the tick boxes for the economic, environment and health benefit categories. Please note that this is **not** included as a benefit category. The information will be used for reporting purposes to the Research Funding New Zealand Board.

For more information on how the Board will make its funding decisions, refer to the Gazette notice <https://gazette.govt.nz/notice/id/2025-go6842?stageDraft>

New technologies refer to emerging or innovative technological advancements that introduce novel capabilities, enhance existing processes, or enable entirely new ways of delivering services, solving problems, or creating value.



Section 1d. Research Summary

Please describe in up to 200 words the nature of the proposed research. The summary will be used for two purposes: i) for the panellists as an introduction to the proposed research; and ii) as an aid for finding appropriate referees at the Full Proposal stage. The summary should be written in plain language accessible to the panellists who are research literate but not necessarily subject matter experts.

The summary should cover the following items: What is the state of the field? What does the applicant want to do? How will the applicant do it? What is the broad outcome expected to be? It should not contain any confidential or commercially sensitive information, and it should be a stand-alone description of the proposal.

This summary will be publicly available if the proposal is successful and used for contracting and reporting purposes.

Section 2: Vision Mātauranga

Proposals must consider the relation of the research to the themes of Vision Mātauranga.

Where research projects have one or more Vision Mātauranga themes, the Marsden Fund Council expects applicants to be in an engagement or consultation process at the planning stage, to achieve the best possible outcomes. If unsure about the relevance of the proposed study to the Vision Mātauranga themes, researchers should consult their organisational advisor. More guidance is available in Appendix 2.

In this section, applicants should identify which, if any, of the four Vision Mātauranga themes can be associated with the proposed research. More than one theme may apply. If none apply, choose N/A. The themes are:

- **Indigenous innovation:** Contributing to economic growth through distinctive research and development
- **Taiao:** Achieving environmental sustainability through iwi and hapū relationships with land and sea
- **Hauora/Oranga:** Improving health and social wellbeing
- **Mātauranga:** Exploring indigenous knowledge and science and innovation

If you have identified one or more Vision Mātauranga theme(s), please consider each theme one at a time and indicate the proportion of the proposed research that aligns with that theme.

Note that it is possible for the combined total to be over 100%. For example, if the proposed research is entirely Mātauranga and also has a Hauora theme, the contributions could be 100% and 10% respectively.

The percentages do not form part of the assessment criteria – they were introduced as part of our NZRIS obligations. The percent shares will not be accessible to anyone involved in the assessment of proposals.

There is a comment box on the portal to briefly explain your rationale for either choosing N/A, or your choice of Vision Mātauranga theme(s). The maximum size for this is 200 words. Panellists will be looking for affirmation that applicants have considered whether their proposed research has Vision Mātauranga theme(s). If you feel that Vision Mātauranga does not apply to your proposed research, please state this



here. Consultation is not a requirement; however, if you have received feedback from your organisation that Vision Mātauranga does not apply to your proposed research, please state this here.

Panellists will assess each proposal for Vision Mātauranga relevance, whether the applicant has indicated N/A or not.

If the EOI goes through to the Full Proposal round, it is essential that any costs associated with Vision Mātauranga capability development and engagement are appropriately accounted for in the budget.

Section 3a. Abstract

The abstract is a one-page description of the proposed research. The description should include the aim or hypothesis, or element of discovery, and the research proposed, explaining the importance of the research and providing information that will allow the assessment panel to make a judgement based on the research-related assessment criteria. The proposed research must be confined to the page allocated. If diagrams, images or footnotes are being used, they must be contained within this page. References should be listed separately (section 3c).

Colour images and /or diagrams may be included in this section. Footnotes may also be included.

Links (URLs) should not be included in this section. However, they may be listed in the “References” section (3c) if they are publicly accessible.

There is a limit of **one page** for this section when previewed as a document on the portal. Applicants are advised to check the length of their abstract by uploading it to the portal and checking a PDF, as the length may change slightly.

Section 3b. Benefit statement (section number updated)

After feedback from applicants and panellists following the 2025 EOI round, the benefit and rationale statement has been incorporated into the main research template so that any references can be easily incorporated into the references section.

Use this section to clearly state:

- i) why this research could be of economic, environmental, or health benefit(s) to New Zealand
- ii) the rationale for the research to be undertaken in New Zealand.

Benefit

All proposals **must** demonstrate how their research could be of economic, environmental, or health benefit to New Zealand.

Approximately 50% of the Fund will go towards supporting proposals which have the potential to result in economic benefit to New Zealand.

Even if the research has potential benefits, other than economic, the section should also include a description of any potential economic impact for New Zealand.



Research should have direct and indirect benefits or effect on individuals, communities or society as a whole, including broad benefits to New Zealand's economy, environment or health. Give particular regard to:

- the scale and extent of potential benefits from the proposed research, science or technology, or related activities
- the extent of alignment with one or more areas of future additional value, growth, or critical need for New Zealand
- where relevant, the extent to which the project has identified and evaluated the potential impacts for Māori.

Further guidance:

- In line with the philosophy behind funding blue skies science, the demonstration of benefit does not have to be direct, or foreseeable, but rather that the area of research has potential benefit. This includes situations where the potential benefit is not imminent or accrued in a linear fashion.
- Having a line of sight to potential impact means that each researcher and institution understands their part in the bigger picture, and how their activities could contribute directly, or indirectly, to the shared undertaking of delivering impact.
- Research should have direct and indirect benefits or effect on individuals, communities or society as a whole, including broad benefits to New Zealand's economy, environment or health.

Rationale

Proposals **should** demonstrate a clear rationale for this research to be undertaken in New Zealand. This does not mean the Fund will not support globally relevant and impactful research. Rather, consider why a New Zealand-based team would be uniquely positioned, what comparative advantages there are, and what the likely benefits would be, if the research is conducted in New Zealand.

The development of research skills in New Zealand **should** be addressed in the Roles and Resources section.

- Where necessary please provide evidence and references to support your claims. Any references should be included in the main references section.
- Consider any potential short-term, as well as long-term benefits.

The suggested word limit is 400. There is a limit of one page for this section. This is a standalone page. You should not reduce the space to fit more into section 3a.

Section 3c. References (section number updated)

This is for references associated with the abstract and benefit statement (3a and 3b). Please ensure that these are not restricted or limited to the applicants' own work. Applicants are also requested to:

- Ensure that the references have been published, so that they are readily accessible when the proposal is being assessed.
- Bold any applicants' names if they appear in the reference list.
- Include titles of each reference.
- Include names of all authors (up to 12)



There is a limit of **three pages** for this section when previewed as a document on the portal. This section does not include the use of footnotes; it should contain a list of references only, rather than further explanation of ideas covered in the abstract. Links (URLs) may be included if they are publicly accessible.

Section 3d. Roles and Resources (section number updated)

In this section, briefly outline the contribution that each team member will make to the proposed research. This should include PIs, AIs, mentors, post-docs, and postgraduate students (if any), regardless of the FTEs sought. This section should illustrate that the project has the personnel to manage the expected workload of the project, to ensure its smooth management, and to deliver results.

Clearly state the resources required for the proposed research that the team will have access to. This is an opportunity to discuss the practical requirements of your proposed research. For example: access to museum collections/archives; access to required instruments/equipment/techniques; ability to do fieldwork (for example: site access; assistance, etc.); access to pools of participants.

Please note that if applicants will require logistical support from Antarctica New Zealand for their proposed research, this should be signalled at the EOI stage in this section. Applicants will be required to engage with Antarctica New Zealand and document this engagement in the Full Proposal.

Fast-Start applicants must provide evidence for how the proposed research will support their independent research careers. Discuss opportunities for your career development and be clear on the role of any mentors or AIs (if applicable).

If the proposed research will require ethics approval, use this section to convince the panellists that you have thought through all the relevant issues of your research and its possible implications (in the Full Proposal, there is a separate section for details of ethical or regulatory obligations – for example, child protection policies if working with children).

Do not describe the background and expertise of the team in general terms or use the section to extend the Abstract and further describe your research.

This section should not exceed **one page** in length when previewed as a document on the portal.

Section 4: Personnel (FTEs) table (updated)

The time that each member of the research team will spend on the proposed project should be listed here and filled in for each year of the planned research. Projects may be supported for **up to** three years.

The contribution of all personnel must be included as a fraction of a full-time equivalent (FTE). For example, if the PI were to commit one day per week for the first year to the proposed research this would be expressed as 0.2 FTE for year 1.

- The absolute minimum combined time for all PIs on Standard proposals is 0.1 FTE per year. This is designed to provide flexibility in special cases. However, the Marsden Fund Council expects that sufficient PI time be allocated to carry out the project successfully.
- The minimum time for a PI on a Fast-Start proposal is 0.2 FTE per year.
- The minimum time for an Associate Investigator (AI) is 0.05 FTE for each year that the AI is involved in the research.



All FTEs should be included in this table, regardless of whether Marsden funding is being requested for them.

NEW: The personnel / FTE table now has a “Marsden-funded” column. This tick box can be accessed for each person using “edit” mode. Please indicate for each person whether Marsden funding is sought for them. This is ticked by default for each contact PI.

If Marsden funding is not sought for particular individuals (for example: overseas investigators, post-doctoral researchers with stand-alone fellowships, or postgraduate students with other sources of funding) then this tick box should be left blank.

Note around funding of PIs and AIs:

- Any New Zealand-based PIs and AIs will need to have their requested FTEs funded by Marsden under the full-cost funding requirement.
- Overseas investigators cannot have their time (FTE) or institutional costs paid for by the Marsden Fund.

Post-doctoral researchers may be part-time or full-time on a Marsden Fund Standard proposal.

Postgraduate students can be supported on Marsden Fund proposals on a fixed-rate basis. The values are \$35k scholarship per year, plus fees (New Zealand resident rates) for PhD students or \$22k scholarship plus fees (New Zealand resident rates) for one year for Masters students. These figures assume the postgraduate students are assigned to the research on a full-time basis.

Summer students may also be included under the “postgraduate student” category if required. For summer studentships, please check with your Research Office for guidance on scholarships.

More information about postgraduate scholarships can be found here:

<https://www.royalsociety.org.nz/what-we-do/funds-and-opportunities/marsden/information-for-grant-recipients/marsden-funded-postgraduate-scholarships/>

Section 5: Curriculum Vitae

A CV should be completed for each PI, AI or named post-doctoral fellow. CVs are not required for students, technicians, Fast-Start mentors or un-named post-docs.

All applicants have a choice of a standard CV template (5-page limit) OR a narrative CV template (4-page limit). Both templates will follow the same assessment process.

The narrative CV option is no longer a trial. However, the Fund will continue to monitor uptake of the narrative CV and associated outcomes.

Standard CV template

MBIE, the Health Research Council and the Marsden Fund use a similar template, which largely standardises the type of information asked for. Please follow these guidelines, which are included with the standard CV template on the portal. This template allows you to maintain your own master CV, from which you can draw on when submitting a research proposal. In total, your CV must not be more than **five pages** long when submitted. No images are permitted on standard CVs.



Sections 2b, 2c, 2d of the standard CV template are relevant only to MBIE proposals and have been deleted from the template on the portal. The template allows you to expand/reduce sections as you see fit.

Please follow instructions on the template. Do not delete any sections.

Part 1

1a. This section is for personal details. It identifies who you are and where you can be contacted most readily. A space is provided for your own personal website about your research (optional) and has space for a research ID such as ORCID, ResearchGate or Google Scholar where you maintain an up-to-date list of publications.

1b. You should list your academic qualifications in this section.

1c. You should list the professional positions you have held in this section.

1d. You should briefly describe your field of expertise in this section.

1e. You can describe any significant interruptions to your research career here, if applicable – for example, parental leave, illness, administrative responsibilities. This can be expanded to include eligibility extensions in the case of Fast-Start applicants who have had career interruptions due to being a primary carer for dependent children. The information included here should give an idea of research relative to opportunity.

Fast-Start applicants who have had eligibility checked by the Marsden Fund office should indicate this here.

1f. This section is for significant achievements, including, but not limited to, honours, prizes, previous grants, scholarships, memberships or board appointments.

1g. This section is to record the total number of peer-reviewed publications you have produced during your career. Only peer-reviewed or refereed publications should be counted in each section. Books should be listed separately in this section.

Part 2

2a. This section lets you list some of the peer-reviewed publications you have produced and that are relevant to your proposal. Recognising that research dissemination occurs other than through peer-reviewed publications, this section also lets you list other forms of research dissemination, such as patents, technical reports or popular press. Please **only** include publications that are either published or in press. Submitted articles should not be included.

You should **bold your name** in the list of authors and include names of all other co-authors (up to 12).

You should **bold the year** of the publication if it was published in the **last 5 years**. For 2025, applicants should bold the year of publication **from 2021 onwards** only.

Note that the list of publications should include all publications relevant to the proposal; these are not limited to publications from the previous 5 years.

For book chapters or volumes, please give page numbers and names of publishers.

For any published books, please indicate the number of pages and name of publisher for each book.



All instructions in *italics* should be deleted before you submit your CV.

Page limits are the same for each named person on the proposal.

Narrative CV template

Please use the template provided on the portal (based on the Endeavour Fund Narrative CV). Please follow instructions on the template. In total, your CV must not be more than **four pages** long when submitted. This page limit is shorter than the Standard CV as the type of information provided in a Narrative CV is descriptive rather than list based.

Resources:

Further information on Narrative CVs including examples [is on the MBIE website](#). There is also a useful [MBIE webinar](#).

Guidance and resources for filling out the individual narrative profile (originally sourced from the Luxembourg National Research Fund, FNR <https://www.fnr.lu/>)

- FNR has resources [available on narrative CVs](#)
- FNR also has a guidance workshop on how the Narrative Profile. The slides, mural, and pre-workshop survey are available as resources. [Here is the link to the website](#)
- Imperial College has a webpage giving guidance for filling out a narrative-style CV. [Here is a link to the website](#).
- The University of Glasgow has created an online resource giving guidance on filling out narrative-style CVs. [Here is the link to the website and resources](#).
- The University of Glasgow has created a video on how to talk about research output. [Here is a link to the video](#).
- Maastricht University provides [guidance for evidencing impact of a broad range of outputs](#)
- Oxford University has published [guidance for researchers on how to write narrative CVs](#)
- Trinity College has created the “[Researcher Impact Framework](#)”, which can help researchers develop evidence-based impact narratives.

In general, using the narrative CV to tell a story about yourself tends to read better than simply listing a lot of outcomes. In addition, you should try to verify claims that you make in your CV – otherwise, panellists are unlikely to attribute much credit to your claim.

Guidance:

It is important to note that any section in this template can be removed if you do not wish to use it. The weight and value of the CV template will be assessed using a holistic view and no section has more merit or advantage than another. Please only expand the sections that seem relevant to you and delete the sections that do not fit your experience or the proposal you are applying for.

Formatting guidance:

- Use Calibri 11-point font
- Do not alter page margins
- Delete all guidance in *italics* and blue shaded boxes once you’ve finished
- Feel free to use images or tables within the defined page limit and margins
- Use the template to capture your expertise and experience in the best way you are comfortable with. The sections titles and descriptions are only a guide



- When completing this template, we recommended you use bullet points and short descriptions.

Part 1

This section is for personal details. It identifies who you are and where you can be contacted most readily. A space is provided for your own personal website about your research (optional) and has space for a research ID such as ORCID, ResearchGate or Google Scholar where you maintain an up-to-date list of publications.

Part 1 also contains sections to list your most recent / relevant:

- Significant qualifications and /or merit-based roles,
- Professional positions or community roles
- Areas of expertise
- Up to five publications relevant to the proposal.

There are also sections relating to:

- Your role on the project.
- Any career break events. For Fast-Start applicants, if you have had your eligibility checked by the Marsden Fund office, please indicate this here.

Part 2

This consists of six sections. It's recommended that you use bullet points and short descriptions.

- How have you contributed to broader societal engagement and/or knowledge exchange?
- How have you contributed to the generation, revitalisation, preservation, and dissemination of knowledge?
- How have you contributed to the development of individuals, collectives, iwi/hapū?
- How have you contributed to the wider research or professional community?
- How have you contributed nationally or internationally to the development of research and technology impact?
- Personal statement.

Section 6: Other funding sought or received

If you have sought or received other funding for any part of the proposed research, please fill in the details required. There is an option to add more than one instance of other funding.

Section 7: Proposal declaration page

All contact PIs should read the proposal declaration page and check the tick box on the portal to "sign off" the proposal.

All applicants will be required to confirm:

- That they take full responsibility for the content of the proposal, the suitability and validity of cited sources and originality of content, and to confirm that that proposals do not contain false or misleading information.



- ii) That all personnel named in the proposal (including any collaborators or advisors) have given their consent to be associated with the proposal.

Ngā kaitaunaki **Referees**

Referees are not contacted at the EOI stage but if you are invited to submit a Full Proposal then the Marsden Fund Council will appoint referees and will endeavour to get at least two, preferably three reports for each Full Proposal.

If there is any person whom you do not wish to referee your Full Proposal, please state this, providing reasons, in a communication provided to the Society on letterhead. The latest date to receive referee exclusion notifications is within **one week** of receiving the invitation to submit a Full Proposal. **The number of people that can be excluded as potential referees is strictly limited to three.**

Note that referee exclusions apply only to the funding round in which they are requested and are not carried over from year to year. They need to be requested anew for each funding round.

Ngā mōhiohio tatauranga me te whakamahi i ngā mōhiohio whaiaro

Statistical information and use of personal information

The Marsden Fund Council encourages proposals from all members of the New Zealand research community. To monitor the profile of different groups within Marsden funding and identify funding trends and gaps, Royal Society Te Apārangi collects statistical information relating to each applicant, although this is not mandatory. Statistical information (for example, date of birth, gender, ethnicity, years since PhD) is used for statistical purposes only. It is not accessible by anyone involved in the assessment of proposals. Personally identifiable information will not be shared with third parties without your authorisation. To evaluate and assess the long-term impact of our activities, we will keep an electronic record of the information we hold about you indefinitely unless you request that your private data be destroyed.

If you want to verify, modify, correct or delete any private data, you should apply to the Society's Privacy Officer <privacy.officer@royalsociety.org.nz>.

Whakahoki whakaaro **Feedback**

Because of the very large number of EOIs received, the Marsden Fund Council cannot give specific feedback to applicants about individual proposals except in the following situations:

- Fast-Start applicants who are unsuccessful and ranked in the top three quintiles will be able to seek feedback from the panel convenor. Applicants will be informed in their EOI result letter whether they qualify for feedback or not.



- The applicant is considered ineligible to apply for Marsden funding
- The applicant is considered ineligible to apply for Fast-Start funding (refer to guidance around Fast-Start eligibility from earlier)
- The proposal is considered ineligible (e.g. formatting breaches; see "EOI formatting breaches" section from earlier).

Unsuccessful applicants and organisations will be told:

- 1 Their proposal's score relative to all others considered by that panel, successful and unsuccessful, expressed as:
 - First quintile (best proposals)
 - Second quintile
 - Third quintile
 - Or 'Not ranked' (Includes fourth and fifth quintile proposals because assessors do not rank these precisely).
- 2 The percentage of all proposals considered by that panel which progressed to the Full proposal stage.

A general statement about the funding round will be prepared and given to all applicants.

Ngā rākati Deadlines

Proposals should be released via the portal. Hard copies are not required.

For institutions, an agent declaration covering all proposals must be signed and submitted by the deadline below. The agent declaration can be downloaded from the portal and after signing, is then re-uploaded to the portal.

All proposals need to be released via the portal no later than 12 noon, Wednesday 18th February 2025 (NZDT).



Whakapā mai Contact details

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For general information on the Marsden Fund, please see our website: <https://royalsociety.org.nz/what-we-do/funds-and-opportunities/marsden/>

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2026 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS

Appendix 1: Fast-Start Eligibility

Researchers are eligible to apply for a Fast-Start grant if they:

- Have not previously been a PI on a Marsden Fund contract
- Have a PhD degree, or an equivalent NZQA level 10 qualification. **Recent graduates must have completed all requirements for conferment of their PhD by the EOI closing date in February.**
- Are normally within 7 fulltime years of their PhD (track A) or 10 fulltime years of the start of their research career (Track B). Career interruptions can extend the eligibility timeframe.

Other than the above, the criteria for eligibility depend on the way in which a researcher's career has developed prior to applying.

Track A: If the researcher has proceeded straight from their undergraduate or Masters studies to their PhD studies before taking up employment in a research-related position, then to be eligible to apply for this programme a researcher must have completed their PhD no more than **7 years ago**.

Track B: For researchers who took up employment in a position that involved a component of research before commencing their PhD studies, then to be eligible to apply for this programme a researcher must have commenced their research career no more than **10 years ago** (including the time taken to undertake their PhD studies).

- Parental leave is not excluded from the year count, as this is accounted for separately in the eligibility extension for dependent children - see below.
- Time spent on sickness leave is excluded from the year count.
- Other non-research-related activity is included in the year count, including unemployment.

For the 2026 funding round, eligibility for Fast-Start funding is restricted to:

Track A: those who have been awarded their PhD at any time since the beginning of **2019** (or within the equivalent of 7 years' fulltime experience).

Track B: those who began their research careers in **2016** or later (or within the equivalent of 10 years' fulltime experience).

The eligibility period for Fast-Start grants may be extended under the following scenarios in addition to any excluded time spent on sickness leave:

- Applicants who have had part-time employment will have their seven years' experience calculated *pro rata* for the year count.
- Eligibility may also be extended to take account for any career interruptions experienced due to being the primary carer for young children. If the applicant is the primary carer of a dependent child, the applicant can extend the period of eligibility by two years per child. The extension of two years per dependent child is inclusive of any periods of parental leave. There is no maximum identified.

Primary carers are defined in the link below:



For someone who has had a career interruption due to primary carer responsibilities for young children born since their PhD was awarded (Track A) or since the start of their research career (Track B), an extra 2 years per child is added on to their eligibility.

	Track A		Track B	
	<i>Eligibility timeframe</i>	<i>Eligible if PhD awarded anytime since...</i>	<i>Eligibility timeframe</i>	<i>Eligible if research career started anytime since...</i>
Baseline eligibility	Within 7 fulltime years of PhD awarded	Beginning of 2019	Within 10 fulltime years of start of research career	Beginning of 2016
1 child	9 years	Beginning of 2017	12 years	Beginning of 2014
2 children	11 years	Beginning of 2015	14 years	Beginning of 2012

Example 1 (Track A):

For someone who gained their PhD in 2018 and worked fulltime for 2 years, followed by sick leave for 1 year, followed by working for 4 years at 0.5 FTE, their years of experience would be 4 – making them eligible to apply.

Example 2 (Track A):

PhD awarded beginning of 2012; fulltime work for 4 years, parental leave for 1 year (primary carer for 1 child), employed at 0.5 FTE for 2 years, parental leave for 1 year (primary carer for a 2nd child), employed at 0.6 FTE for 4 years:

- a) Years of experience
 - Fulltime work for 4 years 4
 - Parental leave for 1 year 1
 - Employed at 0.5 FTE for 2 years 1
 - Parental leave for 1 year 1
 - Employed at 0.6 FTE for 4 years 2.4

Total years of experience (a) = **9.4 years**

- b) Eligibility window



- Number of dependent children the applicant was a primary carer for: 2
- Eligibility extension = 2 children multiplied by 2 years each – 4 years (x)

Overall eligibility extension in fulltime years **(b) is $x + 7 = 11$ years**

a) is less than b), so the researcher is eligible to apply for a Fast-Start.

Note that the career interruption can apply to any gender, and the applicant does not necessarily have to have taken parental leave.

If an applicant is not sure whether they qualify for the primary carer eligibility extension, the Marsden Fund will consider on a case-by-case basis.

Please refer to the Marsden Fund website for a career gaps calculator if you need some help with part-time calculations. This is a very useful Excel spreadsheet which calculates your years of experience for you.

<https://royalsociety.org.nz/what-we-do/funds-and-opportunities/marsden/application/submitting-a-proposal/career-gaps-calculator>

If there is doubt about eligibility, applicants should contact their Research Office in the first instance. If in further doubt, please contact the Marsden Fund.

Appendix 2: Vision Mātauranga

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.

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

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

There are four themes:

- **Indigenous innovation:** Contributing to economic growth through distinctive research and development
- **Taiao:** Achieving environmental sustainability through iwi and hapū relationships with land and sea
- **Hauora/Oranga:** Improving health and social wellbeing
- **Mātauranga:** Exploring indigenous knowledge and science and innovation

Vision Mātauranga and the Marsden Fund

Please note that Vision Mātauranga is included as an assessment criterion:

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

For the EOI round, applicants indicate whether Vision Mātauranga is relevant and, if so, which themes apply, with a brief justification. Please refer to instructions for Section 2.

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

If applicants check Vision Mātauranga, they should use the extra page appropriately to discuss aspects of the research project pertaining to Māori and Vision Mātauranga (including any kaupapa Māori research design, if appropriate). If Vision Mātauranga is checked, and the extra page is not used appropriately, the proposal may be downgraded as a result.

Panellists are asked to check that applicants use the additional page for Vision Mātauranga, and to take this into consideration in their assessment.



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, however, that those categories are fluid, there may well be overlap between them, 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 is no single approach or prescription for Vision Mātauranga: one size does not fit all and there are many possible ways of addressing Vision Mātauranga. Vision Mātauranga should not, however, be seen as an add-on, nor should it be treated as separate from the research, methods or people involved in the project. A holistic approach that considers reciprocity and relationships is therefore desirable.

Vision Mātauranga does not begin and end with your Vision Mātauranga statement. You should document how you have considered Vision Mātauranga and demonstrate applicable actions and relationships throughout the research proposal and in relation to the various stages of the research that is proposed.

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 it underpins different dimensions of the research including the problem identification or design, research team composition, community partners, methods, analysis and intended impact.

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?
- Are there benefits to Māori? What are they? And how have these been agreed with Māori partners?
- Have all people named in the proposal given their support or endorsement to the proposed research or to be involved?
- How is the project an opportunity to build the capacity of Māori researchers or students in your discipline, both now and for the future?



- How are you and your team working to increase understanding of te ao Māori and iwi aspirations in your area of research?
- How might this research build new, or enhance existing, relationships with Māori?
- How will you share the research outcomes with Māori?
- Has there been agreement about the intellectual property ownership of research findings with Māori partners? What is the nature of that agreement?
- Is there a need for members of the research team to be proficient in te reo? How has this aspect been addressed?
- Is there a Tiriti o Waitangi component or requirement in your research?

Vision Mātauranga resources

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

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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.

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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>



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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>

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<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-Shabolt, 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/>

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<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/>