


Te Niwaha

**Māori Studentship
Application Guide 2025**



Should you have any pātai [questions] please don't hesitate to contact us:

Te Niwha, Infectious Diseases Research Platform
Email: teniwha@otago.ac.nz

Kia niwha te ngaakau ki te whakauu i ngaa mahi atawhai i te iwi

Be brave and immovable to do the best for the people.

- *Kiingi Taawhiao*

Our name: Te Niwha is drawn from this Tongikura of Kiingi Taawhiao.

It encourages and reminds us all, to be steadfast in our shared pursuit of ensuring we build world-class research capability in Aotearoa, New Zealand for pandemic preparedness and emerging threats and current infectious diseases.

We encourage our emerging infectious disease research leaders to be brave and immovable in their academic pursuits with these scholarships.

People Leadership

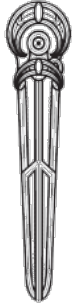
A distinguishing aspect of Te Niwha is our Kawenata [Charter]. The Kawenata contains our guiding principles and values and as such is embedded within all our mahi. We are committed to building capability in research as is our Mission.

Te Niwha will build capability across three key priority areas: Training, Collaboration and importantly our People.

- For our People priority area – Te Niwha are investing in fifty [50] studentships, scholarships and fellowships to build world-class researchers.
- Investing in Training Priorities – Across our lifetime, Te Niwha and our partners will deliver a range of workshops that will strengthen technical skill, support researchers to develop cultural confidence and build community connections.
- Supporting Mahi Tahi Collaborations – Te Niwha will support the establishment and facilitation of research Mahi Tahi hubs across a range of disciplines and interests.

Te Niwha Documents

Over the following pages, you will find our Kawenata [Charter] and our Research Priorities Areas. Familiarise yourself with these. They guide the mahi that Te Niwha does and what we invest in. We have put these ahead of the information about the studentship as they will support you in submitting your application and help align to the Vision and Mission of Te Niwha.



Te Kawenata o Te Niwha

Te Niwha Charter

Te Whakakitenga | Vision

Aotearoa New Zealand's response to current, ongoing and emerging infectious disease threats is characterised domestically and internationally as a strong, prepared and unified network.

Te Ahunga | Mission

To ensure Aotearoa New Zealand has world-class research capability to support our preparedness for current and future infectious disease challenges.

Te Tuatahi | Article One

Kāwanatanga | Governorship

Obligation to protect Māori rights

- Representation & kaitiakitanga
- Structural mechanisms
- Decision-making partnership

Te Tuarua | Article Two

Tino Rangatiratanga | Self-Determination

Māori exercising authority over their affairs

- Engaged, involved
- Capacity & capability building
- Design & implementation

Te Tuatoru | Article Three

Ōritetanga | Equity

Protection and rights

- Equitable outcomes
- Tikanga & kawa
- Mana enhancement & due regard

A tātou Mātāpono | Our Principles

Tiakitanga | Accountability

We are accountable to those involved in or affected by the conduct of our research.

Hononga | Relationships

Our connection to each other, through shared work and experience, provides a sense of belonging.

Tūhonotanga | Partnerships

We commit to healthy relationships that are transparent, positively impactful and honourable.

Rangatiratanga | Leadership

We bring people together, encouraging participation, and developing future leaders.

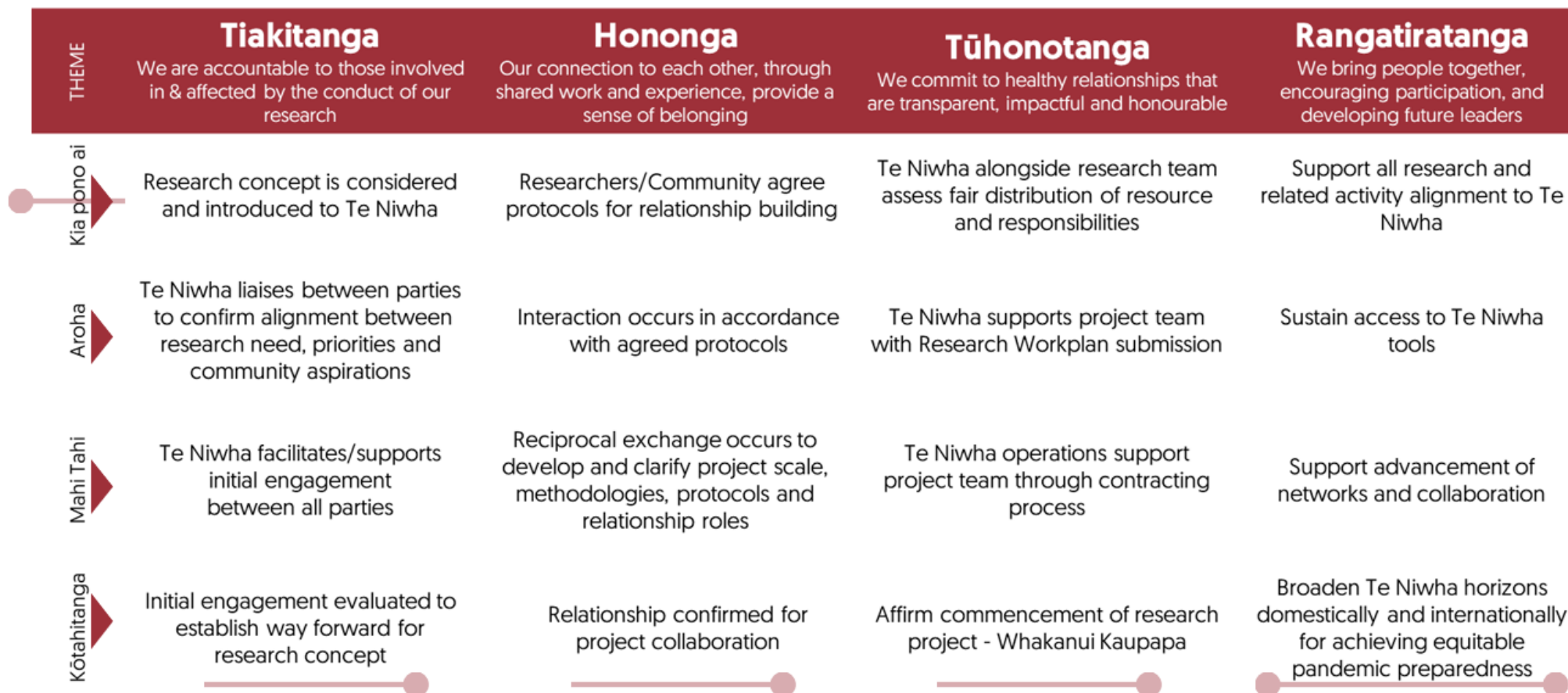
Ngā Tikanga | Our Values

Kia pono ai Integrity	Actively strive for research excellence, demonstrate the highest standards of behaviour and foster a culture of integrity.	Understand the impact of your role and relationship within the research ecosystem.	Partner with tāngata tiriti, tāngata whenua, where we undertake rangahau for whom there are reasonably foreseeable direct impacts.	Act with honesty and transparency. Disclose and manage conflicts of interest. Acknowledge those who have contributed and acknowledge relevant work by others.
Aroha Respect & compassion	Understand and implement all ethical, tikanga, kawa, and regulatory requirements and standards.	Reach into Mana Whenua and communities when undertaking rangahau to recognise their mana and respect their interests, aspirations and priorities.	Exhibit respect for individuals and communities. Nurture cultural confidence through an appreciation of diversity of thought and values.	Reflect on the consequences of research for communities. Disseminate results and findings and feedback findings to communities.
Mahi tahi Collaboration	Behave with openness, honesty, professionalism, responsibility and integrity to safeguard the health, safety, wellbeing and rights of communities.	Actively seek collaboration with partners across different disciplines, organisations, and diverse communities.	Engage in bi-directional learning to advance and enhance the benefit of collaborations	Ensure partnerships contribute to building capacity by supporting the development of future research leaders.
Kotahitanga Unity	Use appropriate methodologies that are collaboratively designed and collaboratively delivered with research partners.	Acknowledge the expertise and disciplines of research partners and communities.	Seek to understand, learn and appreciate the aspirations of all partners.	Lead and influence to ensure the health and wellbeing of our communities are supported by everyone.

Te Niwha Research Priority Areas

THEME	Prevention	Surveillance	Diagnostics	Therapeutics	Te Ao Māori
DESCRIPTION	Resilient, thriving communities: Empowered communities and whaanau as champions of Infectious Diseases Prevention, Management and Control	High Quality Systems: Detection, Monitoring and Alert tools ensure timely, sensitive, specific, accurate, informed decision-making for response configuration and activation	Essential diagnostic infrastructure and access to innovative tools across ID prevention/control, management and response points.	Infectious disease therapeutics are known and used appropriately in a timely way to provide clinical benefit	Supporting pathways to Mana Motuhake: Unlocking Maori Matauranga Maori research, science and innovation
SUB-THEMES	Community understanding	Surveillance and Genomic Tools	Essential & Innovative diagnostic tools	Stewardship of infectious diseases therapeutics	Rongoaa Maaori
	Community Settings	Detection & Notification	Characteristics of emerging pandemics	Therapeutic Resistance	Tikanga/Kawa
	Knowledge Foundation		Niche Diagnostics explored	Innovation Contribution	Capacity
OUTCOMES	Behavioural, social and health education approaches to infectious disease prevention in communities Evaluation of Health System to identify key gaps to achieving the Te Niwha Mission for pandemic preparedness and emerging infectious disease threats	Surveillance tools are validated for effectiveness and scale and cohort approaches to wastewater are explored Surveillance system supports the watchlist of early and emerging pathogens, sero surveillance systems are streamlined and integrated Expansion of routine infectious diseases collection for notifiable and non-notifiable ID	Essential Diagnostic tools are validated and standardised for infectious diseases and the characteristics of emerging pandemics are understood Horizons for niche diagnostics are understood	Understanding of Anti-microbial resistance and ensuring therapeutic availability for all Understand the benefits of an accessible platform collating standardised susceptibility and resistance data across One Health Explore Novel treatments	Rongoa Māori solutions for infectious diseases are identified, tested and appropriately validated. Tikanga and Kawa infectious diseases are documented explored and validated Build Māori research capability and capacity to support current and future preparedness in infectious diseases

Te Niwha Framework



The **Te Niwha Framework** describes how we navigate through Te Niwha starting at Tiakitanga.

- We start with **Tiakitanga** - *Accountability* in how we consider our research, those that must be involved and how we consider our conduct before commencing.
- **Hononga** - *Relationships* follow the process as we support to connect researchers and communities together with agreed protocols and design processes.
- Our **Tūhonotanga** - *Partnerships* are then formalised as we commit to implementing our project.
- **Rangatiratanga** - *Leadership* is an enduring step forward that calls on us all as research leaders in how we strengthen our world-class research capability, develop future leaders, maintain our relationships and honour our collaborative partnerships.

Te Niwha Mātauranga Excellence Domains

Whainga Objective	Kia Tupu To Grow	Kia Hua To Prosper	Kia Pūawai To Flourish
Ahua Character	Tikanga/ Kawa Directed	Kaupapa Dissemination	Intergenerational Contributions
Tūtohu Indicators	Tikanga and Kawa is privileged and appropriately applied according to mahi rangahau ā rohe, ā whenua me ngā tāngata.	The use of Kaupapa forums and mechanisms to disseminate findings and results of rangahau	Collective responsibility for rangahau that demonstrates an intergenerational approach.
	Documentation of tikanga and kawa dimensions as an ethics and methodological pathway in alignment with the Te Niwha Kawenata principles	The attendance of relevant whānau, marae, hapū, iwi membership within such forums	Outcomes from rangahau have direct, describable and tangible outcomes to whānau, marae, hapū and iwi relevant to ngā tāngata rangahau (research population).
	Appropriate mandates and support are sourced and enacted to ensure mahi rangahau (research projects).	Kairangahau are able to recall and track the propagation of dissemination across relevant settings and tāngata.	Mahi rangahau has rangatahi, pakeke and kaumātua guidance as is appropriate to the rangahau

Ngā Hirahira Mātauranga o Te Niwha draws on the notions of Mana Motuhake and Mana Whakahaere to lift and recognise (within the lane of infectious diseases), Mātauranga Excellence. The initial call from early platform development engagement to reach beyond traditional measures for scientific success also supports this Excellence framework. Mātauranga Excellence is distributed across three domains of Te Ao Māori and is an acknowledgement to the purpose of the Vision Mātauranga Policy and Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

- **Kia Tupu:** goes beyond stating kaupapa Māori approaches but calls for a Tikanga and kawa approach that is drawn from the rohe of where the rangahau takes place.
- **Kia Hua:** enables and encourages dissemination within and through Māori forums where most appropriate to reach audiences
- **Kia Puawai:** encourages intergenerational roles and responsibilities to be attached to projects to draw on mātauranga and to encourage succession planning.

Overview: Te Niwha Summer Studentships

Description	Detail
Application Method	Electronic submission
Submissions closing date	1 August 2025, 5 pm
Tenure:	8 weeks during summer break or the same equivalent time part-time over the term time (in agreement with supervisor and host organisation)
Studentships on offer	Māori Te Niwha Summer Studentships
Value:	<u>\$ 8, 000 stipend per studentship</u>

Eligibility

The Te Niwha summer studentship is designed to support students to undertake a brief research study, gain research skills, contribute to a current research project that is related to infectious diseases across a range of disciplines including Public Health, Medicine and Sciences.

Student Selection

Successful candidates will be in their final year of an undergraduate Public Health, Pharmacy or science related degree. Te Niwha will also consider students in year 2-3 of Medicine. Assessment will consider the students potential shown from study results, career aspirations, as well as the quality of their intended project and supervision.

Student supervision

Supervisors should be committed to supervising the student through to their completion, have exceptional infectious diseases research experience and academic supervision.

Submission Assessment

Summer studentship applications will be assessed by the Te Niwha Directorate and may be supported in their assessment by experts in the field.



Te Tuhinga Karahipi - Te Niwha Studentship

Kupu Tohutohu - Guidance

This table provides guidance for each section.

1. Student Information Here we are asking for your student details.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please ensure the name you write here is your <u>enrolled</u> name. - We are asking for <u>your</u> email address and contact phone number. - You must select what research priority your studentship can be best categorised under. <u>Please refer to the Te Niwha Research Priority Areas if you are unsure.</u> - Note the degree are you <u>currently</u> enrolled under and what year you are <u>now</u>. - We ask for Ethnicity because this is not always captured, and it is essential for Te Niwha to see where we are achieving equity and what support Te Niwha can additionally offer your project. - We ask for Iwi affiliation so that we may ensure we are supporting the aspirations of iwi and to acknowledge the leadership and whakapapa specifically.
2. Summer Project Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tell us the name of your summer studentship project. - When will your project start and finish. You have 8 weeks in which to complete your project, or if you and your supervisor agree on an alternative arrangement (like part time during term time), please add details here. - If your project requires ethics approval, please let us know if you have this already or give us the date in which it will be obtained by.
3. Supervisor Information	<p>Please note your supervisor's name and their department. If you have will have a secondary supervisor, please provide their details also. Note it is not a requirement to have a secondary supervisor.</p>
4. Research Project Proposal	<p><u>Abstract</u> – We ask you to succinctly describe your project in 250 words or less.</p> <p><u>Brief Review of field of the proposed project</u> – We would like to know about the field/discipline of your proposed project.</p> <p><u>Proposed Project</u> – Briefly tell us the details of your project. What is it that you will be doing over the 8 weeks of your project. Include milestones – List the main points you aim to achieve during the 8 weeks.</p> <p><u>Research Interests</u> – Tell us about you. Why do you want to do this studentship? Why a Te Niwha studentship? What interests you about infectious diseases? What are your future plans?</p>
5. Alignment to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Te Tiriti o Waitangi - Te Niwha Mission - Te Niwha Charter - Pacific Peoples 	<p>On page 5 of this guide is the Te Niwha Kawenata/Charter. This Charter was developed with support and input across the sector. It is essential that Te Niwha studentships align their project to the guidance of the Charter, Te Tiriti and the Te Niwha Mission.</p> <p>Please contact the Te Niwha team if you require support with this section. The virtual information session will also provide details for this section.</p>
6. Design Principles	<p>We ask here to consider the Te Niwha Principles and what the project currently has and what support is required. There are no wrong or right answers here. We want to genuinely understand what support you may need to complete your project successfully.</p> <p>Have a read through the Charter if you get stuck. If you do get stuck – please ask your supervisor for support or feel free to contact the Te Niwha team. The virtual information session will also provide details for this section.</p>