

Te Hiku Media-Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga Master's Scholarship

With a tax-free stipend of \$15,000 (plus tuition fees), the Te Hiku Media-Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga Doctoral scholarship is designed to support a Māori Master's student who is interested in pursuing their studies around te reo Māori and data science.

The scholarship is part of the 7 year Papa Reo project funded by the Strategic Science Investment fund from MBIE and led by Te Hiku Media. The Papa Reo project is the culmination of work undertaken by Te Reo Irirangi o Te Hiku o Te Ika (Te Hiku Media) over the last 30 years to instil, nurture and proliferate the Māori language unique to haukāinga of Te Hiku o Te Ika.

Minority languages and their communities, such as te reo Māori, are largely invisible and unheard in the digital world. Everyday tasks can be completed using your voice and speaking to your devices, but due to the absence of the large datasets required for machine learning, speakers of minority languages cannot engage with this technology. This further marginalises their language and reduces their ability to fully participate in society.

Our vision is for a multilingual language platform that will develop cutting edge natural language processing methods and tools. This is pioneering data science research that will ultimately support minority languages worldwide.

Existing machine learning techniques require large data sets to support the development of speech to text, text to speech and speech synthesis. Papa Reo aims to make these tools and methods available for languages with smaller data sets to ensure their languages are present in the digital age, the research may use some of these methods and tools, but may also take a different approach.

We invite applications from all disciplines. The precise topic of research will be developed with the successful candidate when the scholarship is awarded, however it will have a clear alignment to Papa Reo. Broad topic areas include (but are not limited to):

- Bilingual Automatic Speech Recognition
- Natural Language Understanding
- Linguistics, Comparative Linguistics, Sociolinguistics
- Pronunciation/Te Rere o Te Reo

All applicants should submit:

1. The required application form
2. A Curriculum Vitae
3. A copy of your Academic Transcript
4. A cover letter about yourself and an outline of your proposed doctoral study, your proposed supervisors and place of study. This does not need to be a fully developed proposal but could include your expertise (methods or approaches you use/are interested in using), community connections and research ideas/plan.

In the first instance, please submit the above here. Any enquiries; info@papareo.nz