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**CALL FOR INTERNSHIP PROJECT PROPOSALS FROM  
SUPERVISING NPM RESEARCHERS  
New Horizons Summer Internships 2026/27  
Borrin Legal Summer Internships 2026/27**

**Opens 25 May - Closes 19 June 2026**

The Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga Māori (NPM) Futures Programme supports promising Māori students interested in pursuing a career in research to work under the mentorship of a senior Māori researcher. The Programme aims at growing tomorrow's Māori leaders in knowledge production, foundational to building a flourishing future for Māori.

Our internship programme is a long-standing, successful strategy to achieve this goal. Some of our interns have pursued doctoral and post-doctoral studies; found academic or professional research roles in organisations like Universities and Crown Research Institutions; or founded their own research consultancies.

**Purpose**

The **New Horizons Summer Internships 2026/27** award assists Māori students enrolled at a NPM tertiary education partner entity to work under the supervision and guidance of an excellent NPM Māori researcher based at any NPM partner entity, in order to gain research experience and increase their research skills.

The **Borrin Legal Summer Internship** award supports Māori students with a strong interest in law, justice, and social equity to develop advanced research skills under the guidance of an expert Māori legal researcher. Projects must have a strong legal focus, ideally addressing justice, rights, equity, or the role of law in Aotearoa New Zealand; align with the Borrin Foundation's vision for a just, inclusive, and rights-respecting society; and contribute to NPM's mission to create the foundations for flourishing Māori futures.

Interns will participate in the online NPM Māori Futures programme during the tenure of their award to support their research skills development.

**Term**

2 Borrin Legal and 10 New Horizons summer internships will be available for the December 2026 - February 2027 summer period.

**Eligibility**

Any NPM researcher (supervisor) based at a NPM Partner entity can submit a proposal to host and supervise an intern over the internship period.

The internship period starts on 30 November 2026 and finishes on 15 February 2027, with a one-week break from 22 to 28 December 2026.

The project activities will be tailored to pre-doctoral upper-level undergraduate (Bachelor) or post-graduate (Master) Māori students enrolled at a NPM tertiary education partner entity in 2026. Projects will be advertised in a competitive call for students.

### **Value**

\$7,500 NZD per award, paid in two instalments directly to the intern.

### **Project specifics**

The internship proposal is for a research activity usually associated with a larger project or programme of research being led by the applying researcher.

Examples of research activities are a literature review, designing a survey, assisting with data collection, analysis of an existing data set, or engaging in a collaborative academic writing exercise. In addition, projects should meet the following requirements.

- Internship activities need to be achievable within the ten-week internship period.
- The focus of an internship research activity should be aligned with the NPM Matakitega research framework, available [here](#). The Priority Areas for the Matakitega Research Framework are attached as Appendix 2 to the Application Form.
- The intern will be supervised by the supervising researcher who proposed the internship. Interns are expected to be actively engaged with a team of researchers.
- Any proposed internship activities requiring ethical approval must have this in place prior to commencement of the internship, with a copy of ethical approvals submitted to NPM.
- Research expenses (e.g., consumables, travel costs) should be considered at the time of proposing the internship research activity and the supervising researcher should plan for these expenses to be met.

The stipend is valued at \$7,500 and will be paid in two equal instalments of \$3,750 directly to the intern. The first instalment will be approved for payment at the beginning of the Raumatī programme, subject to the intern submission of required documents, including the internship workplan, signed by their supervisor. The final instalment will be approved for payment on completion of all internship requirements and receipt by the NPM secretariat of all associated outputs/reports.

Internship projects meeting the eligibility criteria will be advertised to Māori students on the Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga website and through social media channels.

### **Call for students: dates and process**

Any student enrolled at an NPM tertiary education partner entity may apply for an advertised summer internship.

Internships are competitive and for this reason we ask student applicants to indicate their first, second and third choice of internship projects.

Once we receive student applications, we determine the best match between advertised project and student interests. We then recommend the best match of student(s) to the supervising researcher.

Once confirmed, the intern is expected to begin their internship any time after the conclusion of the university exam period but no later than the week beginning **30 November 2026**.

### Intern reporting requirements

- The intern will provide a short mid-term progress report at the half-way point of the internship, approved by the supervising researcher, and submitted to the NPM Secretariat by **11 of January 2027**.
- As part of our support to students, all supervising researchers will be asked to support the intern to complete a) a career plan; and b) a wellness plan. These will be appended to the intern's mid-term progress report.
- The intern will provide a final report of the internship approved by the supervising researcher and submitted to the NPM Secretariat by **15 February 2027**. All associated outputs/reports should also be submitted at this time.
- Reports may be completed in te reo Māori on approval by the supervising researcher.

### Ideal student applicants:

- Are pre-doctoral senior undergraduate or post graduate Māori students enrolled in 2024 at an NPM tertiary education partner entity.
- Are available to fully engage in the internship experience.
- Are not employed, completing summer school or professional development activities for more than 10 hours per week.
- May be enrolled to complete a senior undergraduate special topic, post graduate dissertation or thesis as part of their internship.
- Are not holding any other internship award from any source.

### Timeline

Tuesday 26 May 2026	Call for supervisor projects announced
Friday 19 June 2026	Deadline for supervisor project applications
Monday 29 June 2026	Projects reviewed and announced to students
Monday 20 July 2026	Deadline for student applications
Mon, 24 August 2026	Supervisors advised of recommendations and confirmed acceptance
Mon, 14 September 2026	Students advised of the award
No later than the week of 30 November 2026	Internships begin
Mon, 11 January 2027	Student intern mid-term progress report submitted to NPM
Mon, 15 February 2027	Final reports submitted to NPM

For all enquiries, please contact us at  
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 Phone: 027 201 5407

## MATAKITENGA RESEARCH FRAMEWORK

NPM is funded by the Tertiary Education Commission as a Centre of Research Excellence (CoRE). The role of a CoRE is to encourage the development of excellent tertiary education-based research that is collaborative, strategically focused and creates significant knowledge transfer activities.

### **Pou Whaingā | Our Mission**

Our mission is to grow and enhance excellent Māori researchers and Māori-led research that together build the foundations for flourishing Māori futures. Te reo, tikanga and mātauranga, our vast network of Māori researchers, communities and partners in transformation define and distinguish Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga as New Zealand's Māori Centre of Research Excellence.

### **Matakitenga | We seek to**

- Cherish and celebrate flourishing Māori futures.
- Grow responsible economic and environmental relationships.
- Influence positive change for healthy and meaningful Māori lives.
- Nurture wise and ethical Māori technological transformations.
- Inspire Māori and Indigenous research and excellence.
- Connect with partners for impact and transformative change.

### **Pou Kura | Our Values**

#### *Rangatiratanga*

We lead with integrity and commitment to our people.

#### *Kaitiakitanga*

We care responsibly for each other, the planet and future generations.

#### *Manaakitanga*

We respect all life forces.

#### *Whanaungatanga*

We build genuine and meaningful relationships.

## **OUR RESEARCH**

NPM research solves real world challenges facing Māori in Māori-determined and inspired ways engendering sustainable relationships that grow the mana (respect and regard) and mauri (life essence) of the world we inhabit. The excellence and expertise of the NPM researcher network is organised by four Te Ao Māori knowledge and excellence Pae and four critical systems-oriented questions or Pātai. All our research contributes mātauranga-informed theories, models and evidenced solutions in response to our Pātai. Our Pātai serve to integrate and energise our programme and Pae to synthesize our research for next stage impact and outcomes.

The Pae and Pātai interact to produce our Matakitenga research framework. The framework is where mātauranga, science and practice coalesce to produce new knowledge and transformative outcomes. The framework identifies what it is we want to achieve or change.

### **Pae Ahurei**

#### *Living Uniquely*

Research to cherish and celebrate distinctively Māori futures.

### **Pae Ora**

#### *Living Well*

Research to influence positive change for healthy and meaningful lives.

### **Pae Tawhiti**

#### *Living Lightly*

Research that pursues responsible social, economic and environmental relationships.

### **Pae Auaha**

#### *Living Smartly*

Research that creates wise and ethical technological transformations.

### **Pātai Te Ao Māori**

How can te reo, tikanga and mātauranga continue to inform our futures?

### **Pātai Whānau**

How can whānau wellbeing be realised in everyday life?

### **Pātai Mauri**

How can mātauranga inform and drive sustainable and just societal practices?

### **Pātai Puāwai**

How can research be used transformatively to accelerate the achievement of flourishing Māori futures?