

RESEARCH AND ENTERPRISE

Updates and Announcements from week commencing 21 September 2026

Transition Research Fund (TRF) 2027 - Updated

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.

Key internal dates

Projects EOI submission deadline: 12 noon Monday 19 October

- EOI submissions must be accompanied by the **Principal Investigator & Co-PI CV** (if applicable). Please use either the Standard or Narrative CV available [here](#)
- All submissions should be provided in **Word format & submitted in RAS by 12 noon Monday 19 October**
- **Instructions on how to submit a TRF EOI in RAS are available** [here](#)
- Applications submitted without the appropriate attachments and/or incomplete EOI workflow step will be marked as non-compliant, and this will be taken into account for assessment, along with any word count issues – it may make you ineligible at the discretion of the assessment panel.

Update: Talent Development (Submission closed)

- 60 Talent Development EOI applications have been submitted to R&E
- Result outcomes are expected to be communicated by week of 16th October. This may alter dependent on panel meeting date. Information will be communicated directly to Talent Development applicants in due course.

Update: Programmes (Submission closed)

- 28 Programme EOI applications have been submitted to R&E & assessed by the panel
- Next steps regarding result outcomes will be communicated directly to applicants in due course.

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

We will now not be provided the MBIE Call for Proposals or templates for the TRF 2027 registration and full application until early October.

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](#)

We are waiting for more information from MBIE - likely release dates below with caveats:

- Planned date for the publication of Pillar Investment Plans (PIPs) is Wednesday 30 September. Subject to, and dependent on, approval by the Minister. As with any Ministerial decision, this is subject to last minute change or delay and not something over which MBIE has direct control.
- Planned date for Gazette Notice amendment publication is Thursday 1 October - also a Ministerial document and subject to the same caveats and dependent on the PIPs publication date being met.
- MBIE plans to publish the Call For Proposals on the same day as the Gazette Notice amendment is published.

MBIE plans for sector engagement in October about TRF

MBIE intend to hold three online mechanism webinars (e.g. “roadshows”) for the TRF in October.

Indicative dates (subject to change) are:

- Programmes – October 13
- Talent Development – October 15
- Projects – October 21

Each webinar will have some good time allocated for live Q&A.

These dates are based on current timelines, with the planned date for Gazette Notice amendment publication on Thursday 1 October, and dependent on the PIPs publication date being met.

MBIE intend to publish the Call for Proposals (and all associated documentation) on October 1.

The first webinar is planned for October 13 as there is likely to be sector-facing comms for the publication of the PIPs in the week of October 5th.

New page dedicated 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.

QuakeCore RfP Online Information Session - NEW

There will be an information session on the RfP and Scholarship Rounds on Monday, 28 September at Noon.

This will be a chance to get more information about the application process and funding available as well as a chance to ask questions. Register [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 grants early opening – NEW

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

- Sir Richard Faull Fellowship (New Grant) 3 FTE of salary and \$100k of research expenses
This new fellowship will provide personal support for a research fellow who completed their PhD at least 10 years ago and has strong community engagement. See [here](#) for further information.
- Human Brain Bank Travel Grant (New Grant) Up to \$20k,

To support researchers based outside of Auckland who have independently obtained research funding, to undertake research with human brain tissue at the Neurological Foundation Human Brain Bank. See [here](#) for further information.

- **Epilepsy NZ Project Grant - Up to \$250,000**
Epilepsy NZ accept proposals aimed at research into the better understanding of the causation of epilepsy, treatment, and possible cure for epilepsy. See [here](#) for further information.
- **Epilepsy NZ Small Project Grant - Up to \$20,000**
These grants are intended to encourage clinicians and scientists to undertake small-scale neurological research or pilot studies that may lead to a larger project. See [here](#) for further information.

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

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 21 September 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
	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

NEW	TYPE	FUNDING BODY	FUNDING OPPORTUNITY	INTERNAL DUE DATE
	RE	Ministry for Primary Industries	New Zealand -Ireland Joint Call	22-Sep-2026
	AF	Kenneth Rainin Foundation	Innovator Award LOI	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
	TC	Maurice and Phyllis Paykel Trust	Travel Conference Support	23-Sep-2026
	RE	Maurice and Phyllis Paykel Trust	Project/Equipment	23-Sep-2026
	RE	Friends of the Turnbull Library	Research Grant	24-Sep-2026
NEW	RE	Te Hiranga Rū QuakeCoRE	Request for proposals	29-Sep-2026
NEW	RE	Te Hiranga Rū QuakeCoRE	Scholarship Round	29-Sep-2026
	AF	Cancer Society of New Zealand	Robert McClelland Fellowship	2-Oct-2026
	AF	Cancer Society of New Zealand Inc	Māori Cancer Researcher Awards	8-Oct-2026
	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	Neuromuscular Research Foundation Trust	Research Grant - Project Grants - Postgraduate Student Grant	15-Oct-2026
	RE	Rod Donald Banks Peninsula Trust	Research Grant	22-Oct-2026

NEW	TYPE	FUNDING BODY	FUNDING OPPORTUNITY	INTERNAL DUE DATE
	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	RE	Directors Cancer Research Trust	RfP for Cancer Research	27-Oct-2026
	RE	Royal National Institute for Deaf People (RNID)	Innovation Seed Fund	27-Oct-2026
	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