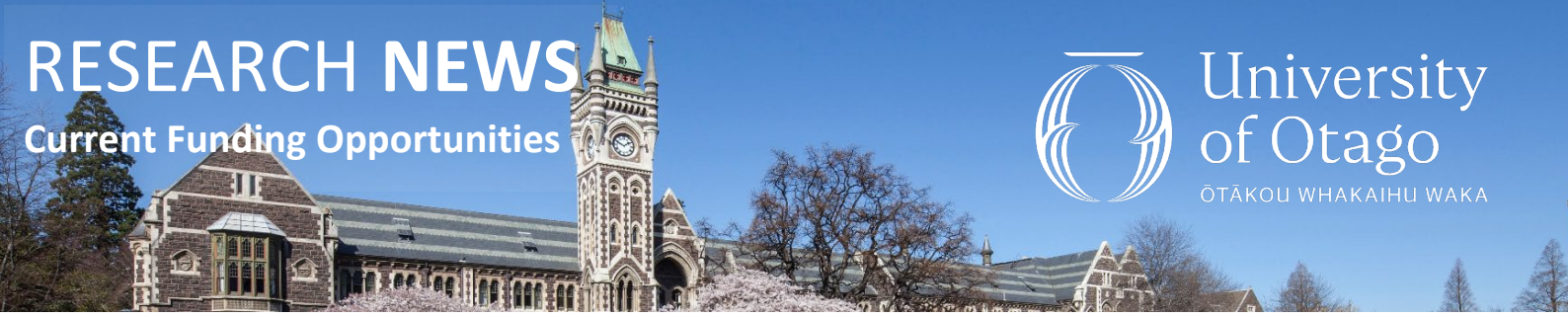


RESEARCH AND ENTERPRISE

Updates and Announcements from week commencing 2 November 2026

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Transition Research Fund (TRF) 2027 – Updated

There is an ongoing internal selection process to determine which proposals will be submitted to MBIE for each mechanism.

Projects (Internal EOI Submission closed)

- Pillar-specific panels have been formed to assess EOIs. The top ranked EOIs will be recommended to a moderation panel who will assess portfolio balance across pillars and the University's strategic interests. This panel will determine which applications will proceed to full proposal development and submission to MBIE.
- Outcomes anticipated by mid-December.

Talent Development

- Internal EOI result outcomes are currently being finalised by R&E. Outcomes under strict embargo.

Programmes

- Portal is now open for the round. R&E will set up applications for Programme applicants who have been invited to proceed to proposal development.

MBIE Key Resources, Now Published

Please follow the links to the corresponding resources, all available via the MBIE website

- Amendment-2027 Transition Research Fund Gazette

Pillar Investment Plan & Summaries:

- Pillar Investment Plans (PIPs) 2026-2031
- Technology for Prosperity Pillar Summary
- Primary Industries and Bioeconomy Pillar Summary
- Environmental Sustainability and Resilience Pillar Summary
- Healthy People and a Thriving Society Summary

MBIE Call for Proposals and Templates for each mechanism (Programmes, Projects & Talent Development):

Also available within the MBIE Document Library

- Programmes Call for Proposals
- Talent Development Call for Proposals
- Projects Call for Proposals

Pillar Investment Plan Webinar

- Read the Q&A responses
- Watch the webinar recording
- Read the Pillar Investment Plans and one-page summaries

Transition Research Fund Webinar Presentations and Q&A:

Presentation slides and Q&A details available:

- Talent Development
- Programmes
- Projects

Each webinar will be recorded and published on the corresponding mechanism web page by November 2026. MBIE will also publish FAQs from across the three webinars.

Dedicated SharePoint page to the Transition Research Fund

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.

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Motor Neurone Disease NZ New Research Grant – NEW

Motor Neurone Disease NZ (MND NZ) has opened their first Research Grant Round with three research grants of up to $10,000 each available. See the funding calendar below and RAS for internal due dates.
These grants are to encourage research to improve evidence-based care, support and potentially even treatment for people with motor neurone disease (MND).

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Medtech-iQ Aotearoa Networking Event

Connect with colleagues, innovators and industry partners at this special Medtech-iQ Aotearoa networking event, hosted by the University of Otago. See the flyer for more details.

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Neurological Foundation grants early opening

Four Neurological Foundation grants are opening early. Applications for other grants will open in December.

- Sir Richard Faull Fellowship (New Grant) - See here for further information.
- Human Brain Bank Travel Grant (New Grant) - See here for further information.
- Epilepsy NZ Project Grant - See here for further information.
- Epilepsy NZ Small Project Grant - See here for further information.

See RAS for further information. Rounds will be added to the funding calendar below in due course.

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Heart Foundation Hypertension Programme Grant - NEW

The grant provides up to NZ$2 million over four years for one nationally significant research programme focused on improving the detection, management and sustained control of high blood pressure in Aotearoa New Zealand.

The Heart Foundation is seeking ambitious, multidisciplinary applications that:

- deliver practical and scalable solutions within New Zealand's health system
- improve hypertension detection, treatment and long-term blood pressure control
- address inequities in cardiovascular outcomes, particularly for Māori and Pacific Peoples
- include strong partnerships with communities, health services and primary care providers.

See RAS for further information. Rounds will be added to the funding calendar below in due course.

Wellcome Trust opportunities - NEW

Wellcome Trust regularly advertise grant opportunities. These are available here
If you are interested in applying for any opportunities, reach out to your Research Advisor

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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.

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FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES from Week Commencing 2 November 2026

TYPE	**AF**	**A**wards and **F**ellowships
	RE	**R**esearch projects and **E**quipment grants
	TC	Funding for **T**ravel and **C**onferences (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
NEW	RE	Maurice Wilkins Centre	High-Impact Projects in Infectious Diseases	**4-Nov-2026**
	RE	Otago Medical Research Foundation	• Laurenson Grant • Jack Thomson Arthritis Fund	**5-Nov-2026**
	RE	Academy of Medical Sciences	Networking Grant	**5-Nov-2026**
NEW	RE	Maurice Wilkins Centre	Strategic Investment in Metabolic Health Call	**6-Nov-2026**
	RE	Ag Emissions Centre	Innovation Investment Round	**10-Nov-2026**
NEW	RE	Motor Neurone Disease NZ	Research Grant	**19-Nov-2026**

Recurring Funding Opportunities

NEW	TYPE	FUNDING BODY	FUNDING OPPORTUNITY	DUE DATE
	RE	New Zealand Brain Tumour Trust	Research Grant	**Anytime**

NEW	TYPE	FUNDING BODY	FUNDING OPPORTUNITY	DUE DATE
	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/unsubscribe to Research News

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

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

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