

Ageing Well National Science Challenge

Prestigious PhD Scholarships for Māori and Pacific research

Introduction

The Ageing Well National Science Challenge (“the Challenge”) seeks to fund **three** prestigious PhD scholarships, **two** for Māori candidates and **one** for a Pacific candidate, with the twin aims of developing research capacity and building excellent research into ageing well for Māori and Pacific peoples.

The Prestigious Scholarships are available to Māori and Pacific candidates, who already hold a PhD scholarship, and who are, or are about to be, enrolled in their PhD course. The Prestigious Scholarship will provide funding on top of the existing scholarship, up to an additional 50% of the existing scholarship stipend. The amount awarded will be dependent on the allowable additional stipend as specified by the existing scholarship funder. The Prestigious Scholarship will be for a maximum of three years full-time, or the pro-rata equivalent for part-time.

Research on issues related to Māori and Pacific Peoples’ ageing funded through these Prestigious Scholarships will help to build upon and expand the scope and potential impacts from the Ageing Well National Science Challenge, while ensuring new researchers and ideas are incorporated into the Challenge’s work. Ageing Well is committed to supporting the development of Māori and Pacific research capability, and to advancing Vision Mātauranga, and to fund research that will have equitable outcomes for diverse communities.

The Challenge reserves the right to ask for further information from applicants, who may also be required to participate in an interview as part of the assessment process. The Prestigious Scholarship may start any time after 1 April 2021, but before 30 June 2021. Scholarships may be either full-time or part-time, but the Scholarship and funding must end on or before 31 March 2024.

Eligibility

We understand the circumstances of individual applicants may differ. If you are uncertain about your eligibility, please contact us at ageingwell@otago.ac.nz to discuss further.

To be eligible for the Prestigious Scholarship, applicants must:

- be New Zealand citizens or hold residency in New Zealand at the time of application and be of Māori or Pacific descent;
- provide evidence of admission into a PhD programme at the time of application, and either have started work in the programme, or be about to start;
- have been awarded a PhD scholarship;
- be undertaking their PhD research in an area that aligns with the Ageing Well National Science Challenge mission “to harness science to sustain health and well-being into the later years of life enabling all New Zealanders to reach their full potential”¹;
- be undertaking their PhD research in an area that considers one or more of Ageing Well National Science Challenge’s cross-cutting themes: Equitable outcomes for diverse communities; Delivering on *Vision Mātauranga*; Considering intergenerational relationships; Taking a lifecourse approach; and
- be able to commence the Prestigious Scholarship before the end of June 2021.

¹ Further information on the work of the Ageing Well National Science Challenge is available through <https://www.ageingwellchallenge.co.nz>

Key dates

Step in process	Date
Opening date	5 November 2020
Closing date	28 January 2021
Applicants informed of decision	8 March 2021
Funding commences	From 1 April 2021

Application Process

- Applications should be made using the accompanying form. Do not exceed the indicated section limits, and use **Arial size 11**. Do not alter document or section margins.
- Applicants may apply for a scholarship for either part-time or full-time PhD study, but the award must cease on or before to **31 March 2024**, and no extension can be considered.
- Once completed, the **application** should be saved as a pdf file. The application, the accompanying budget spreadsheet, the applicant's academic record, proof of acceptance into a PhD programme, and proof of a scholarship/award supporting the current PhD should be submitted before **midday 28 January 2021** to: ageingwell@otago.ac.nz
- Submission of the application will be taken by the Ageing Well Challenge to indicate that **host institution approval** has been given for the application. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that this in place prior to submission.

Assessment Process

Two assessment panels will be formed; one to consider Māori Prestigious Scholarship applications, and the other to consider Pacific Prestigious Scholarship applications. Panel members will have expertise in ageing research, and Māori or Pacific research approaches.

We reserve the right to invite some or all applicants for interview, to assist the assessment panels in their recommendations.

Applications will be assessed against three criteria, see below, with each criterion being scored from 1-7.

Recommendations from the assessment panels will be presented to the Ageing Well Governance Group, who will make the final decisions. The Challenge Directorate will then initiate contract discussions with the host institution of each successful applicant.

Assessment criteria and scoring

Criteria	Scoring components	Weighting
Excellence of applicant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • leadership potential • previous and current service/engagement with Māori or Pacific communities • academic and research record 	50%
Excellence of project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • significance of the research topic • quality of the research plan, including innovation • suitability of the research environment, including supervision, mentoring and collaboration 	25%
Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • alignment of the proposed research to the mission of the Ageing Well Challenge, in relation to Māori or Pacific peoples • engagement with relevant communities and stakeholders in the research 	25%

Each criterion will be scored on a **7 point scale**, with point descriptors shown in the following table

Score	Descriptor	Score	Descriptor
1	Poor	5	Very good
2	Unsatisfactory	6	Excellent
3	Adequate	7	Exceptional
4	Good		

Funding conditions

All applicants are required to accept any terms and conditions relating to the award. Further information is available on request, but these conditions mostly relate to:

- providing evidence of ethical approval to the relevant Research Office (if relevant to the project)
- producing six-monthly research progress reports against project milestones
- completing a final report at the end of the funding period
- complying with Challenge and the University of Otago's (as Challenge Contractor) financial and reporting processes.

Completing the application template

Project title: provide the title of your PhD research (160 characters maximum).

Lay summary: provide a 150 word (maximum) summary. The summary should use plain language and cover the applicant's background, the research objectives and general research plan, and the potential outcomes or benefits of the research.

Māori or Pacific Peoples leadership and engagement: one page maximum. Briefly describe your whakapapa and any involvement you have in Māori or Pacific cultural or community activities. Describe any previous leadership or research engagement relevant to Māori or Pacific Peoples.

Career plans: one page maximum. Briefly describe your background and career plans; specifically describe how this Scholarship will support your career plans.

Project summary: one page maximum. The summary should provide the rationale for the research, the project aims and objectives, the research plan and principal methodologies, and the potential outcomes in relation to Māori and/or Pacific Peoples' ageing.

Proposed research: four pages maximum. Use the subheadings to describe the research background and rationale, the research hypothesis (if relevant), aims and objectives, the research plan and methods, the significance and potential outcomes from the research (being sure to indicate specifically how the work aligns with the mission of the Ageing Well National Science Challenge), and the plans for dissemination and sharing the outcomes from the research. Provide information on planned, ongoing, or completed engagement with Māori and/or Pacific Peoples' participants and communities in relation to the research.

References: one page maximum. Provide references cited in the Proposed Research section. If you are referencing your own work, place an asterisk beside your publication(s).

Applicant's CV: please complete the requested fields. No additional documents need be attached.

Budget: please complete the table specifying your requested stipend support (up to 50% of your current PhD stipend, dependant on allowable additional stipend from existing scholarship funder). Please confirm with your existing scholarship funder the additional stipend amount that can be received.

Attachments: in this section, please insert scans of the following documents:

1. a signed copy of your academic transcript
2. evidence of your acceptance into a PhD programme
3. evidence of award of a PhD scholarship, and confirmed additional stipend amount that can be received (for example, a letter from your Scholarships or Research Office)
4. a signed letter from your Head of Department, indicating support for your application
5. a signed letter from your primary supervisor, indicating support from your application and how the research fits within the team's research directions