

**CATALYST
FUND**
LEADERS

Catalyst: Leaders

Ngā Aratohu Guidelines

Kohi-tātea January 2025



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Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

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Note

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

Hitori Putanga Version History

| Version | Date | Change | Page |
|---------|--------------|---|---|
| 24.0 | January 2025 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Catalyst Fund investment plan released in December 2024, identifies six priority research areas for the Fund. These are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Quantum technology ○ Health and biomedicine ○ Biotechnologies ○ Artificial Intelligence ○ Antarctic research ○ Space and Earth observations • Subject to the number and quality of submitted applications, proposals aligning with the Catalyst Fund priority research areas are expected to make up 75% of awarded Catalyst: Leaders contracts unless otherwise noted in the specific programme requirement for each sub-programme. The remaining 25% of awarded contracts can be in any field of research including social sciences and the humanities. • Assessment Criterion 3 has been amended to further reward proposals that articulate a clear line of sight to expected benefits of national and global significance in line with New Zealand’s science priorities, and which initiate link with relevant New Zealand research capabilities to facilitate research/knowledge transfer. | <p>Page 10</p> <p>Page 10</p> <p>Page 16-17</p> |

He Whakamārama Background

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

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

On behalf of MBIE, Royal Society Te Apārangī (the Society) administers Catalyst: Leaders.

Ngā Whāinga Objectives

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

The objectives of Catalyst: Leaders

- Promote the importance of international cooperation in science and New Zealand's science and innovation capabilities.
- Catalyse science and innovation through placement of international experts in key science and innovation hubs.
- Meet specific capability needs for New Zealand benefit.

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

Catalyst: Leaders programmes open (January 2025)

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

Whakapā mai Contact

For any queries, please contact Royal Society Te Apārangī:

Research Funding (International)

Royal Society Te Apārangī

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

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

Email: International.Applications@royalsociety.org.nz

Ngā Whai Wāhitanga Tuku Pūtea Funding Opportunities

Catalyst: Leaders provides funding for a number of pre-existing and new sub-programmes. An overview of included sub-programmes and key dates are given in the tables below:

TABLE 1: Annual Call timeline

| Call | Open Date | Close Date | Sub-Programmes |
|---------|------------------|-----------------|--|
| January | 13 February 2025 | 17 April 2025 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• International Leader Fellowship• JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship• New Zealand to China Scientist Exchange Programme• Julius von Haast Fellowship |
| April | NA | NA | There is no Catalyst Leaders call for April 2025. |
| July | 24 July 2025 | 16 October 2025 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• JSPS 17th HOPE Meeting (TBC) |

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

TABLE 2: Catalyst: Leaders Sub-Programmes

| Sub-Programme | Brief Description | Duration | NZ\$ Funding (excl. GST) | Awards available per call |
|---|---|----------------|---|---------------------------|
| International Leader Fellowships* | Supports exceptional individuals from any country outside New Zealand to catalyse science and innovation capability and capacity in New Zealand for a minimum of 4 weeks per year for up to 3 years | 1 to 3 years | Per annum: \$20,000 Salary support \$20,000 Research support \$10,000 Host admin | Up to 3 |
| Julius von Haast Fellowship Award | Supports an internationally recognised researcher from Germany to undertake research in New Zealand for a minimum of 4 weeks per year | 3 years | Per annum: \$20,000 Salary support \$20,000 Research support \$10,000 Host admin | Up to 1 |
| New Zealand to China Scientist Exchange Programme** | Supports the development of research linkages with China by enabling New Zealand researchers to visit Chinese research organisations | 4 weeks | Flights and daily living allowance | Up to 10 |
| JSPS HOPE Meeting | Supports excellent PhD students and/or young researchers to attend the HOPE Meetings with Nobel Laureates in Japan | 5 days | Flights, accommodation, and meeting registration | Up to 5 |
| JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship*** | Supports young and excellent New Zealand postdoctoral researchers doing research in Japan | 12 – 24 months | Flights, insurance and living allowance | Up to 4 |

* Catalyst Fund priority research areas apply.

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

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

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

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

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

Ngā Whakamāramatanga Hira Key Definitions

Applicant means the New Zealand research organisation submitting the Catalyst Proposal on behalf of the Leader or Principal Investigator (PI).

Call means the request for proposals towards specific Programmes or Sub-Programmes, as outlined in *Table 1: Annual Call* timeline.

New Zealand Principal Investigator (PI) means the New Zealand individual nominated by the Applicant, who is responsible for the proposed activity if awarded funding.

Collaboration Partner means the international researcher (and New Zealand researcher(s) from organisations other than the Applicant organisation if applicable) collaborating with the Principal Investigator.

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

Host means the New Zealand or international research organisation that will be hosting the Leader or Principal Investigator (PI).

Leader or Fellow means the travelling individual researcher nominated by the Applicant, who would carry out the proposed activity if awarded funding. *For Leaders coming to New Zealand, the Leader is the International Collaboration Partner. For New Zealand Leaders travelling abroad, the Leader is the Principal Investigator (PI).*

Partner Institution means the international research organisation (and New Zealand organisation other than the Applicant organisation if applicable) of the Collaboration Partner.

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

Project means the unique research collaboration proposed by the Proposal.

Project Team means the Principal Investigator, Collaboration Partner and supporting individuals collectively identified in the Proposal as critical to the success of the Project.

Proposal (or Application) means the application submitted by the Applicant to Catalyst: Leaders.

Research Organisation means an organisation that has internal capability to carry out substantive research, science, technology or related activities. Public service departments as listed in Schedule 1 of the State Sector Act 1988 are not eligible to apply under the Catalyst Fund.

Whakakape Disclaimer

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

Ngā Whakaritenga Āheinga Eligibility Requirements

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

He Aratohu Tono Application Guidance

ORCID

Each named investigator can add or create an ORCID ID in the "People" section of the Catalyst: Portal. ORCID IDs are encouraged but are not mandatory. Please click on the "Create or Connect your ORCID ID" button on the top right of the "Contact Details" section and follow instructions.

Refer to **section 1** of the Application.

Fields of Research

Priority research area

The Catalyst Fund investment plan released in December 2024, identifies six priority research areas for the Fund. These are:

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

Subject to the number and quality of submitted applications, proposals aligning with the Catalyst Fund priority research areas are expected to make up 75% of awarded Catalyst: Leaders contracts unless otherwise noted in the specific programme requirement for each sub-programme. The remaining 25% of awarded contracts can be in any field of research (including social sciences and the humanities). Refer to section 4 of the Application.

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

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

Eligibility or priority fields of **research** are listed by Sub-Programme in the specific programme requirements at the end of these guidelines.

Refer to **section 4** of the Application.

FOR and SEO codes

As part of the Society's obligations under New Zealand Research Information System (NZRIS), the Society is required to report the share of each Field or Research (FOR) and Socio-Economic Classification (SEO) codes to the proposed research, and the type of Research Activity.

Please additionally indicate the % share of each FOR and SEO code to the proposed research. The shares should add up to 100%.

Refer to **section 4** of the Application.

Type of Research Activity

The default Research Activity setting on the portal for each proposal is "Basic" and set to 100%. This can be changed if required. If no change is required, no action is needed.

The four activities are:

- **Pure basic research:** Basic research carried out for the advancement of knowledge, without seeking long-term economic or social benefits or making any effort to apply the results to practical problems or to transfer the results to sectors responsible for their application.
- **Strategic basic research:** Experimental and theoretical work undertaken to acquire new knowledge directed into specified broad areas in the expectation of practical discoveries. It provides the broad base of knowledge necessary for the solution of recognised practical problems.
- **Applied research:** Original investigation undertaken in order to acquire new knowledge. It is, however, directed primarily towards a specific, practical aim or objective.
- **Experimental research:** Systematic work, drawing on knowledge gained from research and practical experience and producing additional knowledge, which is directed to producing new products or processes or to improving existing products or processes.

Refer to **section 4** of the Application.

Vision Mātauranga

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

Applicants should identify which, if any, of the four Vision Mātauranga themes below are associated with the proposed research. A Vision Mātauranga statement must be included for all research that has relevance for Māori. If this is not applicable to your proposed research, you must tick N/A AND provide a rationale for why this is. Where Vision Mātauranga is appropriate to a proposal, it can contribute to the assessment of its overall excellence.

The four themes are:

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

Collection of the % contribution of each Vision Mātauranga theme to the proposed research is part of the Society's NZRIS reporting requirement. If you have ticked one or more Vision Mātauranga themes, please consider each theme one at a time. 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/Oranga theme, the contributions could be 100% and 10% respectively).

Refer to **section 6** of the Application.

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

The five ways of conceptualising Vision Mātauranga in your research (see below) may help you decide if this applies to your project. The categories have been adapted from those on the National Science Challenge, Biological Heritage website <https://bioheritage.nz/about-us/vision-matauranga/> hosted by Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research. Please note, however, that these categories are fluid. There may well be overlap between them as in categories b and c in terms of the nature and degree of relevance to Māori, and not every point in each category need apply. The original categories were set out by MBIE in information for the Endeavour Fund c. 2015.

Ways of conceptualising Vision Mātauranga in your research

a. Research with no specific Māori component

- No mātauranga Māori (Māori knowledge) is used.
- Māori are not associated with the research process (for example, not on any research management/advisory/governance panels, it is not inclusive of Māori land or institutions, nor the subject of any component of the research).
- Work is not likely to be of greater direct relevance to Māori than members of any other group.

b. Research specifically relevant to Māori

- 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.

c. Research involving Māori

- 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.

d. Māori-centred research

- 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 stakeholders.
- There is alignment with and contribution to Māori (for example, iwi, hapū, organisations) aspirations.

e. Kaupapa Māori research

- Mātauranga Māori is incorporated, used and understood, as a central focus of the 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 the applicant has 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/marae/individual) is high.
- The work contributes strongly to Māori (for example, iwi, hapū, organisations) aspirations and outcomes and is mana enhancing.

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 demonstrate applicable actions and relationships throughout the research. The following questions may be useful to consider when conceptualising and writing your project:

- Have you co-created the research topic/issue with an iwi or Māori organisation?
- What does working in partnership with iwi mean to you as a researcher?

- To what extent have you discussed the research with Māori stakeholders and agreed on the methodology you will use?
- Was there full disclosure and informed consent to the proposed research with Māori stakeholders? How has that agreement/informed consent been agreed to?
- What provisions have you made to ensure there is appropriate technology transfer to Māori stakeholders as the research proceeds and as findings become available towards the end of the project?
- Are there benefits to Māori? What are they?
- How will you share the research outcomes with Māori?
- Is there a Tiriti o Waitangi component or requirement in your research?
- Is the research mana enhancing?

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.

- Allen, W., Jamie M. Ataria, J. M., Apgar, J. M., Harmsworth, G., and Tremblay, L. A. (2009). Kia pono te mahi putaiao—doing science in the right spirit. *Journal of the Royal Society of New Zealand*, 39:4, 239-242. DOI: 10.1080/03014220909510588
- Crawford, S. (2009). Matauranga Māori and western science: The importance of hypotheses, predictions and protocols, *Journal of the Royal Society of New Zealand*, 39:4, 163-166. DOI: 10.1080/03014220909510571
- 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
- Kana, F. and Tamatea, K. (2006). Sharing, listening, learning and developing understandings of Kaupapa Māori research by engaging with two Māori communities involved in education. *Waikato Journal of Education*, 12, 9-20.
<https://researchcommons.waikato.ac.nz/bitstream/handle/10289/6198/Kana%20Sharin%20g.pdf?sequence=3&isAllowed=y>
- Macfarlane, S., Macfarlane, A. and Gillon, G. (2015) Sharing the food baskets of knowledge: Creating space for a blending of streams. In A. Macfarlane, S. Macfarlane, M.

Webber, (eds.), Sociocultural realities: Exploring new horizons. Christchurch: Canterbury University Press, 52-67.

- Moewaka Barnes, H. (2006). Transforming Science: How our Structures Limit Innovation. Social Policy Journal of New Zealand Te Puna Whakaaro, 29, 1-16.
<https://www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/journals-and-magazines/social-policy-journal/spj29/29-pages-1-16.pdf>
- Pihama, L., Tiakiwai, S.-J., and Southey, K. (eds.). (2015). Kaupapa rangahau: A reader. A collection of readings from the Kaupapa Rangahau workshops series. (2nd ed.). Hamilton, New Zealand: Te Kotahi Research Institute.
<https://researchcommons.waikato.ac.nz/bitstream/handle/10289/11738/Kaupapa%20Rangahau%20-%20A%20Reader%202nd%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.
<https://addletonacademicpublishers.com/component/content/article?id=2834:feature-article-indigenous-knowledge-methodology-and-mayhem-what-is-the-role-of-methodology-in-producing-indigenous-insights-a-discussion-from-matauranga-maori>

Applying in Te Reo Māori

If applicants wish to complete some, or all, sections of their proposal in te reo Māori, they are able to do so. However, because some of the panelists 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 the Society asks that anyone who is providing a translation sends it by email to International.Applications@royalsociety.org.nz by the application closing time. If an applicant chooses not to provide a translation, then the Society will arrange for a translation to be made by one of the third-party translation services that it uses for its own publications. Please note that because this will be carried out by a third-party service, the Society will not be able to guarantee the accuracy of the translation.

Paearu mō te Tipako Selection Criteria

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

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

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

- Track record of the Leader (relative to opportunity).
- Potential for building the scale of partnership from initial engagement to a substantive and enduring collaboration.
- Ability of the Host and the Leader to deliver on proposed activities.
- Ability of the Leader to be a catalyst for capability and capacity building in New Zealand.
- Ability of the Host to maximise the opportunity of the Leader's visit (where the Leader is a visiting international researcher).
- Clearly demonstrated excellence of the international Partner Institution (where the Leader is an outgoing New Zealander).

Refer to **section 9** of the Application.

Criterion 2: Novel knowledge and partnership (weight in assessment 40%)

Will the activity lead to the creation of new knowledge and a novel research partnership?

- How the Collaboration Partner will bring world-leading knowledge that complements the expertise of New Zealand Principal Investigator and the New Zealand Host.
- How the proposed collaboration will support a new partnership or a new research focus for an established collaboration.

Refer to **section 10** of the Application.

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

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

- Clearly articulated line of sight to expected benefits of national and global significance in

line with New Zealand's science priorities.

- Ability to leverage international investment, and access to facilities and infrastructure not available in New Zealand.
- Ability of the Host to use the partnership to initiate links with relevant New Zealand capabilities for the creating of additional benefits.
- Ability of the Host to leverage strategic benefit of the Leader to catalyse capability and capacity development in New Zealand (where the Leader is a visiting international researcher),

Refer to **section 11** of the Application.

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

- is likely to achieve the objectives of the Catalyst: Leaders
- is likely to unlock the science and innovation potential of Māori knowledge, resources, and people for the benefit of New Zealand in accordance with the aim of the Vision Mātauranga policy (see previous section)

Other Funding sources.

Applicants are required to identify all other funding sources. The activity must not previously have been funded from another source. It must not form an integral part of an MBIE, Marsden Fund, or Health Research Council-funded project.

Refer to **Budget** section of the Application.

Tukanga Tono Application Process

Make sure that you are familiar with any specific Sub-Programme requirements (for example, priority research areas, eligibility requirements, bilateral Partner applications, etc.), which are outlined under the relevant Information on Open Programmes at the end of these guidelines. See also under the application assessment section.

Submitting Your Application

All Proposals must be submitted on the Catalyst: Portal. A link to the Catalyst: Portal will be made available through your research office. Please contact the Society if your organisation has not received a link by using the email address below:

- International.Applications@royalsociety.org.nz

For additional help on how to use the Catalyst: Portal and fill out your application, please refer

to the Catalyst: Portal Instructions available for download via the Catalyst: Portal. Receipt of all Applications will be acknowledged by email. Information provided by Applicants will be administered in accordance with the requirements of the Privacy Act 2020.

Application Format

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

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

Supporting Documents Required

- Letter of support from New Zealand institution.
- CVs of the Principal Investigator and the Collaboration Partner (not applicable to HOPE Meeting and JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship applications) (New Zealand RS&T CV template sections 1 to 2b, including a list of previous grants and outcome of these). Please highlight in yellow a maximum of five publications with the highest relevance to the proposed project under section 2a.
- New Zealand Host declaration (including statement agreeing to commit staff time and other resources to the project).
- Letter of support from the overseas Partner Institution(s) agreeing to commit staff time and other resources to the project (not applicable to HOPE Meeting applications).
- Budget, including co-funding/in kind support (not applicable to HOPE Meeting and JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship applications).

Te Tātari i Ngā Tono Assessment of Applications

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

The final decision on what proposals will be funded lies with the Society. In making its decisions, the Society will take into account recommendations made by the assessment panel.

The Society may also take into account the total investment across Catalyst: Leaders to ensure it is a balanced portfolio across both research fields and country relationships supported, while still ensuring quality.

This means, for example, ensuring that:

- the Society is not over-investing in collaborations with one country or topic area to the neglect of others
- funding is not disproportionately invested in either research with short-term impact horizon versus research with a long-term impact horizon
- joint decision making with bilateral Partners is enabled.
- subject to the number and quality of submitted applications, proposals aligning with the Catalyst Fund priority research areas make up 75% of awarded Catalyst: Leaders contracts where applicable. The remaining 25% of awarded contracts can be in any field of research (including social sciences and the humanities).

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

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

MBIE reserves the right to nominate one assessment panel member.

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

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

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

Whakamōhiotanga Notification

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

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

The successful Applicant will have one month from the date of notification in which

to accept the award, following which the offer will be withdrawn.

Feedback

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

Ngā Takuhe i Waimarie Successful Grants

Conditions of Contract

In making its investment decisions, the Society may also:

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

The contract will specify that:

- references to the Project (including publications) acknowledge the provision of funding using the phrase: “Catalyst: Leaders funding is provided by the New Zealand Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment and administered by Royal Society Te Apārangi” or similar wording
- the Society will require a report on the agreed activity from the Applicant
- the report may be made available to the public or otherwise as the Society sees fit unless otherwise specified by the Applicant
- all other funding sources relating to the activity have been identified
- the Society retains the right to audit expenditure and the outputs produced by the funded activity; and in the event that a dispute cannot be resolved, the parties agree to submit the matter for resolution to a mutually agreed neutral party whose decision shall be final and binding.

Contract Timeframes

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

Reporting

Annual activity reports must be submitted to the Society by the New Zealand Research Organisation, with the final report due one month after the completion of the project. The reports must account for the progress made on the annual milestone activities identified in the proposal, and must be submitted on the template available on the Society website. Payment may be dependent on the report meeting the quality criteria identified in the Conditions of Contract. The quality criteria include submission of the report(s) by the specified date, clarity of the report, and proof that the activity has achieved the contracted deliverables and met the objectives of the Programme.

- The reporting requirements template is available for downloading at:
<https://royalsociety.org.nz/what-we-do/funds-and-opportunities/catalyst-fund/information-for-catalyst-grant-recipients/contract-reporting/>
- Activity Reports are to be submitted via email to Royal Society Te Apārangi Research Funding (International) team at:
International.Applications@royalsociety.org.nz

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

Variations

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

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

Information on Open Programmes

International Leader Fellowships [OPEN]

Ngā Whakaritenga Tauwhāiti o te Kaupapa

Specific Sub-Programme requirements

Background

International Leader Fellowships supports incoming targeted international fellowships for exceptional individuals that cannot be supported through other means. The International Leader Fellowships is a new initiative under Catalyst: Leaders. The Programme enables a Fellow to catalyse science and innovation capability and capacity development in New Zealand for a minimum of four weeks per year for up to three years.

Objective

The International Leader Fellowships are intended to support the attraction by New Zealand Research Organisations (the Hosts) of international fellows who can have a catalytic impact on New Zealand science capabilities and promote the importance of international cooperation in science.

International Partner

- Proposals can be submitted by New Zealand research organisations for Fellows from any country.
- International Leaders coming to New Zealand must not already hold employment in New Zealand

Activity Description

The successful Leader will: be recognised for excellence in their area or areas of expertise; have the ability to support an increase in New Zealand's capability in their area of expertise; and be internationally recognised.

The Applicant must be a New Zealand-based Research Organisation, which will act as the New Zealand Host (the Host). The Host will have the ability to leverage strategic benefit of the Leader to catalyse capability and capacity development in New Zealand. The Host is expected to connect the Fellow beyond its own institution.

- Each year up to **three** International Leader Fellows may be awarded.
- The Fellow must spend a minimum of **4 weeks per year** in New Zealand with the Host institution for a period of **up to three years**.

Funding

The International Leader Fellowships will provide the following funding (GST exclusive) per annum of the Award:

- NZ\$20,000 maximum contribution towards supporting the cost of the Fellow's time paid to the Leader via the New Zealand Host. Where the Fellow's time is being covered by the Fellow's employer, this funding can be used for other expenses relating to the Fellowship.
- NZ\$20,000 maximum research and travel allowance paid to the Host; and;
- NZ\$10,000 maximum host institution administration allowance paid to the Host.

Note on research, travel and other expenses.

- The cost of buying carbon offsets is a legitimate expense where those carbon offsets are directly related to the project travel activities.
- Expenses for holding symposiums, seminars and meetings is an allowable expense where this activity supports the Host's requirement to connect the Leader beyond its own institution AND the activity takes place in New Zealand.
- The Travel allowance can be used to pay for the Fellow's return travels to New Zealand, and their domestic travel activities in New Zealand.

Specific Requirements

- The New Zealand Host is expected to connect the Leader beyond its own institution.

Fields of Research

Priority research areas for the International Leader Fellowship are:

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

Subject to the number and quality of submitted applications, proposals aligning with the priority research areas are expected to make up 75% of awarded International Leader Fellowship contracts. The remaining 25% of awarded contracts can be in any field of research (including social sciences and the humanities).

Notification

The Society will notify Applicants of the outcome by email through their Host Institutional Research Coordinator no later than **7 weeks** after the close of applications.

Successful Grants

Contract Timeframes

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

Payments

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

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

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

Julius von Haast Fellowship [OPEN]

Ngā Whakaritenga Tauwhāiti o te Kaupapa

Specific Sub-Programme requirements

Background

The Julius von Haast Fellowship is offered to internationally recognised German researchers in conjunction with the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment and the [Alexander von Humboldt Foundation](#). The application process is administered by the Society.

Objective

The Fellowship allows internationally recognised German researchers to spend time working collaboratively with their New Zealand colleagues, and to establish, or enhance, collaborative research of benefit to both countries.

International Partner

- Germany – in partnership with the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (AvH).

Activity Description

The successful Julius von Haast Fellow will be recognised for excellence in their area or areas of expertise; have the ability to support an increase in New Zealand's capability in their area of expertise; and be internationally recognised.

The Applicant must be a New Zealand-based Research Organisation, which will act as the New Zealand Host (the Host). The Host will have the ability to leverage strategic benefit of the Fellow to catalyse capability and capacity development in New Zealand. The Host is expected to connect the Fellow beyond its own institution.

- Each year up to **one** Julius von Haast may be awarded. Unsuccessful applications for the Julius Von Haast Fellowship will automatically be considered for an International Leader Fellowship in the same call.
- The successful Fellow will undertake research in New Zealand for a minimum of **four weeks per year** over the **three year** award period.

Funding

A Julius von Haast Fellowship will be awarded for three years. Each year of tenure the Fellowship Award will comprise an annual payment of:

- **NZ\$20,000** maximum contribution towards supporting the cost of the Fellow's time paid to the Leader via the New Zealand Host. Where the Fellow's time is being covered by the Fellow's employer, this funding can be used for other expenses relating to the Fellowship.
- **NZ\$20,000** maximum research and travel allowance* paid to the Host; and;
- **NZ\$10,000** host institution administration allowance paid to the Host.

*The cost of buying carbon offsets is an allowable expense where those carbon offsets are directly related to the project travel activities. If applicable, New Zealand quarantine fees for the Julius Von Haast Fellow visiting New Zealand is also allowable expense.

The research and travel allowance cannot be used for salaries, equipment purchase and depreciation, student fees, or scholarships.

Fields of Research

The Julius von Haast Fellowship is open to all fields of research, science and technology (including social sciences and the humanities), and related areas of expertise.

Specific Requirements

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

- The Fellow must be a German national or permanent resident that is well established in the German research system and has an international reputation as an innovative researcher. He/she must be currently working within the German research/science sector and have been employed for no less than five years (in total) in public or private German research or academic institutions (unless otherwise agreed to by Royal Society Te Aparangi).
- The Julius von Haast Fellow coming to New Zealand must not already hold employment in New Zealand
- The New Zealand Host is expected to connect the Leader beyond its own institution.
- Previously unsuccessful applicants are not excluded from re-applying.
- Previous recipients of the Julius von Haast Fellowship are not eligible to apply.

The application must include a copy of each of the following documents for the German researcher:

- Passport / Birth Certificate / Permanent Residency.

Notification

The Society will notify Applicants of the outcome by email through their Host institutional Research Coordinator no later than **7 weeks** after the close of applications.

Successful Grants

Contract Timeframes

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

Payments

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

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

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

About Julius von Haast

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



Figure 1: Johann Franz Julius von Haast



Figure 2: Cyathea dealbata Swartz

Image credits:

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

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

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

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

Japan Society for the Promotion of Science – Postdoctoral Fellowships [OPEN]

Ngā Whakaritenga Tauwhāiti o te Kaupapa

Specific Sub-Programme requirements

Background

The Postdoctoral Fellowship programme is offered to New Zealand researchers under the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) and the New Zealand Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE). The application process is administered by the Society.

Objective

The objective of the scheme is to assist young and excellent New Zealand postdoctoral researchers to further develop and enhance their skills and knowledge in all fields of social sciences, natural and physical sciences, and health/medical sciences and, wherever possible, to focus some of this development and enhancement into perceived areas of need for New Zealand.

Activity Description

The programme provides opportunities for excellent postdoctoral researchers from New Zealand to conduct, under the guidance of their Japanese Hosts, co-operative research with leading research groups in Japanese universities and research institutes. The program allows such researchers to advance their own research while contributing to the progress of research in Japan and the counterpart countries.

This programme call is for the Japanese fiscal year FY2025 (01 April 2025 - 31 March 2026)

Fellowships

- Up to **4** fellowships may be awarded in this funding round, depending on the quality of applications received.
- The period of fellowship is from **12 - 24 full months**.

Value of the Award

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

Fields of Research

Under the MOU, Proposals support collaborative research in all fields of research including the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences.

Specific Requirements

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

- JSPS requires that awarded Fellowships commence between 1 April 2025 and 30 November 2025. For FY2025 the Society strongly recommends a Start Date of **01 September 2025** or later to allow for JSPS processing time.
- Applicants must meet all of the JSPS criteria stipulated in the JSPS Application Guidelines FY2025PDF available from the Catalyst Portal. This includes:
- A requirement that an applicant holds a doctorate degree, or is scheduled to receive a doctorate degree before the chosen start date of the Fellowship.
- The doctoral degree must have been awarded on or after 2 April 2019. A later date can be considered to accommodate time taken for maternity and/or parental leave as discussed under Note 3 of the JSPS Application Guidelines.
- Applicants must have arranged in advance a research plan with their host in Japan.
- Applicants must complete both the Catalyst JSPS PDF Application Form **AND** the JSPS FY2025 Application Form (Standard). Both forms are available from the Catalyst Portal and must be submitted through the Portal.
- Applicants must be a citizen of a country that has diplomatic relations with Japan. (JSPS treats Taiwanese and Palestinian researchers in this manner.)

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

Please note: CV templates and Budget forms are not required for this programme.

Supplementary documents

- Copy of PhD Degree certificate (signed or stamped with an official seal). If the degree has not yet been awarded, a letter is required from the applicant's institution stating the date that s/he will officially receive the degree.
- Letter of acceptance/invitation from the Japanese Host (signed by the host himself/herself)
- Letter of recommendation signed by the applicant's doctoral supervisor

Notes on eligibility

- Applicants that are not currently associated with a New Zealand research organisation can seek permission from the Society to apply as a private individual.
- When nominating candidates to JSPS, the Society must give preference to New Zealand citizens or permanent residents.

Nominations

Please note: For the JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship scheme in Catalyst: Leaders the Society is the Nominating Authority, with all applicants' subject to final approval by JSPS.

The Society assesses the applications and nominates the successful candidates to JSPS.

Notification

- The Society will notify Fellows of their nomination to JSPS through their institutional Research Coordinator by email no later than **7 weeks** after the close of applications.

Successful Grants

Expected Timeframes

| Nomination to JSPS by Society | Nomination confirmed by JSPS | Start dates | Activity Report(s) required (if requested) |
|---|--|--|--|
| No later than 7 weeks after close of Call | No later than 19 weeks after the close of call | The Fellowship must start between 01 September 2025 and 30 November 2025 | 30 days after completion of activity |

Reporting

Successful applicants are required to fulfil the reporting requirements stipulated by JSPS, and to submit a final report to the Society if requested no later than 30 days after returning to New Zealand.

New Zealand-China Scientist Exchange Programme [OPEN]

Ngā Whakaritenga Tauwhāiti o te Kaupapa

Specific Sub-Programme requirements

Background

In February 2009 the New Zealand Ministry of Research, Science and Technology (now the Ministry of Business, Innovation, and Employment) and the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) signed an arrangement to encourage and facilitate greater understanding and development of research linkages between New Zealand and China. The arrangement provides for that support to be provided through the New Zealand-China Scientist Exchange Programme.

Objective

The objectives of the scientific exchange programme are to encourage and facilitate greater understanding and development of research linkages between early to mid-career researchers of the two countries in jointly agreed priority research fields for collaboration.

International Partner

- People's Republic of China – Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) and the China Science and Technology Exchange Center (CSTEC)

Activity Description

Each year the Society runs a New Zealand-based call for applications to enable **up to 10** excellent New Zealand researchers to travel to mainland China and collaborate with researchers in mainland Chinese institutes for a **four-week period**². If a candidate wishes to visit China for a shorter period due to other commitments (not less than two weeks) or a longer period (no more than six weeks), explain why in the application.

During the visit, the New Zealand researchers can apply to visit more than one Chinese research institute as part of the exchange. In particular, additional visits to research institutes in the Beijing area can be accommodated following the Beijing Orientation event. Additional visits are subject to approval by CSTEC, which will be sought by the Society prior to the contracting of successful applications.

The exchange should take place in October to coincide with an Orientation event in Beijing. In the instance where the proposed research necessitates travel at a different time of year, prior agreement from the Society and CSTEC (via the Society) is required.

² For Chinese researchers visiting New Zealand CSTEC will operate an independent China-based to enable up to 10 excellent Chinese researchers to visit New Zealand in October (TBC) 2025. If you are interested in hosting a researcher by supporting their application, contact CSTEC for more information.

Beijing Orientation

All exchange Leaders are expected to start their exchange participating in an orientation ceremony in Beijing unless otherwise agreed to by the Society and CSTEC. Following the orientation ceremony, exchange Leaders will travel to their chosen Chinese institution to meet with their Host researcher.

- In 2025, the Beijing orientation ceremony is expected to be held in October 2025. All registered applicants and Research Offices will be notified the date has been set.

The Society will provide successful Leaders with a NZ\$3,000 travel grant for travel between New Zealand and Beijing.

MOST will cover the costs of local accommodation and domestic travel between Beijing and host cities. MOST will also pay each researcher a daily allowance equivalent to **NZ\$37.50 or RMB Yuan 200** to cover meals and incidental expenses.

The exchange programme does not provide funds for research costs.

Each successful Leader is responsible for their own visa application, travel and medical insurance.

Fields of Research

Preference will be given to those applications under the listed priority research fields. However, applications for other fields of research will be accepted as well:

- Environment science
- Food science
- Health and biomedical sciences.

Specific Requirements

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

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

Please note: Budget forms are not required for this programme.

China support contact

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

Mr LI Ning

Deputy Director

China Science & Technology Exchange Center

Email: lin@cstec.org.cn

Tel: 010-68511828

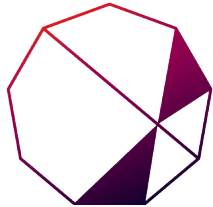
Successful Grants

Expected Timeframes

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

Reporting

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



CATALYST FUND

LEADERS

Research Funding (International) Royal Society Te Apārangi

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