

RESEARCH AND ENTERPRISE

Updates and Announcements from week commencing 13 July 2026

Health Research Council (HRC) 2027 Projects and Programmes - Updated

Guidelines for the Health Research Council (HRC) Projects and Programmes are now available. The following opportunities are available in this round: [General Project Grants](#); [Rangahau Hauora Māori Project Grants](#); [Pacific Project Grants](#) and [Programme](#) Guidelines, forms and details of eligibility for each category can be obtained through the [HRC Gateway - Funding - Funding calendar](#). A [recording](#) of the recent HRC webinar and [slides and FAQ](#) from the webinar are now available

Rounds are open on the HRC Funding Portal (Gateway). Please note that there have been important changes implemented by HRC for the Project and Programme rounds. You are strongly advised to review the application guidelines and note the outlined changes to ensure your application aligns with the requirements for this funding round. Please feel free to discuss your idea with your Research Advisor if you are in doubt.

Due to limited Research Office capacity—resulting from staff leave and unplanned winter illnesses—during the EOI and full proposal periods for HRC 2027, all prospective applicants are strongly encouraged to engage early with their Research Advisor. Please also monitor Research News/Research Office announcements and carefully review the application guidelines before contacting the Research Office.

It is essential that applicants take responsibility for:

- Creating their HRC 2027 EOI application in HRC Gateway, and
- Registering their intent to apply in RAS

The Research Office will make every effort to remind applicants to complete these steps ahead of the deadline. Early engagement will allow us to provide the appropriate support. Late notification of intent to submit may limit the level of support available as deadlines approach.

Deadlines

Updated: Internal registration in RAS: 5pm 22 July 2026 (Opportunity in RAS will be closed after this date & any registrations that are entered into Gateway after this date will be removed from Gateway)

Appln Creation Date for Projects in Gateway: 22 July 2026

Draft proposal to Research Advisor: 23 July 2026

Internal EOI closing date (full proposal to Research Advisor): 29 July 2026

External EOI closing date: 6 August 2026, 1pm

Further information and key internal dates are available in RAS

- [Project](#)
- [Programme](#)

For guidance on RAS access and use, please refer to the resources available on the [RAS SharePoint site](#).

Research Office Webinar

To assist researchers with developing their 2027 HRC Project and Programme Expressions of Interest, the Research Office will be holding a webinar on **Wednesday, July 15** from **12pm – 1pm via Zoom** where we will discuss:

1. Any key changes to the round
2. The application process in Gateway and RAS

3. Observations based on an analysis of last year's EOIs
4. Q&A

Zoom details are as follows:

Join from PC, Mac, iOS or Android:

<https://otago.zoom.us/j/91739252888?pwd=TLn4r2LbuRFtM80pQNm5jC1UCXGC43.1>

Meeting ID: 917 3925 2888

Password: 490213

Transition Research Fund (TRF) 2027 – Updated**Internal selection process for TRF Programmes (new)**

TRF Programmes will be 5-year research programmes with a minimum value of \$1M (excl. GST) per annum. UoO can submit up to 12 Programme proposals. There is an internal selection process to determine which 12 proposals will be submitted to MBIE in the round opening on 30 September 2026. The selection will be made by assessing Expressions of Interest (Eoi) documents.

Key dates: internal selection process for TRF Programmes**Register Intent - 12 noon Mon 27 July**

Cut-off for registering your intent to submit a Programme Eoi. You can register at any time up until this date. No further internal registrations will be accepted after this date.

Please email your RA or BDM to register your intent to submit an Eoi and provide the following information:

- Proposed application title
- Pillar alignment and opportunity(s)
- Collaborators/End-users (indicative)

Note: Applicants can only submit one Eoi as PI.

Internal Eoi templates are being finalised and will be made available shortly to those who have registered their interest.

Eoi Submission Date - 12 noon Mon 17 August:

Expressions of Interest to be submitted to research@otago.ac.nz.

No Eois will be accepted after this date.

Information on internal processes for Talent Development and Projects will follow in the coming weeks along with more detail on the internal assessment for Programmes.

As provided previously:

Big Picture: What's Changing: NZ research funding is moving to a mission-led system aligned to national priorities "pillars". There is a shift from "fit to scheme/mechanism" to fit to pillar + impact story.

Key message: TRF is a transitional, impact-led fund. Marsden and Endeavour funds no longer exist in the new system. The TRF is not designed to replace these, it is designed to be a transition to future funding models.

Pillars (high-level priorities)

- Primary Industries & Bioeconomy
- Technology for Prosperity
- Environmental Sustainability & Resilience
- Healthy People & Thriving Society

Each of the Pillars have five or six identified Challenges with an associated **Opportunity**.

TRF proposals MUST align to one pillar (even if work spans multiple pillars) **and associated “opportunity” with a clear narrative of impact.**

Three Funding Mechanisms for TRF:

- Talent Development (only for proposals aligned to the Technology for Prosperity pillar; not limited to early career researchers)
- Projects (innovative, high-impact research)
- Programmes (larger, collaborative and longer-term initiatives)

I want to apply - what do I do next?

1. Read the [Science Investment Plan](#) to understand high-level pillars and opportunities **then**
2. Contact your RA or BDM to register your interest by 27 July.

Please refer to the following links for details:

[2027 Transition Research Fund Gazette 23 Jun 2026](#)

[Transition Research Fund Investment Plan 2027](#)

[Transition Research Fund 2027 overview](#)

Neurological Foundation webinar - NEW

An online information session will be held on Friday 4th September from 1-2pm. This will be recorded and available on the Neurological Foundation website.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/9793901471?omn=85139294089&from=addon>

Neuromuscular Research Trust Expression of Interest – NEW

Register your interest in this [round](#) by filling out an expression of interest [form](#). Once the round opens on 1 September 2026 you will be emailed proposal information and an application form.

Joint NZ-Ireland Funding Round webinar - NEW

The Global Research Alliance 2026 joint [New Zealand – Ireland funding round](#) is open. An information webinar will be held on 16 July, 10am (NZT). You can [register for the webinar here](#).

Science, Innovation & Technology Reforms webinar recording available – NEW

The Science, Innovation & Technology Reforms webinar [recording](#) and [Q&A responses](#) are now available. The session provided an update on the Science Investment Plan, the Transition Research Fund, and the development of Pillar Investment Plans

Southern Connections – the Future of Digital Health event – NEW

HiNZ is holding a one day digital health workshop - 29th July 2026, Dunedin Town Hall. Read more about this and register [here](#)

Cancer Research Trust grant writing workshop

View the Dunedin grant writing workshop [here](#). Please register as soon as possible.

He Ara Whakahihiho Capability Fund 2027 Investment Round

Proposal submission period opens 15 July 2026. Please visit the [He Ara Whakahihiho Capability Fund web page](#) for more details. Further details will follow in upcoming research news editions and in RAS.

The recording, transcript and presentation and a summary of questions and answers from the He Ara Whakahihiho Capability Fund webinar are now available. You can access these on MBIE's website in two locations:

- [Ara Whaihua Call for proposals 2027 Investment round webpage](#)
- [Rangapū Rangahau Call for Proposals 2027 Investment round webpage](#)

New Zealand Association of Scientists (NZAS) 2026 Science Medals

Applications are invited for the following [NZAS science medals](#) - Marsden Medal, Shorland Medal, Hill Tinsley Medal, Cranwell Medal, Scientific Workers Medal. To apply, complete the [Airtable application form](#) by 03 August 2026. Applicants can apply directly or can be nominated.

Otago Innovation 20th Anniversary Proof of Concept Competition

Celebrating 20 years, [Proof of Concept 2026](#) offers three prizes celebrating people and projects solving real-world problems with big, bold, innovative ideas:

1. \$100,000 R&D investment to progress an idea toward commercial application
2. \$100,000 convertible note to accelerate formation of a spin out company
3. \$6,000 Postgraduate internship with support undertaking planning, market research, customer discovery, competitor analysis and business case development

Applications close: 5pm 17 July 2026. Open to all University of Otago academics, post-docs and PhD candidates

Royal Society Te Apārangi postgraduate scholarships

Two postgraduate scholarships are now open for application, with a closing date of **31 August 2026**:

[RHT Bates Postgraduate Scholarship](#) - Study award of \$6,000 for a PhD in the Physical Sciences and Engineering in a New Zealand university, with a focus on information/image processing

[The Sir Hugh Kawharu Masters Scholarship for Innovation in Science](#) - a \$10,000 scholarship for study by Māori at masters level in the sciences.

Details of how to apply can be found here: <https://www.royalsociety.org.nz/what-we-do/funds-and-opportunities>

Frontiers Planet Prize

The 5th edition of the [Frontiers Planet Prize](#) is now open. Three prizes of USD 1 million awarded to breakthrough research enabling healthy lives on a healthy planet. If you are interested or want additional information, contact the Office of the DVC Research and Innovation at dvc.research@otago.ac.nz.

Horizon Europe

To learn more, please refer to this [special research news](#) which has been updated for 2026, this [document](#) and the [Funding and Tenders Portal](#).

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES from Week Commencing 13 July 2026

TYPE	AF	Awards and Fellowships
	RE	Research projects and Equipment grants
	TC	Funding for Travel and Conferences (attendance/registration)
	Oth	Other grants (including research support for proposal development, dissemination of findings through hui or stakeholder meetings, running conferences/workshops, etc)

ONLINE APPLICATIONS Where applications are to be submitted through an online portal, please note that a budget is still required via the financials tab in RAS and must be submitted to your Research Advisor by the due date detailed below.

DUE DATE (Internal Deadline):

Applicable to **all Researchers**, please register your interest in a fund (via RAS) early with your Research Advisor, so that support can be provided. Submit your application and completed RAS budget to your Research Advisor by the internal due date.

NEW	TYPE	FUNDING BODY	FUNDING OPPORTUNITY	INTERNAL DUE DATE
	TC	Royal Society Te Apārangi	Catalyst: Seeding	15-Jul-2026
	AF	Health Research Council of New Zealand	• Pacific Health Research Postdoctoral Fellowship • Pacific Health Research Masters Scholarship • Pacific Health PhD Scholarships • Māori Health Research Postdoctoral Fellowships • Māori Health Research Masters Scholarships • Māori Health Research PhD Scholarships • Health Delivery Research Career Development Award	15-Jul-2026
	TC	National Heart Foundation	RHD World Congress Travel Grants	16-Jul-2026
NEW	RE	Health Research Council of New Zealand	Projects and Programmes Internal registration in RAS: 5pm 22 July 2026 (Opportunity in RAS will be closed after this date & any registrations that are entered into Gateway after this date will be removed from Gateway) – Refer to announcements for further information including HRC requirements for Project creation date	Internal registration in RAS: 5pm 22 July 2026
	RE	Vic Davis Memorial Trust	Research Grant	23-Jul-2026
	AF	Vic Davis Memorial Trust	Postgraduate Scholarship	23-Jul-2026
	AF	Social Science Research Council	The LEGO Foundation Fellowship	23-Jul-2026

NEW	TYPE	FUNDING BODY	FUNDING OPPORTUNITY	INTERNAL DUE DATE
NEW	RE	Maurice Wilkins Centre for Molecular Biodiscovery	MWC4 Flexible Research Programme – Cat4: Access to specialised international and national training (under \$10,000)	24-Jul-2026
	RE	Cancer Society of New Zealand	Clinical Trials Access – Project Grant Expression of Interest	24-Jul-2026
	AF	Cancer Society of New Zealand	Postdoctoral Fellowships Expression of Interest	24-Jul-2026
	RE	Cancer Research Trust New Zealand	• Project Grant • Special Purpose Grant	28-Jul-2026
	AF	Cancer Research Trust New Zealand	• Murray Jackson Clinical Fellowship • John Gavin Postdoctoral Fellowship • Postgraduate Scholarship	28-Jul-2026
	RE	Cure Kids	Project Grant	29-Jul-2026
NEW	RE	Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga	Whakaaweawe Impact & Transformation Grants	31-Jul-2026
NEW	AF	New Zealand Society for Oncology	Roche Translational Cancer Research Fellowship	6-Aug-2026
	AF	Neurological Foundation of New Zealand	First Fellowship Senior Clinical Research Fellowship VJ Chapman Fellowship O'Brien Clinical Fellowship Doctoral Scholarship Neurology Postgraduate Scholarship Summer Studentship	10-Aug-2026
	AF	Tūpuna Maunga Authority	• Scholarship • Residency	21-Aug-2026
NEW	RE	Ministry for Primary Industries	Greenhouse Gas Research Fund (GHGIR)	24-Aug-2026
	RE	Neurological Foundation of New Zealand	Project Grant Small Project Grant	24-Aug-2026
	AF	Cancer Research Institute	CRI Irvington Postdoctoral Fellowship	24-Aug-2026
	AF	Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research	SCAR Fellowship Scheme	27-Aug-2026

NEW	TYPE	FUNDING BODY	FUNDING OPPORTUNITY	INTERNAL DUE DATE
	RE	Royal National Institute for Deaf People (RNID)	Discovery Research Grant Prelim Translational Research Grant Prelim	2-Sep-2026
	AF	NZ-UK Link Foundation	NZ-UK Link Foundation Fellowship	10-Sep-2026
	RE	Brian Mason Scientific and Technical Trust	Project Grant	22-Sep-2026
NEW	RE	Ministry for Primary Industries	New Zealand -Ireland Joint Call	22-Sep-2026
	AF	Cancer Research Trust New Zealand	Professional Development Award	23-Sep-2026
	TC	Cancer Research Trust New Zealand	Cancer Education + Development Awards	23-Sep-2026
NEW	RE	Friends of the Turnbull Library	Research Grant	24-Sep-2026
	AF	Cancer Society of New Zealand	Robert McClelland Fellowship	2-Oct-2026
NEW	AF	Commonwealth Fund	Harkness Fellowship in Health Care Policy and Practice	23-Oct-2026
NEW	RE	Neurological Foundation of New Zealand	Platform Grant Expression of Interest Programme Grant Expression of Interest	23-Oct-2026

Recurring Funding Opportunities

NEW	TYPE	FUNDING BODY	FUNDING OPPORTUNITY	DUE DATE
	RE	New Zealand Brain Tumour Trust	Research Grant	Anytime
	TC	Neurological Foundation of New Zealand	Education and Training Event Grants Education and Training Resource Grant Travel Grants	Anytime
	RE	Rule Foundation	Research Grants	Anytime
	RE	Southland Medical Foundation	Research Grants	Anytime
	RE	Cancer Society - Southern Division	Special Project Grant Local Grant Applications	Anytime

Other funding opportunities – discuss with Research Advisor if interested in applying

- AINSE refer [here](#) for upcoming and open opportunities
- **Fulbright New Zealand** - Fulbright NZ offers a variety of awards throughout the year, some in conjunction with Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga. Refer [here](#) for open and upcoming opportunities. Professor Phil Bremer is the Fulbright New Zealand Campus Advisor for the University of Otago. Find Phil's contact details [here](#).

If you have any queries or would like further information regarding any of these Funding Opportunities, **please contact your Research Advisor**. Contact details are available on the Research and Enterprise [Website](#).

To subscribe to Research News

Email research@otago.ac.nz, with subject line: 'Subscribe to Research News' **NB:** Research News is intended for University of Otago staff and students.

GENERAL INFORMATION REGARDING RESEARCH FUNDING AT OTAGO

When you need to contact us

Staff are reminded that **every application for external research funding must come through Research and Enterprise, via your [Research Advisor](#)**. Please contact for advice. All grant applications and proposals should be submitted by academic staff. Please inform your Research Advisor if you intend to apply as Principal Investigator for *any* contestable funding, whether advertised here or not, at the beginning of the development of your application. The same situation exists if you have been approached by researchers at another institution/organisation to collaborate on a funding proposal where Otago is not the lead institution and/or is not submitting the proposal.

Requirement for Field of Research (FOR) and Socio-Economic Objective (SEO) codes

Universities are required to report to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment on FOR and SEO codes for all research and commercial projects, see [MBIE requirements](#). A link to the codes is provided in the help section in RAS. Please talk to your Research Advisor or Business Development Manager if you have any queries regarding the codes. In RAS, these codes must be entered in the initial set-up steps of applications/projects.

The [UoO Policy Document on Externally Funded Research](#) outlines both the need for and the usage of the budget builder.

Panui Rangahau Māori – Māori Research Consultation

For researchers submitting to NTRCC work within your divisions, department, and your [Research Advisors](#) to develop your Vision Mātauranga Policy statements and to progress developing your ideas toward ethics approval. Document your thoughts regarding VM, relevance to Māori, and pathways to impact on society, this is all valuable thinking even in early stages. Your [Research Advisors](#) will be able to provide support in the first instance or may choose to escalate if necessary.

For Christchurch researchers: the Māori Health Advancement Programme for researchers at UOC has two components: a professional development programme and a new research review process. For all information about how to complete the professional development programme and complete the research review process please head to this page: <https://www.otago.ac.nz/christchurch/services/researchoffice/maoriconsultation>

For any queries or pātai please email the Kaitohutohu Rangahau Māori/Māori Research Advisor at: maorihealthadvancement.uoc@otago.ac.nz

Ethics and Regulatory Consents

The University requires that any research involving human participants and/or animals is conducted in accordance with the highest ethical standards. Where appropriate, compliance includes ethical approval from the relevant ethics committee. Please refer to our [Ethics and Regulatory Consents](#) webpage for further information.

Human Ethics applications and assessment via Conduit

All applications for Human Ethics consents and amendments (Health, Minimal Risk Health Research (MRHR), Category A Non-Health, Category B Low Risk Non-Health) must now be made via Conduit. This system replaces all previous methods of applying for Human Ethical consents. Note that applications for Animal Use protocols will remain via IARMS. Access the web-based system via [this link](#) and using your Otago University log in and password.

For recorded online training sessions, further resources and more information about Conduit on this SharePoint site: <https://otagouni.sharepoint.com/sites/Conduit/SitePages/training-home.aspx> The Research Integrity Office (who manage the Human Ethics application process) are happy to talk through questions or queries you may have about ethics applications. Contact them on humanethics@otago.ac.nz

Checklist for submitting grant proposals

Remember to include:

- **Copy of the application** (*signed by applicant, and HoD/Dean if requested by funder*)
- **Completed budget (in RAS)**
- **Evidence of Māori Research Consultation**
- **Ethical / Regulatory approvals** (*if required and already approved*)

Research and Enterprise then obtains the authorised signature of the University for you (if required), copies the application (when required), and sends it to the funding body by the due date.

University of Otago Bridging Scheme Register and Continuation of Research Achievement Grant (CRAG) for External-Grant-Funded Research-Only Staff

Further information about the **Bridging Scheme** which provides a mechanism to protect the continued contributions of Research-Only Principal Investigators can be found [here](#).

The **Continuation of Research Achievement Grant (CRAG)** supports highly productive research leaders within the University in the event of significant grant failure. Application Forms and Guidelines can be found [here](#).

Contact Details for General Enquiries

R&E Research Office: research@otago.ac.nz

Research Finance: research.finance@otago.ac.nz