

RESEARCH AND ENTERPRISE

Updates and Announcements from week commencing 24 August 2026

Transition Research Fund (TRF) 2027 - Updated

Key internal dates for the 3x funding mechanisms are provided below.

The University can submit up to 12 Programme proposals, 41 Talent Development proposals and 44 Project proposals. There is an internal selection process to determine which proposals will be submitted to MBIE for each mechanism.

R&E Support: Due to the volume of EOI registrations, R&E BDMs and RAs are not available to provide one-on-one support for the preparation of TRF EOIs.

The RA/BDM selected during the RAS registration process should be considered a placeholder. R&E support will be allocated to applicants who progress to the external application stage.

Details of a webinar for the Project and Talent mechanisms will be shared soon.

Programmes

Registration for Programme EOIs is now closed.

EOI Submission Date - 12 noon Tuesday 1st September:

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

- EOI submissions must be accompanied by **Principal Investigator and Co-Principal Investigator CVs**. Please use either the Standard or Narrative CV available [here](#).
- All submissions should be provided in **Word format**

Talent Development

Key dates: Internal selection process for Talent Development

- **Register intent in RAS: 12 noon Monday 24 August 2026**

You must register your intent to submit a Talent Development EOI by [creating a RAS project](#) before this deadline. You can register at any time up until this date. No further internal registrations will be accepted after this date.

Please make sure you complete the process in RAS and your registration is not stuck 'in draft' status. You will receive a follow up email from the Research Office regarding an incomplete registration. If the process is not completed the registration will be considered ineligible by 12pm Monday 24 August. Research Office staff will not be completing the process for applicants.

Note: Applicants can only submit one Talent Development EOI as PI. You may be a contributor on another Talent Development application and you may also be named on a Programme (not as PI) or Project.

- **Submit your EOI in RAS: 12 noon Monday 7 September 2026**

No EOIs will be accepted after this date.

An internal EOI template for Talent Development is being finalised and will be provided to applicants who have registered by noon on 24 August. Outcomes will be advised the **week of 12 October 2026**.

Projects

Key dates: Internal selection process for Projects

- **Register intent in RAS: 12 noon Monday 7 September 2026**

You must register your intent to submit a Project EOI by [creating a RAS project](#) before this deadline. You can register at any time up until this date. No further internal registrations will be accepted after this date.

Please make sure you complete the process in RAS and your registration is not stuck 'in draft' status. You will receive a follow up email from the Research Office regarding an incomplete registration. If the process is not completed the registration will be considered ineligible by 12pm Monday 7 September. Research Office staff will not be completing the process for applicants.

Note: Applicants can only submit one Project EOI as PI. You may be a contributor on another TRF application. But going forward you may not be a PI on both a programme and a project to be submitted to MBIE. If you are unsuccessful in the internal programme assessment you may submit a Project EOI for consideration. Noting the call for programme EOIs has already closed.

- **Submit your EOI in RAS: 12 noon Monday 19 October 2026**

No EOIs will be accepted after this date.

An internal EOI template for Projects is being finalised and will be provided to applicants who have registered by noon on 7 September. Outcomes will be advised the **week of 16 November 2026**.

What will the MBIE template look like for a full application?

We will not be provided the MBIE Call for Proposals or templates for the TRF 2027 registration and full application until late August/early September.

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](#)

New page dedicated to the Transition Research Fund - **NEW**

A dedicated Transition Research Fund page is now available on the Research Hub: Health Sciences.

The page provides a central location for official MBIE resources, together with Research Office timelines, guidance, and key information for each of the three funding mechanisms.

Access the page here [Transition Research Fund 2027](#) – it will be updated regularly with new information from MBIE and the Research office.

Te Tītiki Mataora Medtech funding rounds - **NEW**

The standard RAP Stage II funding round is open to all eligible proposals as per the guidelines. Within this round, Te Tītiki Mataora is also seeking proposals aligned with two priority areas:

- Medical Device Technologies (including Software as a Medical Device (SaMD))

- Paediatric Health Technologies

Applications in these priority areas are strongly encouraged. Refer to RAS and the funding calendar for further information.

Note to applicants: Teams with projects that may be suitable for RAP Stage III are encouraged to contact Te Tītiki Mataora to discuss potential opportunities – check eligibility guidelines [here](#).

Royal Society Te Apārangi Early Career Researcher Forum - Updated

Early-career researchers – don't miss the opportunity to join the Society's national conference in Tāmaki Makaurau on 9–11 September 2026. [Register](#) by 31 August 2026.

Join the [mailing list](#) and [LinkedIn page](#) for the Society's ECR Forum.

Prime Minister's Science Prizes – NEW

The Government established these Prizes for scientists, educators, communicators, and students in 2009 as a way of raising the profile and prestige of science among New Zealanders. For the first time, in 2026, the Government has announced a new Prize for [innovation](#). Read more about the prizes [here](#)

Ongoing RAS Support link

As part of the transition from project delivery to business-as-usual support, the ORIS project inbox (orisproject@otago.ac.nz) has now been retired, and is no longer monitored. Systems support remains available. For technical assistance with RAS, submit your request through AskOtago. [This link](#) will populate the AskOtago form specifically for RAS.

RAS sharepoint [Nau mai, haere mai - Welcome to RAS Support in SharePoint](#)

Neurological Foundation webinar

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>

BRANZ Building Research Levy funding round – Updated

The BRANZ Building Research Levy and Research Scholarship funding rounds have opened. To apply, you'll need to register [here](#) first. Registered applicants will receive a unique link to the online application.

Neuromuscular Research Trust Expression of Interest

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.

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](#).

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Postdoctoral Fellowships 2026 - **NEW**

New Zealand can access some aspects of the [Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions \(MSCA\)](#) given our Associated Country status within Horizon Europe (the EU's largest funding programme).

- European Postdoctoral Fellowships
- Global Postdoctoral Fellowships

Previous webinars available here [Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Postdoctoral Fellowships 2026: Application Advice | EURAXESS](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES from Week Commencing 24 August 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
	RE	Transition Research Fund - Talent Development		Refer to announcements for key dates
Round open	RE	BRANZ	Building Research Levy – Concept <i>You must register to submit an appln</i>	25-Aug-2026
	AF	Blood Cancer New Zealand	Summer Studentship	26-Aug-2026
	AF	Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research	SCAR Fellowship Scheme	27-Aug-2026
	RE	Royal National Institute for Deaf People (RNID)	Discovery Research Grant Prelim Translational Research Grant Prelim	2-Sep-2026

NEW	TYPE	FUNDING BODY	FUNDING OPPORTUNITY	INTERNAL DUE DATE
	RE	Transition Research Fund - Projects		Refer to announcements for key dates
	RE	Department of Internal Affairs	Pacific Development and Conservation Trust Grants	8-Sep-2026
	AF	NZ-UK Link Foundation	NZ-UK Link Foundation Fellowship	10-Sep-2026
NEW	RE	CMDT & MedTech Research Network	Research Acceleration Programme – Stage II Concept Seeding	18-Sep-2026
NEW	AF	Prime Minister's Science Prizes Secretariat	Science Communication Prize Science Prize Emerging Scientist Prize Innovation Prize	22-Sep-2026
	RE	Brian Mason Scientific and Technical Trust	Project Grant	22-Sep-2026
	RE	Ministry for Primary Industries	New Zealand -Ireland Joint Call	22-Sep-2026
	AF	Kenneth Rainin Foundation	Innovator Award	22-Sept-2026
	AF	Cancer Research Trust New Zealand	Professional Development Award	23-Sep-2026
	AF	Cancer Research Trust New Zealand	Nursing + Allied Health Scholarship	23-Sep-2026
	TC	Cancer Research Trust New Zealand	Cancer Education + Development Awards	23-Sep-2026
	TC	Cancer Research Trust New Zealand	Ovarian Cancer Foundation Travel Grant	23-Sep-2026
NEW	TC	Maurice and Phyllis Paykel Trust	Travel Conference Support	23-Sep-2026
NEW	RE	Maurice and Phyllis Paykel Trust	Project/Equipment	23-Sep-2026
	RE	Friends of the Turnbull Library	Research Grant	24-Sep-2026
	AF	Cancer Society of New Zealand	Robert McClelland Fellowship	2-Oct-2026

NEW	TYPE	FUNDING BODY	FUNDING OPPORTUNITY	INTERNAL DUE DATE
	RE	Royal Society Te Apārangi	Catalyst: Seeding <i>Note the Japanese application closing date for the Japanese collaborator is different to the New Zealand closing date.</i>	14-Oct-2026
	TC	Royal Society Te Apārangi	Catalyst: Leaders	14-Oct-2026
	RE	Rod Donald Banks Peninsula Trust	Research Grant	22-Oct-2026
	AF	Commonwealth Fund	Harkness Fellowship in Health Care Policy and Practice	23-Oct-2026
	RE	Neurological Foundation of New Zealand	Platform Grant Expression of Interest Programme Grant Expression of Interest	23-Oct-2026
NEW	AF	BRANZ	Research Scholarship <i>You must register to submit an appln</i>	29-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](#).
- **Gates Foundation grand challenges** - [Grant Opportunities | Global Grand Challenges](#)

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