



RESEARCH AND ENTERPRISE

Updates and Announcements from week commencing 29 June 2026

Transition Research Fund (TRF) 2027 – Updated

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 a pillar and associated “opportunity” with a clear narrative of impact.

Strong emphasis on:

- Impact for New Zealand
- Alignment to government priorities
- Collaboration (end-users, partners)

Key message: Applicants must **choose ONE pillar** for applications (even if work spans multiple pillars).

Three Funding Mechanisms for TRF:

- Talent Development (only supporting emerging researchers and future talent aligned to the Technology for Prosperity pillar)
- 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.**

We're working on an internal process as there is a cap on the number of proposals that can be submitted for each mechanism per organisation. More information will be communicated in the following weeks. For now, please refer to the following links for available detail:

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

[Transition Research Fund Investment Plan 2027](#)

[Transition Research Fund 2027 overview](#)

Transition Research Fund 2027 - Key timelines

Talent Development	Projects	Programmes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opens: 18 November 2026 • Registration closes: 16 December 2026 • Proposals close: 3 February 2027 • Decision: October 2027 • Contracts begin: 1 March 2028 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opens: 27 January 2027 • Registration closes: 17 March 2027 • Proposals close: 28 April 2027 • Decision: October 2027 • Contracts begin: 1 December 2027 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opens: 30 September 2026 • Registration closes: 9 December 2026 • Proposals close: 3 March 2027 • Decision: August 2027 • Contracts begin: 1 October 2027

Important changes to the Health Research Council (HRC) 2027 Project and Programme Grants - **NEW**

Health Research Council of New Zealand (HRC) have made some important changes to the application and assessment process for the 2027 Project and Programme Grant funding round. Refer [here](#) for an overview of these changes. Upcoming Research News editions and RAS will include important information about deadlines once the guidelines are published.

Health Research Council 2027 Project and Programme Grants Webinar - **NEW**

To help researchers applying for the 2027 Project and Programme funding rounds, HRC are holding a webinar on **Wednesday 1 July from 12noon to 12.45pm**. This webinar will include information on the updates that HRC have made to the application guidelines for this funding round and answer questions that you might have about the process.

You can register for the webinar [here](#). The webinar recording will be available online as soon as possible.

Cancer Society National Research Grant Round – **NEW**

The Cancer Society National Research Grant round introduces three distinct grant opportunities.

- Postdoctoral Fellowships
- Clinical Trials Access – Project Grant
- Robert McClelland Fellowship (RMCF)

Refer [here](#) for further information about each of these rounds. Further information about due dates is available in RAS and the funding calendar below.

Cancer Research Trust Zoom Q&A

Join the Cancer Research Trust's General Manager for answers to questions about the grant application process, details of co-funding opportunities and top tips for applicants. Monday 13 July 12.00pm-1.00pm. [Register here](#)

Cancer Research Trust grant writing workshop

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

Marie Krogh Young Women in Science Prize

A prestigious award that aims to recognise and celebrate outstanding young women in science and medicine who embody Innovation, Leadership and Impact. In 2026, the prize is open to New Zealanders for the first time. Applications Close **5 July 2026 (Midnight AEST)**. Read more about this prize [here](#)

He Ara Whakahiiko Capability Fund 2027 Investment Round - Updated

Proposal submission period opens 15 July 2026. Please visit the [He Ara Whakahiiko 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 Whakahiiko 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 29 June 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	Royal Society Te Apārangi	Aotearoa New Zealand Tāwhia te Mana Research Fellowships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mana Tūārangī Distinguished Researcher Fellowship • Mana Tūānuku Research Leader Fellowship • Mana Tūāpapa Future Leader Fellowship 	1-Jul-2026
	RE	Auckland Medical Research Foundation	Jean Cathie Fund – Expression of Interest	7-Jul-2026
	RE	John Templeton Foundation	Templeton Small Grants - Online Funding Enquiry	7-Jul-2026
	RE	Prime Ministers Space Prizes Secretariat	Prime Ministers Space Prizes	13-Jul-2026
	TC	Royal Society Te Apārangi	Catalyst: Seeding	15-Jul-2026

NEW	TYPE	FUNDING BODY	FUNDING OPPORTUNITY	INTERNAL DUE DATE
	AF	Health Research Council of New Zealand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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
	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	RE	Cancer Society of New Zealand	Clinical Trials Access – Project Grant Expression of Interest	24-Jul-2026
NEW	AF	Cancer Society of New Zealand	Postdoctoral Fellowships Expression of Interest	24-Jul-2026
	RE	Cancer Research Trust New Zealand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Grant Special Purpose Grant 	28-Jul-2026
	AF	Cancer Research Trust New Zealand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Murray Jackson Clinical Fellowship John Gavin Postdoctoral Fellowship Postgraduate Scholarship 	28-Jul-2026
	RE	Cure Kids	Project Grant	29-Jul-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
NEW	AF	Tūpuna Maunga Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scholarship Residency 	21-Aug-2026

NEW	TYPE	FUNDING BODY	FUNDING OPPORTUNITY	INTERNAL DUE DATE
	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
	RE	Royal National Institute for Deaf People (RNID)	Discovery Research Grant Prelim Translational Research Grant Prelim	2-Sep-2026
NEW	AF	NZ-UK Link Foundation	NZ-UK Link Foundation Fellowship	10-Sep-2026
NEW	RE	Brian Mason Scientific and Technical Trust	Project Grant	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	AF	Cancer Society of New Zealand	Robert McClelland Fellowship	2-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