



# Wai Māori Scholarship Guidelines 2022

## About the Wai Māori Scholarship

The Wai Māori scholarship has been established in order to strengthen the presence of Māori experts in freshwater and freshwater fisheries related fields of academic study and professional fields. It seeks to encourage Māori students to enter into the field freshwater/freshwater fisheries or further their academic journey.

A total fund of \$30,000 has been made available for this scholarship, this may be awarded to a single recipient or split between a number of recipients, at the discretion of the selection panel and dependent on the applications received.

## Purpose of the scholarship

The scholarship seeks to contribute to the advancement of study or research in one or more of the following areas:

- Indigenous freshwater species research
- Effects of climate change on indigenous freshwater species
- Kaupapa Māori freshwater research
- Māori rights and interests in freshwater
- Freshwater and/or freshwater fisheries/species management and protection
- Freshwater and/or freshwater fisheries/species policy, regulation, and development
- Building or strengthening connections of taurira to their iwi/hapū

## About Te Wai Māori Trust

Te Wai Māori Trust is an independent Māori Trust established under the Māori Fisheries Act 2004, to advance Māori interests in freshwater fisheries<sup>1</sup>. The long-term outcomes Te Wai Māori Trust work towards include:

---

<sup>1</sup> The Māori Fisheries Act defines “freshwater fisheries” as including the species, habitat, surrounding land, water column, and water quality and quantity. Sports fisheries or unwanted aquatic life or activities conducted under the Freshwater Fish Farming Regulations 1983 are excluded from this definition.

- Enhancing the health and well-being of the indigenous fisheries and their environment
- Increasing iwi and hapū capacity and capability in freshwater fisheries and their ability to take responsibility for the health and well-being of freshwater fisheries
- Promoting and sharing indigenous fisheries expertise, knowledge and understanding.

Our core values are te mana o te wai, whakapapa, and kaitiakitanga, and represent the natural order of the Te Wai Māori Trust worldview. First and foremost, we value freshwater and all that is encompassed in its ecosystems. The inherent right for water in its own state. Each water body has its own mauri. Whakapapa recognises our interdependence which binds us as tangata of the environment; and kaitiakitanga, our obligation and responsibility to care for Papatūānuku and ngā Atua. Māori do not distinguish land from lakes, lagoons, rivers, wetlands, freshwater species and their associated beds. They are considered part of an undivided entity. Ensuring the health and well-being of freshwater is essential for the continued health and well-being of freshwater fisheries. Healthy waterbodies are a direct source of mahinga kai for Māori and the use of mahinga kai is an important expression of cultural identity and values, passed down through generations.

### **Required documents/information:**

To apply for this scholarship, fill out the online application form and supply the following information:

- Full name, iwi affiliations, and contact details
- Date of birth (all applicants must be over 18)
- A short bio or curriculum vitae outlining your achievements and experience
- Evidence of academic achievement to date such as an academic transcript (if applicable)
- Details of any other scholarships held, including the amount awarded/received
- Details of your intended study programme or research
- If you are undertaking post-graduate research, details of your academic supervisor and their confirmation of the commitment
- A short summary (800 words max) of your intended use of the scholarship
- A 120 second 'cover video' outlining the following:
  - How your research or study aligns with the scholarship purpose and the long-term outcomes that Te Wai Māori Trust work toward
  - Your ongoing commitment to freshwater/freshwater fisheries and to advancing tikanga, mātauranga and Te Ao Māori within it (particularly post-grant and at the completion of your proposed course study)
- Two letters of endorsement from character references

## Award conditions

- A total of \$30,000 has been made available for this scholarship, this may be awarded to a single recipient or split between a number of recipients, at the discretion of the selection panel.
- Your award is conditional on the acceptance to an approved institution and course of study or research.
- Your selected course of study must begin within a calendar year of the confirmation of your award, and the grant cannot be deferred to subsequent academic years.
- A condition of acceptance is that recipients permit publication and announcement of their acceptance of the award by Te Wai Māori Trust across online channels and are willing to present their research at a Māori Freshwater Fisheries conference or other forum such as a seminar or webinar. Additional funding may be available to assist with any travel and conference attendance for this purpose.
- Should a recipient withdraw from a specified course of study for which the scholarship was awarded, the remaining scholarship value is to be reimbursed by the recipient to the Trust.

## Application process

- You must complete and submit an [online application](#) by **19 September 2022**
- A selection panel will consider applications on their merit against the purpose of the scholarship and the long-term outcomes of the Trust.
- Shortlisted candidates will be notified and may be invited to take part in an interview process. Given the nature of the time, this process may be virtual or in person.
- The successful candidate will be notified by **28 September 2022**. This will also be announced via Te Wai Māori Trust's website and associated social media channels.

Please note, your application does not require prior acceptance into your proposed course of study but will be contingent on your eventual acceptance. You should also consider any pre-requisite testing required by the institutions to which you intend to apply.