NGĀ PAE O TE MĀRAMATANGA
Flourishing Māori Futures
NEW ZEALAND'S MĀORI CENTRE OF RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

Māori Futures Programme 2027 PhD Completion Scholarship

Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga Māori Futures Programme

Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga PhD Completion Scholarship

Regulations and Applicant Guidelines

Purpose:	Final-stage support to help Māori PhD candidates complete and submit their thesis.
Support period:	Up to 12 months FTE, based on the time reasonably required to submit.
Earliest start date:	30 January 2027. The approved start date will be confirmed in the award letter.
Stipend:	Up to $37,132 for 12 months FTE, paid pro-rata for shorter periods or part-time enrolment.
Professional Development Support Fund: (PDSF)	Up to $10,079 for 12 months FTE, calculated pro-rata based on the approved scholarship period. NPM approval is required before PDSF is used.
Expected thesis submission:	By the end of the approved scholarship period and no later than 30 June 2028.
Application dates:	Tuesday 10 November 2026 to 5.00 pm Friday 4 December 2026.

1. Purpose and status

The Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga (NPM) PhD Completion Scholarship is part of the NPM Māori Futures Programme. The scholarship is designed to support Māori doctoral candidates in the final stage of their doctorate to complete and submit their thesis. Applicants must demonstrate that thesis submission within the support period requested is achievable through a completion plan confirmed by their primary supervisor.

The scholarship is administered by the NPM Secretariat at Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland.

2. Who can apply

To be eligible, an applicant must:

- be Māori;
- be currently enrolled in a PhD or doctoral programme at an NPM partner institution;
- be in the final stage of their doctorate and able to submit their thesis within the period of support requested, which may be up to 12 months FTE and no later than 30 June 2028;
- be undertaking doctoral research that aligns with the NPM Matakitenga Research Framework;

- provide confirmation from their primary supervisor that the proposed completion plan and submission date are achievable; and
- be willing to take part in relevant NPM and Te Kupenga o MAI activities during the scholarship period.

Applicants may request less than 12 months of support. For example, an applicant who needs six months to complete should request six months rather than a full year.

3. Previous and current NPM PhD recipients

Previous or current recipients of an NPM PhD Scholarship or grant may apply if they meet the completion-stage requirements.

NPM will not fund the same period or purpose twice. Any PhD Completion Scholarship support must begin after the relevant period of existing NPM PhD scholarship or grant support ends. Applicants must clearly state all previous and current NPM PhD funding, including award dates and the period funded.

4. Other scholarships, grants and income

Applicants must declare all current and expected scholarships, grants, stipends, salary support, course-fee support and other funding that relates to their PhD or the requested scholarship period.

The NPM PhD Completion Scholarship cannot be held concurrently with another doctoral scholarship, stipend or grant that provides financial support for the recipient's PhD during the approved NPM scholarship period.

Any other funding awarded during the Completion Scholarship must be declared to NPM immediately. NPM may review, vary, suspend or end the scholarship where another source of funding overlaps with the purpose or period of the Completion Scholarship.

5. Value and duration

The scholarship provides a stipend of $37,132 for 12 months FTE to provide financial support to the recipient while they complete and submit their PhD thesis, together with Professional Development Support Funding (PDSF) of $10,079 for 12 months FTE. Both components will be calculated pro-rata based on the approved scholarship period.

The amount and duration of each scholarship will be based on the period reasonably required for the recipient to complete and submit their PhD thesis.

5.1 Stipend

The stipend rate is $37,132 for 12 months FTE and will be calculated pro-rata according to the approved scholarship period.

The approved amount will be based on the period reasonably required for the recipient to complete and submit their PhD thesis.

For example:

- 12 months FTE: $37,132
- 9 months FTE: $27,849
- 6 months FTE: $18,566
- 3 months FTE: $9,283

Part-time support will also be calculated pro-rata. The approved duration, FTE, stipend and PDSF allocation will be confirmed in the award letter.

The approved scholarship period must support thesis submission by the end of the scholarship period and no later than 30 June 2028.

5.2 Professional Development Support Fund (PDSF)

Each recipient will receive a PDSF allocation based on a 12-month FTE rate of $10,079, calculated pro-rata according to the approved scholarship period.

For example:

- 12 months FTE: $10,079
- 9 months FTE: $7,559.25
- 6 months FTE: $5,039.50
- 3 months FTE: $2,519.75

The PDSF is separate from the stipend and may be used for approved costs that support the recipient's PhD completion, professional development or dissemination of their doctoral research.

PDSF may be used for:

- university or course fees;
- workshops, masterclasses or short courses;
- conference or wānanga attendance;
- travel and registration costs; and
- other reasonable professional development, completion or research dissemination costs approved by NPM.

Recipients must make a request to NPM and receive approval before committing or using PDSF, including for university or course fees.

The request must outline the proposed use and cost and identify any other funding available for the same purpose. NPM may request supporting information where needed to consider the request.

PDSF expenditure must meet NPM requirements and be incurred during the approved scholarship period.

Any unused PDSF remains with NPM and cannot be transferred to the stipend or used for another purpose without prior NPM approval.

5.3 Programme funding

For a 12-month FTE PhD Completion Scholarship, the total value is $47,211, comprising:

- $37,132 stipend; and
- $10,079 PDSF.

For scholarships of less than 12 months FTE, both the stipend and PDSF will be calculated pro-rata according to the approved scholarship period.

The number, duration and value of scholarships awarded will depend on the applications received and the funding available for 2027 to 2028.

6. Scholarship period and start date

Scholarships may commence from 30 January 2027. The scholarship may be held for up to 12 months FTE, based on the period reasonably required for the recipient to complete and submit their PhD thesis.

The approved start date, duration and FTE will be confirmed in the award letter. The scholarship must be structured so that the recipient submits their thesis by the end of the approved scholarship period and no later than 30 June 2028.

Any change to the approved scholarship period requires prior written approval from NPM. The scholarship period cannot be extended beyond 30 June 2028.

7. What applicants must provide

Applicants must submit a complete application through the NPM online portal by the closing date.

The online application and Word application form will ask for:

1. Applicant details, iwi affiliations and NPM partner institution.
2. PhD title, department, primary supervisor, enrolment status, start date and expected submission date.
3. A plain-language summary of the doctoral research.
4. A short explanation of alignment with the NPM Matakitenga Research Framework.
5. A completion plan showing what remains to be done, key milestones, the support period requested and the planned submission date.
6. A short statement explaining why NPM support is needed and the difference it will make to completion.
7. A full declaration of previous and current NPM funding and all other relevant scholarships, grants and income.
8. A current CV using the RSNZ Standard CV template (PDF).
9. An academic transcript or current doctoral progress record, where available.
10. A supervisor confirmation using the NPM template, confirming progress, work remaining and that the proposed submission date is achievable.

Incomplete or late applications may be ruled ineligible and may not proceed to assessment.

8. Assessment

Eligible applications will be assessed by the assessment panel on:

- completion readiness and the feasibility of submitting within the period requested and no later than 30 June 2028;
- the clarity of the completion plan and whether the proposed milestones are achievable;
- alignment with the NPM Matakitenga Research Framework and contribution to flourishing Māori futures;
- the quality and significance of the doctoral research;
- engagement with Māori research, communities, Te Kupenga o MAI and/or NPM, as relevant;
- how the requested support will remove a clear barrier to completion;
- value for money, including whether the duration and amount requested are reasonable; and
- compliance with the funding requirements and full declaration of other funding.

NPM may seek clarification or verify information with the applicant, supervisor or institution. NPM may offer a shorter duration or lower amount than requested.

9. Conflicts of interest and decisions

Assessment panel members must declare any actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest and follow NPM conflict-of-interest processes.

Funding decisions are made by NPM Pou Matarua. Decisions are final. NPM may decide not to fund any application or may vary the number, duration and value of scholarships within the available funding.

10. Conditions of scholarship

Before payments begin, a recipient must:

- accept the scholarship by the date stated in the offer;
- sign the NPM scholarship agreement;
- provide formal confirmation of current PhD enrolment; and
- declare any change to the information provided in the application.

During the scholarship period, the recipient must:

- work towards the approved milestones and thesis submission date;
- maintain eligible enrolment unless NPM approves another arrangement;
- notify NPM promptly of anything that may materially affect the scohlarship, including a change in enrolment, employment, funding, leave, supervision or expected submission date;
- participate in reasonable NPM check-ins and relevant NPM or Te Kupenga o MAI activities;
- acknowledge NPM support in relevant presentations, publications, reports and outputs; and
- provide information reasonably required for NPM reporting and evaluation.

11. Payments

The payment schedule will be set by NPM and clearly stated in the Statement of Work (SOW). Payments will be made through the recipient's institution, subject to the approved arrangement and Waipapa Taumata Rau University of Auckland requirements.

NPM may pause payments while it checks eligibility, progress, enrolment or other funding. Any tax or benefit implications are the recipient's responsibility. Applicants should seek their own advice if needed.

12. Reporting and completion

Recipients will be required to provide:

- a short progress check-in at the midpoint of the scholarship period;
- a final written report at the end of the scholarship period; and
- confirmation of thesis submission as soon as it is available.

Recipients must provide confirmation of thesis submission by the end of the approved scholarship period. Where the thesis has not been submitted, the recipient must provide an explanation, an updated submission date and any other information requested by NPM.

The final report will cover progress against the completion plan, submission status, research outputs and activities, how NPM support contributed, and any next steps if the thesis has not yet been submitted.

NPM may also invite recipients to give a short oral update or share their research through an NPM or Te Kupenga o MAI activity.

13. Changes, suspension and termination

NPM may change, suspend or end the scholarship, stop future payments, or seek repayment of funds where:

- the recipient is no longer eligible;
- the recipient stops or suspends their PhD, or materially changes their enrolment, without promptly notifying NPM;
- the recipient stops or suspends the PhD without informing NPM;
- information provided in the application or during the scholarship is incomplete, incorrect or misleading;
- funding has been duplicated, not declared or used outside the approved purpose;
- the recipient does not make reasonable progress or comply with the scholarship conditions; or
- other circumstances materially affect the purpose or integrity of the scholarship.

NPM will consider the circumstances and, where appropriate, give the recipient an opportunity to respond before making a final decision.

14. Intellectual property and acknowledgement

Ownership, commercialisation and benefit-sharing arrangements for intellectual property arising from the doctoral research remain between the recipient and the institution where they are enrolled, subject to any existing agreements.

Recipients must acknowledge support from the "Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga 2027 PhD Completion Scholarship" in relevant presentations, publications, reports and other outputs.

15. Privacy and use of information

NPM will use application and scholarship information to assess and administer the scholarship, monitor progress, meet reporting obligations, evaluate NPM investment and communicate outcomes. NPM may share information with assessment panel members, relevant Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland teams and other parties where needed to administer the scholarship or meet legal and contractual obligations.

Public information about successful recipients may include the recipient's name, institution, iwi affiliations, thesis title, lay summary and scholarship information, subject to NPM communication processes and any agreed restrictions.

16. NPM discretion

NPM may amend these regulations, vary the conditions of an individual scholarship, seek further information, or add reasonable conditions, provided any change remains consistent with the purpose of the 2027 PhD Completion Scholarship.

17. Enquiries and submission

Application portal: https://www.maramatanga.ac.nz/funding-opportunity/phd-completion
Opening date: Tuesday 10 November 2026
Closing date: 5.00 pm Friday 4 December 2026
Questions: research@maramatanga.ac.nz