

Research Scholarship Information Sheet 2026/27

The Tūpuna Maunga Authority has established this scholarship as a product of the [Tūpuna Maunga Education Strategy](#).

The scholarship applies to research that aligns with the Tūpuna Maunga Values, that enhances and protects the mauri and wairua of the Tūpuna Maunga.

From 2026, the Tūpuna Maunga Authority has partnered with the Māori Education Trust (MET) to increase funding for the Research Scholarship to \$20,000 annually. MET is the largest national scholarship provider for Māori secondary and tertiary students and has awarded 65,000 scholarships since 1963.

All details about the scholarship, including an overview of the Tūpuna Maunga Values can be found in the [application portal](#).

Who is eligible?

- You must be a member of a research or education institution.
- You must be a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident
- Your research must align with the Tūpuna Maunga Authority Research Policy (refer to maunga.nz/research/ for details)
- Applications are open to research from a range of fields, including conservation, archaeology, creative arts, urban planning, design, applied sciences, social sciences, cultural heritage, business, and commercial studies.
- Open to both new and ongoing research projects.

How much funding is available?

- Applicants can apply for up to \$10,000.

Application details

This year's scholarship application round is open on **29 June and closes 11:59pm, 30 August 2026**. Funding will be available from November 2026.

Applications are submitted via [SmartyGrants](#)



Key Dates

- 29 June 2026 - Applications open
- 30 August 2026 – Applications close
- November 2026 – All applicants notified, and funding made available.
- December 2026 – June 2027 – Scholarship period
- June 2027 - Final report due

Expectations

- Bi-monthly check-ins required with the Tūpuna Maunga Authority research scholarship lead.
- Final report submitted to the Tūpuna Maunga Authority management team.

About the Tūpuna Maunga Authority

The Tūpuna Maunga (ancestral mountains) hold a paramount place in the historical, spiritual, ancestral, and cultural identity of the thirteen iwi and hapū of Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau (the Māori tribes of Auckland).

The Tūpuna Maunga Authority is the statutory authority established under the Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau Collective Redress Act 2014 to govern the fourteen Tūpuna Maunga (ancestral mountains) of Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland.

Contact us:

Email maungaevents@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz for any questions about the Tūpuna Maunga Authority Research Scholarship or assistance with applications.

More information

- [Tūpuna Maunga Authority website](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Approved projects list](#)
- [Research Policy](#)
- [Integrated Management Plan](#)
- [About Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau](#)
- [Previous scholarship recipients](#)



Appendices:

Appendix 1: Mana Whenua Partnership and Cultural Competency

The Tūpuna Maunga are sacred to mana whenua as taonga tuku iho (treasures handed down the generations). As such, research projects are expected to meaningfully engage, collaborate and positively impact Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau.

Applicants are expected to display cultural competency in their application. This includes demonstrating an understanding of mana whenua of Tāmaki Makaurau and how your project will impact and/or interest them. Please describe previous engagement with mana whenua if relevant to your application.

Applicants will be asked to explain how mana whenua are partnered with or included in their projects. Examples of this can be; that the project is led by mana whenua, that there is mana whenua involvement in the project concept and design, or that there is mana whenua participation in some aspect of the project.

If there is no inclusion of mana whenua in your project, please explain your understanding of the significance of the Tūpuna Maunga to mana whenua, and how this understanding will enable you to engage with the Tūpuna Maunga in accordance with tikanga.

Appendix 2: What can be applied for

Each applicant can apply for up to \$10,000. A description of how funds will be used for the project must be included in each application. Funding can be used for:

- Transport costs
- Koha for interviews / engagement
- Research costs (archives, libraries, etc)
- Presentation of research
- Software licenses
- Research materials

Appendix 3: Preparing your application

When preparing your application, ensure that your writing is clear and well laid out, with appropriate spacing and consistent font size.

Applications can be written in both English and Te Reo Māori. When writing in English, plain language is encouraged.

When completing your application, you will be able to attach supporting documentation. Documentation can include, but is not limited to:



- Letters of support
- CV's
- Examples of previous research projects

Things to consider before submitting your application:

- Is my central idea well-explained and simple to understand?
- Does my project provide benefit to the Tūpuna Maunga?
- Do I have an understandable methodology?
- Is my explanation of funding use logical and detailed?

Appendix 4: Application evaluation process

All applications are assessed against the following criteria:

- Alignment with Tūpuna Maunga Values
- Project Details and Feasibility
- Mana Whenua Partnership and Cultural Competency
- Impact and Outcomes

Appendix 5: Expectations and Benefits

Recipients of the Tūpuna Maunga Authority are expected to contribute to the wellbeing of the Tūpuna Maunga, both through projects and research, as well as positive behaviour. This looks like:

- When physically interacting with the Tūpuna Maunga, doing so safely and respectfully, and in line with Tūpuna Maunga Authority permitting conditions.
- Acknowledging the Tūpuna Maunga Authority in any published research relating to the Tūpuna Maunga.
- Completing a final report (template provided) on project outcomes and your experience as a scholarship recipient.

Pastoral care is built into the scholarship. Recipients will have the opportunity to:

- Meet with the Tūpuna Maunga Authority kaimahi for kai and whakawhanaungatanga.
- Attend monthly or bimonthly check-ins with the Tūpuna Maunga Authority scholarship lead, to provide updates on the progress of the project and access support where needed.
- Direct communication with the scholarship lead throughout the scholarship period (December 2026 – June 2027).
- Become a part of the wider Tūpuna Maunga Authority network, and opportunities for future engagement.

