



PŪTAHI MANAWA
HEALTHY HEARTS FOR
AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

2026 Pacific Postgraduate Scholarships

Background:

The mission of the Pūtahi Manawa | Healthy Hearts for Aotearoa New Zealand (HHANZ) Centre of Research Excellence (CoRE) is to improve equity in heart health for Māori, for Pacific Peoples and for women through research excellence and precision medicine. Pūtahi Manawa brings together research scientists, clinicians, educationalists and communities by comprehensively and collaboratively addressing issues around equity in heart health outcomes to support and complement the public health approach. We work in partnership with communities and researchers to create a vibrant world-class environment and network for heart research in Aotearoa New Zealand that is underpinned by evidenced based, multi-disciplinary collaborative research that delivers clinical benefits and heart health equity to patients.

About the Postgraduate Scholarships:

The purpose of these scholarships is to provide direct support for students of Indigenous Pacific Island descent studying for a Masters, Bachelor with Honours degree or Postgraduate Diploma (see eligibility conditions below) which includes heart health research, in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Note: Students of Indigenous Pacific descent are defined as students who are of indigenous Pacific descent from any of the following islands: Samoa, American Samoa, Tonga, Cook Islands, Niue, Tokelau, Fiji (iTaukei), Rotuma, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Palau, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Wallis and Futuna, Hawaii, French Polynesia, Rapanui (Easter Island), Pitcairn Islands, Nauru, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands.”

Grant duration and funding:

Scholarships provide a stipend and payment of fees.

- Masters and Honours scholarships provide support for up to two years, on the condition that the research component of the degree qualifies for entry to doctoral study. The scholarship includes a tax-free stipend \$24,000 per annum, tuition fees, plus \$7,000 research expenses.

Eligibility:

- Students must be of Indigenous Pacific Island descent.
- Students must study at a New Zealand tertiary institution.
- For students undertaking a Postgraduate Diploma:
 - The Postgraduate Diploma must include heart health research

- The student must be intending to continue their studies in heart health research after completion of the PGDip
- Completion of the qualification must qualify the student for entry into a research Masters or higher research degree.
- Study will usually be undertaken fulltime. However, if your circumstances mean you need to study parttime please contact us to discuss. You do not have to be a New Zealand Citizen or Resident to be eligible.
- All proposals should be aligned with our CoRE principles as outlined at the end of this document.
- Applicants must adhere to the guidelines and space limitations as detailed in the call for proposals and the application form, otherwise the application will be disqualified.

Key Dates:

Applications open: 10 November 2025

Applications close: 16 January 2026

Results announced: Late-February

Scholarship Criteria:

The table below provides definitions of Pūtahi Manawa | HHANZ CoRE funding criteria and example questions that you might try to answer to show how your proposal meets each criterion.

	Definition
Scientific integrity	<i>Best practice or rules of professional practice in research</i> How robust is the science? How relevant is this topic to the aims of Pūtahi Manawa?
Equity	<i>Fairness and justice, distinct from equality</i> How does the proposal address /enhance equity/ intervene in inequity? How will this funding impact equity? What research is being included that will support equity?
Te Tiriti o Waitangi	<i>Acknowledgment and upholding of Te Tiriti o Waitangi</i> How does the proposal include a Te Tiriti o Waitangi focus? How is Māori partnership/leadership/governance included? How does the proposal acknowledge Māori cultural beliefs, values, practices? Is data handling culturally appropriate? (i.e. is there a data governance strategy)
Translation	<i>Translation is the process of passing research findings along the research pathway to the next user and/or end user.</i> How will you translate your findings? How will this project engage with the community and stakeholders? How will dissemination of results to Māori, Pacific communities occur?
Team Excellence	Describe how the student will be supported throughout their study including working environment and the subject and cultural knowledge and experience of the supervisory team.

Scoring and Weightings:

- Section A: Academic record, personal statement, career plan and character reference (50% for one-year Masters and B(Hons), 100% for two-year Masters).
- Section B: Research plan, Te Tiriti o Waitangi, Community Engagement, Translation and Team Excellence (50% - one-year Masters and B(Hons) only).

Conditions:

- The applicant must be enrolled in the relevant programme at a New Zealand institution before the scholarship commences.
- The start date and end date of the scholarship must be stated.
- Presentations or publications or media (e.g. press releases), or patents resulting from the scholarship will acknowledge the CoRE's support and be submitted as part of regular reporting.
- The applicant will upload an image of themselves to their Pūtahi Manawa member portal account, and be available to be interviewed for any communications upon request.
- The applicants' host institution will administer the scholarship. If there are changes in details of the scholarship or research project, a variation request will need to be submitted to the Pūtahi Manawa | HHANZ CoRE Administration team.
- For scholarships of more than one year, a report will be required at the end of the first year. Pūtahi Manawa will review this report, and continued funding for the second year will be subject to satisfactory progress. Scholars undertaking a two-year Master's or PGDip programme must also submit their research plan and supervisor/mentor details for approval by the Pūtahi Manawa Co-Directors before beginning their research project.
In lieu of a final report, a copy of the thesis or dissertation will be provided.
- The scholarship will normally be for full-time study unless other arrangements have been agreed.

How to apply:

Please sign in to the portal and go to "Funding Opportunities" from your dashboard, select the opportunity you are applying for and submit your application form and documents. If you have any issues with accessing the portal or submitting your application please contact hhanzcoregrants@auckland.ac.nz.

CV format

Please use the CV template provided. The template provides options for two formats – MBIE's Narrative CV template or the New Zealand RS&T template. You may use whichever format you prefer.

Contact information:

hhanzcoregrants@auckland.ac.nz

Our office hours are Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.