

GUIDELINES

Transdisciplinary Ideation Fund 2023

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1. Purpose of the Transdisciplinary Ideation Fund (TIF)

The purpose of the TIF is to cultivate cross-faculty and transdisciplinary collaborations and generate new projects that respond to the four priority areas identified within Taumata Teitei: Leading transition to sustainable ecosystems; improving health and wellbeing for all; advancing just, cultured and engaged communities; innovating contemporary, distributed, secure knowledge systems.

- Identify common topics and commonalities across multiple disciplinary areas and provide a mechanism for disciplinary interactions
- Facilitate communication between interdisciplinary and diverse stakeholders that work together to tackle complex national and global challenges
- Build cross-faculty/institute collaborative teams that work towards new project ideas
- Develop and enhance research connections and collaborations across the University and with external stakeholders
- Generate new project ideas that address major policy issues facing Aotearoa
- Facilitate formation of cross-faculty teams that can work towards major funding rounds.

This funding is intended to support an increase in:

- Cross-faculty collaboration and transdisciplinary research, including increased engagement with external stakeholders and communities
- The number of Māori and Pacific Island and early career researchers involved in significant research projects and
- The number of successful multidisciplinary applications to major funding rounds from cross-faculty teams.

2. Transdisciplinary Research

Transdisciplinary research is defined by the integration of academic researchers from unrelated disciplines and non-academic participants in creating new knowledge and theory to achieve a common goal. The [OECD \(2020\)](#) presents six defining characteristics:

1. A wide breadth/diversity of interdisciplinarity
2. Deep disciplinary integration
3. A high degree/quality of interaction with non-academic participants
4. A diverse composition of non-academic partnerships
5. Early participatory engagement
6. Diverse types of knowledge

3. Funding Guidelines

Applications to the fund can apply for Small Grants (\$10,000–\$20,000) or Large Grants (\$20,000–\$60,000). Applications for Small Grants should use the shorter Small Grants Form and show how their proposed project lays a foundation for growth over time. Applications for Large Grants should use the Large Grant form and show how their proposed project achieves tangible growth towards a sustainable research initiative.

Awards may be used to fund relevant costs, including:

- Facilitation of cross-faculty collaboration and external collaboration
- High quality, policy-driven, transdisciplinary projects likely to lead to success in a major external funding round
- Bid writing
- High quality projects aligned to [Taumata Teitei – Vision 2030 and Strategic Plan 2025](#)
- Direct research costs
- Impact and public engagement initiatives to support the achievement of the research goal, e.g.
 - Attending conferences or exhibitions to identify market demand and user requirements
 - Running networking events, exploratory meetings or workshops with research beneficiaries
 - Public engagement to expand reach and increase sustainability
 - Engagement with Iwi, Hapu and other Māori organisations to support the co-design and co-creation of research
 - Building public partnerships
 - Engagement with Pacific peoples and communities
 - Meetings with politicians and policymakers to discuss research
 - Connect academics across disciplines to provide integrated expertise to policymakers
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4. Restrictions on Funding

- Capital expenditure and indirect or overhead costs will not be supported by this fund.
- This fund may not be used to support Applicant Team members (PIs and Co-PIs) as the fund is not intended for salary support/teaching buyout for academics who are permanently employed.
- Stipends and tuition fees for postgraduate students will also not be funded.

5. Eligibility

- Applications must include researchers from **at least two Faculties / LSRI**s, and evidence the transdisciplinary aspects of the research.
- Application Teams should be a diverse mix of early career researchers, as well as established researchers where possible.
- Applicants must be members of the academic staff, employed by the University of Auckland, and have an employment contract that specifies that they must undertake research.
- Staff members employed on fixed term or part time contracts are eligible to apply as a PI on the Applicant Team provided that:
 - The duration remaining of their contract is sufficient to complete the project or initiative;
 - Their appointment is 0.5 FTE or greater.

If there is uncertainty about a staff member's eligibility, the Associate Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) will decide the issue.

6. Assessment Criteria Applications will be assessed on:

- Quality of the proposal
- Alignment with University strategy as set out in [Taumata Teitei – Vision 2030 and Strategic Plan 2025](#)
- Degree of transdisciplinarity following the definition above (in Section 2 Transdisciplinary Research)
- Responsiveness to the principles of Vision Mātauranga
- Alignment with government priorities and major policy issues facing New Zealand
- Diversity of the Applicant Team (i.e., a diverse mix of applicants from at least two faculties/LSRIs and a mix of early career and established researchers)
- Potential to lead to success in a major external funding round

The Assessment Panel will have due regard for the University's equity policies when making its decisions.

7. Final Reports

Successfully funded teams will be asked to submit a brief report on the project or initiative within three months after the end date of the award. The template for this report can be found on the ResearchHub [Transdisciplinary Ideation Fund page](#).

The report will include:

- A copy of the project summary and objectives from the proposal
- A description of how the project has met the objectives set out in the proposal
- A report on expenditure against budget
- A report on progress against each of the deliverables included in the proposal

8. Selection Panel

A Selection Panel, chaired by the Associate Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) and comprised of ADRs and representatives from ORSI and UniServices, will assess all applications.

This Panel will make recommendations for funding to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) who will make the final determination on the allocation of all funding.

9. Variations

Funds awarded may not be spent on purposes other than those detailed in the application and approved by the Associate Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research). Where unforeseen and exceptional circumstances arise that impact on the planned research expenditure, the Applicant Team should make an application for a variation via the Faculty/LSRI Associate Dean Research. Proposed changes in expenditure should be in keeping with the aims and outcomes outlined in the original application.

Project expenditure must occur between the approved start and end dates and the timing of expenditure should match the approved budget for each calendar year of the award. Unspent funds at the end of each calendar year cannot be carried forward unless a variation has been approved.

10. Other Matters

- It is expected that all relevant University policies will be followed in relation to projects funded and the expenditure of these funds.
- These funds are subject to periodic audit under the University's audit policies and procedures.

- If the Applicant Team wishes to sub-contract any part of the funding to another entity or entities, this will require approval by the Associate Deputy Vice Chancellor Research or delegated authorised nominee, which may be sought through a written request via the Office of Research Strategy and Integrity internalawards@auckland.ac.nz

11. Timing and Submission

Please submit applications to internalawards@auckland.ac.nz using the application and budget templates on [ResearchHub](#) and via InfoEd by 5pm on 30 October 2023.

12. Assistance with the Application Process

Assistance with the preparation of your funding application is available from your Faculty Research Services Manager or their delegated nominee in FIRST.