

# Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga Summer Internship Projects 2026/27

Published for student applications to NPM Summer Internship Projects only

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## 26-27INTPROJ 01: Harnessing Te Rā: Photon Splitting Solar Cells

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**Project Supervisor(s):** Mr Chase Zemke-Smith, Assoc. Prof. Nathaniel Davis

**Institution:** Te Herenga Waka – Victoria University of Wellington

**Project location:** Wellington, on site

### **Project summary:**

In Māori Mythology Māui and his brothers set out to harness the sun to elongate days. A key aspect in this story is how Māui taught his brothers what they needed to help him to succeed in his task. This project looks to emulate that notion via capability building and enhancing students' potential via a tuākana tēina model as we look to develop next generation solar cells and harness the sun in another way.

Most photovoltaic cells (PVs) are currently expensive to manufacture and exhibit a single absorption threshold. This means any excess energy is wasted and the maximum efficiency a PV can achieve is  $\approx 32\%$ . We have fabricated and patented a new hybrid material that consists of two components, an organic interlayer of molecules which can undergo singlet fission (SF) (an excitation multiplication process) sandwiched between 2D-layers of perovskite semiconductor material. The SF material transfers its multiple excitations to the perovskite material resulting in two excitations per high-energy photon received, increasing the maximum efficiency to 42%. Effectively we are creating photovoltaic cells that can split photons in half. Future work requires the exploration of our new material systems we have discovered and testing them as active materials in PV cells.

Our proposal involves facilitating Māori students to contribute to research in our labs with us, via fabrication and testing of next generation solar cells to help contribute to the future of Māori scientists.

### **Project team:**

This project is funded by the Dodd-Walls Centre, with Assoc. Prof. Nathaniel Davis as a PI. Mr Chase Zemke-Smith, a near-completion Māori PhD student with strong outreach and tutoring experience, will be full-time intern supervisor. We will work with a large team including DWC Deputy Director Māori – Katharina Ruckstuhl and Te Whai Ao Rōpū Māori. We are also working with MacDiarmid Māori advisors including Dr Pauline Harris and Kirsty Doyle, who have established connections with iwi, hapū, and Māori organisations focused on sustainability and future technologies

### **Ideal applicants:**

Anyone interested in Chemistry or Physics.

### **Programme of work to be carried out:**

Fabrication and characterisation of next generation solar cells.

### **Day to day nature of the work:**

Come into the lab make and measure solar cells, analyse the data, think of ways to improve them and repeat.

We will utilize a series of state-of-the-art characterization techniques to characterize our new devices on a structural and photophysical level:

- Synthesized organic molecules will be characterized by NMR and Mass spectrometry.
- 2D perovskite materials will be characterized structurally via XRD, SEM.
- Photophysical processes will be characterized with absorbance, emission, excitation measurements as well as time-resolved techniques such as transient absorption and time-resolved photoluminescence.

Our new PV devices will be characterized with current/voltage measurements under AM1.5g irradiance and spectrally resolved EQE measurements. An interconnected approach that involves material synthesis, optical and physical characterisation, and device fabrication will ensure results we meet our project aims ensuring we develop fundamental scientific knowledge but will pave a pathway to the direct application of our PV materials.

### **Research skills the intern will develop:**

Chase will carry out the majority of the research and we will bring in undergraduate or postgraduate Māori students via scholarship opportunities to help. While we can't expect students associated with this project to have advance chemistry training, the characterisations steps measuring our solar cells are safe and readily teachable to anyone with an interest in learning. This allows us to incorporate student researchers at any level (under Chase's guidance) into our overall project.

## 26-27INTPROJ 02: Tūturu: Indigenous Provenance, Authenticity, and AI Enabled Frameworks for Taonga and Natural Products in Aotearoa

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**Project Supervisor(s):** Dr Sarah-Kay Coulter

**Institution:** Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato – The University of Waikato

**Project location:** The project will primarily be undertaken online with regular supervision meetings.

### **Project summary:**

This summer internship is part of the Tūturu: Origins research programme, which explores how Māori-led approaches to provenance and authentication can better recognise and protect the authenticity, whakapapa, and cultural integrity of taonga and natural products. As Māori cultural and natural products increasingly circulate in national and global markets, questions of origin, trust, and verification are becoming more important, particularly in relation to digital systems, artificial intelligence, and emerging technologies.

The intern will be supervised by Dr. Sarah-Kay Coulter from Waikato University, whose work focuses on Indigenous History, Te Tiriti o Waitangi, Indigenous governance, and the protection of Māori knowledge systems. The project is part of a wider research programme developing a future pilot study planned for 2027. The internship is flexible and can be undertaken remotely from anywhere in Aotearoa, with regular online supervision and engagement.

The intern will undertake a structured programme of research activities, including a literature review of Māori, Indigenous, and international approaches to provenance, authentication, Indigenous Data Sovereignty, and artificial intelligence. They will also examine existing systems used in sectors such as pounamu, natural resources, mānuka, and Indigenous cultural products, and explore how Māori concepts such as whakapapa, kaitiakitanga, rangatiratanga, and mauri can inform new approaches to authenticity and trust. The research will include analysis of ethical issues relating to AI, data governance, and the protection of mātauranga Māori, and will contribute to a scoping report for a future pilot project.

The internship would suit students from Māori Studies, Law, Indigenous Development, Environmental Studies, Commerce, Information Systems, or related disciplines with an interest in Māori development, Indigenous innovation, or emerging technologies. Through this internship, students will develop skills in literature review, kaupapa Māori research approaches, policy and systems analysis, and academic writing. They will also gain experience in working with Indigenous data sovereignty frameworks and exploring how emerging technologies can be shaped in culturally grounded and ethical ways. Overall, the internship will contribute to building the foundations for Māori-led systems of provenance and authenticity that strengthen trust, protect taonga, and support flourishing Māori futures.

### **Project team:**

Dr. Sarah-Kay Coulter

### **Ideal applicants:**

This project would suit students from a range of disciplines including:

- Indigenous History
- Māori Studies
- Law
- Commerce and Innovation

- Environmental Studies
- Indigenous Development
- Information Systems
- Public Policy
- Geography
- Anthropology

### **Programme of work to be carried out:**

The intern will:

- Review Māori and Indigenous literature and sources relating to provenance, authenticity, traceability, and cultural authority
- Examine existing authentication approaches used for products such as pounamu, luxury goods, food products, natural resources, and Indigenous cultural products.
- Identify opportunities and challenges for Indigenous-led provenance systems in Aotearoa.
- Explore concepts such as whakapapa-based provenance, controlled disclosure, Indigenous Data Sovereignty, and protection of culturally sensitive information.
- Highlight several potential pilot case studies for future research.
- Contribute to a scoping report and pilot framework for the wider project.

### **Day to day nature of the work:**

- Literature review and exploration of emerging markets that need verification.
- Analysis of Indigenous and international provenance models.
- Identification and categorisation of high-value sectors where provenance is commercially and culturally important.
- Participation in regular supervision meetings.
- Preparation of summaries, briefing papers, and research outputs.
- Contribution to a draft research paper and pilot design framework.

### **Research skills the intern will develop:**

- Literature review methodologies.
- Kaupapa Māori research approaches.
- Indigenous Data Sovereignty concepts.
- Policy and regulatory analysis.
- Research synthesis and academic writing.
- Co-Develop research frameworks for emerging technologies and innovation.
- Translating research into practical pilot projects and future research programmes.

## 26-27INTPROJ03: Waka Ama ki te Ao

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**Project Supervisor(s):** Dr Jamie-Lee Rahiri

**Institution:** Waipapa Taumata Rau – The University of Auckland

**Project location:** Tāmaki Makaurau/Karāpiro Remote (online) component, so not restricted to interns based in Tāmaki/Karāpiro

### **Project summary:**

Waka Ama is one of Aotearoa New Zealand’s largest kaupapa Māori-led sporting movements, bringing together thousands of paddlers of all ages through a shared commitment to physical activity, culture, community, and wellbeing. Increasingly, Waka Ama is being recognised as more than a sport, providing opportunities to strengthen health, cultural identity, leadership, and connection. This summer internship will contribute to a research project exploring how Waka Ama supports hauora (wellbeing) and how Indigenous sporting environments can be used to inspire future generations of health professionals.

The intern will work with Dr Jamie-Lee Rahiri (General Surgeon, Senior Research Fellow, and L’Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Fellow) and a multidisciplinary team of Māori health researchers, clinicians, and community partners from Te Piringa Kōtuku, Tūhauora Medical Associates, and Waka Ama New Zealand. The internship will be based in Auckland, with travel to the 2027 Aotearoa New Zealand Waka Ama Sprint Nationals at Lake Karāpiro. At the event, the intern will assist with workforce development activities within the Hauora Hub, including engaging with tamariki, rangatahi, and whānau through interactive health and career activities.

The intern will also contribute to a qualitative research study exploring participant perspectives on the relationship between Waka Ama and health and wellbeing. Students with an interest in health sciences, medicine, public health, Māori health, psychology, sport and recreation, education, or related disciplines are encouraged to apply. Prior research experience is not essential. The intern will gain experience in kaupapa Māori research, qualitative research methods, health promotion, and science communication. They will also develop skills in data collection and analysis, teamwork, stakeholder engagement, and translating research findings for the Waka Ama community.

### **Project team:**

The student will work within a multidisciplinary team led by Dr Jamie-Lee Rahiri (General Surgeon and Senior Research Fellow), Dr Jason Tuhoē (General Practitioner and Māori Health Leader), Professor Matire Harwood (Professor of Māori Health and General Practitioner), and community partners from Waka Ama New Zealand, bringing expertise in Māori health, public health, clinical medicine, workforce development, and community engagement.

### **Ideal applicants:**

Students with an interest in medicine, health sciences, public health, Māori health, psychology, sport and recreation, education, or related disciplines. Applicants should have strong communication skills, enthusiasm for community engagement, and an interest in hauora Māori.

### **Programme of work to be carried out:**

The student will assist with workforce development activities at the Hauora Hub during the Aotearoa New Zealand Waka Ama Sprint Nationals and contribute to a qualitative study examining participant perspectives on the relationship between Waka Ama and hauora.

Activities will include participant engagement, data collection, data management, preliminary qualitative analysis, and dissemination activities.

### **Day to day nature of the work:**

The internship will involve a mixture of community-based fieldwork, event-based engagement, qualitative research activities, team meetings, literature review, and report writing. The intern will:

- Conduct a literature review on Waka Ama, Indigenous health promotion and workforce development
- Attend project orientation and research training
- Assist with preparation and delivery of Hauora Hub activities
- Participate in community engagement activities during the Waka Ama Sprint Nationals
- Support qualitative data management and organisation
- Contribute to preliminary qualitative analysis
- Assist with preparation of reports, presentations and dissemination materials
- Present a summary of findings to the research team and to Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga

### **Research skills the intern will develop:**

The intern will gain experience in qualitative research methods, kaupapa Māori health research, community engagement, health promotion, data collection and analysis, science communication, and research dissemination. They will also develop skills in teamwork, stakeholder engagement, and culturally responsive and safe research practice.

## **26-27INTPROJ 04: Urgent: What the Waitangi Tribunal's inquiries since 2024 might tell us about their ongoing constitutional function**

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**Project Supervisor(s):** Dr. Luke Fitzmaurice-Brown

**Institution:** Te Herenga Waka – Victoria University of Wellington

**Project location:** Ideally Te Whanganui a Tara, though could also be completed remotely.

### **Project summary:**

This project will examine the urgent inquiries conducted by the Waitangi Tribunal since 2024. It will look at the reports produced as a result of the increase in urgent inquiries, and analyse the findings of those reports, including the common themes across all of them. In doing so it will examine whether the recent increase in urgent inquiries constitutes a shift in the constitutional role of the Tribunal, and if so, what the implications of that shift might be, for Māori, and for te Tiriti o Waitangi more generally. The goal of the internships project will be to analyse the extent to which the Waitangi Tribunal's role has shifted in relation to the raft of anti-te Tiriti law and policy proposals progressed by the current government, by examining the common themes and trends in the Tribunal's reports since 2024. The internship output will be a short report on the Tribunal's urgent inquiries, which will form the basis for a longer-term project on the changing role of the Tribunal generally.

### **Project team:**

Dr. Luke Fitzmaurice-Brown

### **Ideal applicants:**

Postgraduate or senior undergraduate students with a strong interest in te Tiriti o Waitangi, ideally from a legal perspective, though students from other disciplines with strong te Tiriti o Waitangi analysis skills are welcome to apply.

### **Programme of work to be carried out:**

Researching and writing a report analysing the Tribunal's work since 2024, and the extent to which that represents a change from its previous work. The intern will conduct the following activities:

- Research on the volume and nature of urgent tribunal inquiries prior to 2024, compared with the volume and nature of those inquiries post-2024.
- Research on the nature, scope and legal basis for the Tribunal's urgent inquiry function.
- Summarise and analyse urgent Tribunal reports produced since 2024.
- Thematic analysis of key report findings since 2024.

### **Day to day nature of the work:**

Report reading and analysis, sociolegal research and analysis, report writing.

### **Research skills the intern will develop:**

Report reading and analysis, sociolegal research and analysis, report writing.

## **26-27INTPROJ05: Kia reo rua taku reo rorohiko Māori - Giving the Waikato-Maniapoto Māori Speech Synthesizer Tool an ability to speak English too**

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**Project Supervisor(s):** Prof. Te Taka Keegan

**Institution:** Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato – The University of Waikato

**Project location:** ideally in Hamilton, remote supervision may be considered

### **Project summary:**

Te reo Māori is one of Aotearoa New Zealand's three official languages, yet the voice technologies that increasingly shape our digital lives — virtual assistants, screen readers, and navigation systems — are overwhelmingly built by large technology companies outside New Zealand, using Māori language data scraped without community consent. This internship is part of a pioneering effort to change that, by developing voice AI owned and controlled by Māori communities themselves. The University of Waikato's Artificial Intelligence Institute has already built the world's first dialect-specific, community-owned synthetic voice for te reo Māori — a text-to-speech system trained on the voice of Ngaringi Katipa, a fluent speaker of the Waikato-Maniapoto dialect, held in guardianship by her three affiliated iwi. This internship will extend that voice into a bilingual Māori-English system that authentically reflects the code-switching patterns of everyday Māori speech — where speakers move fluidly between te reo Māori and English within the same conversation.

The intern will work directly under the supervision of Associate Professor Te Taka Keegan, co-director of the University of Waikato's Artificial Intelligence Institute and lead researcher behind the original voice model, alongside experienced researchers and Māori language experts. The intern will ideally be located in Hamilton, though remote supervision may be considered. Research activities will include designing bilingual recording scripts, managing recording sessions, cleaning and processing audio data, adapting phoneme rules for bilingual input, and retraining and evaluating the voice model.

Applicants should be third year Computer Science students with foundational programming skills and a willingness to learn speech synthesis and NLP technologies. An interest in te reo Māori and Māori digital sovereignty would be a strong advantage. The intern will develop practical skills in speech data collection and processing, neural text-to-speech development, and bilingual NLP — alongside a deep understanding of indigenous data sovereignty principles.

### **Project team:**

Professor Te Taka Keegan. In addition, a PhD student is working on the larger project, and researchers at the AI Institute will be able to provide support.

### **Ideal applicants:**

Third year Māori undergraduate students in Computer Science or a closely related discipline, with foundational programming skills and a genuine willingness to learn speech synthesis and NLP technologies. An interest in te reo Māori and Māori digital sovereignty would be an advantage.

### **Programme of work to be carried out:**

The intern will contribute equally across two workstreams:

**1. Data Collection and Preparation:** Working with the project team to design and execute a bilingual recording protocol with Ngaringi Katipa, capturing both monolingual English and code-switched Māori-

English speech. The intern will assist with cleaning, processing, and organising the resulting audio dataset for model training.

**2. Model Development and Testing:** Extending the existing Piper-based TTS architecture to handle bilingual input, including code-switching at both word and sentence levels. The intern will assist with retraining the model, evaluating outputs against quality benchmarks, and documenting the methodology for future replication by other iwi.

### **Day to day nature of the work:**

- **Literature review** — Survey existing research on bilingual and code-switching TTS systems, and low-resource language modelling, to inform the project's technical approach.
- **Recording protocol design** — Develop a comprehensive set of bilingual and code-switched recording scripts in collaboration with the project team and Ngaringi Katipa, covering both everyday speech patterns and edge cases.
- **Audio data collection** — Conduct and manage recording sessions with Ngaringi Katipa, ensuring consistent audio quality and speaker consent documentation throughout.
- **Data cleaning and processing** — Clean, segment, label, and organise raw audio recordings into a structured dataset ready for model training.
- **Phoneme rule adaptation** — Extend the existing eSpeak NG Māori phoneme rule set to handle English phonemes and bilingual code-switching patterns.
- **Model retraining** — Retrain the existing Piper-based TTS architecture on the expanded bilingual dataset.
- **Model evaluation** — Assess the retrained model against standard TTS benchmarks including word error rate, naturalness, and pronunciation accuracy, with input from fluent te reo Māori speakers where appropriate.
- **Technical documentation** — Produce a clear methodology report documenting all processes and decisions to support replication by other iwi communities.
- Regular check-ins and progress discussions with the supervising researcher.

### **Research skills the intern will develop:**

- Hands-on experience in speech data collection, annotation, and processing
- Practical skills in training and evaluating neural text-to-speech systems
- Understanding of phoneme-based approaches to low-resource language modelling
- Exposure to bilingual and code-switching NLP challenges
- Familiarity with open-source TTS architectures, particularly Piper
- Understanding of indigenous data sovereignty principles and community-owned AI development
- Technical documentation and research reporting skills

## 26-27INTPROJ 06: Quality Testing Large Volumes of Māori Language text

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**Project Supervisor(s):** Prof. Te Taka Keegan

**Institution:** Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato – The University of Waikato

**Project location:** University of Waikato, Hamilton

### **Project summary:**

Developing a large language model (LLM) for te reo Māori owned and controlled by Māori communities is a landmark goal for Māori digital sovereignty. A critical step is ensuring that large volumes of Māori language data in digital corpora are authentic, high quality, and free from machine-translated text. This internship will develop automated tools to assess te reo Māori text quality at scale, a foundational requirement for building a sovereign Māori LLM. The University of Waikato's Artificial Intelligence Institute holds approximately 30-40 million words of te reo Māori text drawn from corpora including HPLT, C4, and locally crawled collections. Without automated quality assessment tools, systematically evaluating this volume of data is not feasible. This internship will investigate and compare multiple NLP approaches to linguistic quality assessment and machine translation detection, developing robust, deployable tools based on the most effective methods.

The intern will work under the supervision of Associate Professor Te Taka Keegan, co-director of the University of Waikato's Artificial Intelligence Institute, alongside experienced researchers and Māori language experts providing ground-truth quality labelling. The intern will be based in Hamilton. Research activities will include exploring large te reo Māori corpora, collaborating with language experts to develop labelled datasets, implementing and comparing automated quality assessment approaches, and integrating effective methods into a unified pipeline.

Applicants should be third year Computer Science students with foundational programming skills and willingness to learn NLP and data quality assessment techniques. Experience with Python and an interest in te reo Māori and Māori digital sovereignty would be a strong advantage. The intern will develop practical skills in corpus exploration, automated text quality assessment, machine translation detection, and NLP pipeline development, alongside a deep understanding of indigenous data sovereignty principles.

### **Project team:**

Professor Te Taka Keegan. In addition, a PhD student is working on the larger project, and researchers at the AI Institute will be able to provide support.

### **Ideal applicants:**

Third year Māori undergraduate students in Computer Science or a closely related discipline, with foundational programming skills and a genuine willingness to learn NLP and data quality assessment techniques. Experience with Python and an interest in te reo Māori and Māori digital sovereignty would be a strong advantage.

### **Programme of work to be carried out:**

The intern will contribute across two workstreams, with a greater emphasis on linguistic quality assessment:

- 1. Linguistic Quality Assessment (primary):** Working with Māori language experts to develop ground-truth labelled examples of high and low quality te reo Māori text. The intern will investigate and compare multiple NLP approaches to automated quality scoring — including perplexity scoring, grammatical

analysis, macron usage, and dialect consistency — and develop robust, deployable tools based on the most effective approaches.

**2. Automatic Translation Detection (secondary):** Working alongside language experts to identify and label known machine-translated te reo Māori text from the target corpora. The intern will investigate and compare classifier-based and model-based detection approaches, integrating the most effective method into the final toolset.

Both workstreams will culminate in a unified, deployable quality assessment pipeline applicable to large-scale te reo Māori corpora, accompanied by full technical documentation.

### **Day to day nature of the work:**

- Reviewing and exploring large te reo Māori corpora (HPLT, C4, and locally crawled data)
- Collaborating with Māori language experts to develop ground-truth quality labels for text samples
- Researching and comparing NLP approaches to linguistic quality assessment and translation detection
- Writing and testing code to implement and evaluate different quality assessment approaches
- Iteratively refining tools based on evaluation results and feedback from language experts
- Integrating individual tools into a unified quality assessment pipeline
- Regular check-ins and technical discussions with the supervising researcher and project team
- Documenting methodology, design decisions, and tool usage throughout

### **Research skills the intern will develop:**

- Hands-on experience working with large-scale multilingual text corpora
- Practical skills in NLP text quality assessment and classification techniques
- Understanding of the specific linguistic features of te reo Māori relevant to automated analysis
- Experience designing and implementing automated data quality pipelines
- Skills in working with and evaluating machine translation detection approaches
- Familiarity with Python-based NLP libraries and tools
- Understanding of indigenous data sovereignty principles applied to AI and language technology
- Technical documentation and research reporting skills

## 26-27INTPROJ 07: Benchmarking tools for a te reo Māori LLM

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**Project Supervisor(s):** Prof. Te Taka Keegan

**Institution:** Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato – The University of Waikato

**Project location:** University of Waikato, Hamilton

### **Project summary:**

Building a sovereign Māori large language model (LLM) requires not only high quality data, but robust tools to evaluate whether that model is performing well in te reo Māori. Standard LLM evaluation frameworks like GLUE and SuperGLUE were designed for high-resource languages like English and cannot be directly applied to te reo Māori. This internship will investigate which benchmarking approaches are adaptable to te reo Māori and begin building a prototype benchmarking suite that Māori researchers can use to evaluate their own language models. The University of Waikato's Artificial Intelligence Institute is at the forefront of sovereign Māori language AI development.

This internship forms part of a broader programme of work towards building community-owned Māori language models. The intern will work under the supervision of Associate Professor Te Taka Keegan, co-director of the University of Waikato's Artificial Intelligence Institute, alongside experienced researchers and Māori language experts. The intern will be based in Hamilton. Research activities will include reviewing existing LLM benchmarking frameworks, assessing their suitability for te reo Māori, collaborating with language experts to develop labelled benchmark datasets, implementing prototype benchmark tasks using HuggingFace and related Python libraries, and documenting findings and tools for future development. Applicants should be third year Computer Science students with completed coursework in machine learning or AI, practical experience with Python, and familiarity with NLP libraries such as HuggingFace.

Prior project experience in NLP or data science and an interest in te reo Māori and Māori digital sovereignty would be a strong advantage. The intern will develop practical skills in LLM evaluation methodologies, NLP benchmarking tool development, low-resource language dataset creation, and Python-based NLP library usage, alongside a deep understanding of indigenous data sovereignty principles applied to AI development.

### **Project team:**

Professor Te Taka Keegan. In addition, a PhD student is working on the larger project, and researchers at the AI Institute will be able to provide support.

### **Ideal applicants:**

This research would suit a student studying Māori Studies, History, or Indigenous Studies, though students with experience or strong interest in areas such as oral history, archives, decolonial theory, or cultural heritage would also be well-suited. Some knowledge of te reo Māori and tikanga is important, as the project engages with Māori narratives, mātauranga, and kaupapa Māori research principles.

Ideal applicants will have an interest in Indigenous storying and wāhine Māori leadership. Familiarity with transcription, thematic coding (e.g. NVivo), or literature reviews is an advantage, but not essential—training and guidance will be provided.

### **Programme of work to be carried out:**

The intern will contribute across two overlapping workstreams:

**1. Benchmark Investigation (primary early emphasis):** Systematically reviewing existing LLM benchmarking suites — including GLUE and SuperGLUE — to assess which tasks are directly adaptable to te reo Māori using existing data resources, which require new labelled datasets created with Māori language experts, and which are not currently feasible. This investigation will inform a prioritised roadmap for prototype development.

**2. Prototype Benchmarking Suite Development (primary later emphasis):** Based on findings from the investigation workstream, begin building a prototype benchmarking suite for te reo Māori, implementing the most feasible benchmark tasks first. The suite will be designed from the outset to be adaptable to dialect-level variation as dialect-specific data becomes available. All development will be thoroughly documented to support future development beyond the internship period.

Throughout both workstreams the intern will be supported by the project team's technical expertise and will collaborate with Māori language experts where new labelled data is required.

### **Day to day nature of the work:**

- Reviewing and comparing existing LLM benchmarking suites including GLUE and SuperGLUE to assess their applicability to te reo Māori
- Surveying recent literature on benchmarking approaches for low-resource and indigenous languages
- Collaborating with Māori language experts to assess linguistic suitability of candidate benchmark tasks
- Writing and testing code to implement and evaluate candidate benchmark tasks using HuggingFace and related NLP libraries
- Working with existing te reo Māori data resources to develop and validate benchmark datasets
- Assisting with the creation of new labelled datasets where existing resources are insufficient
- Iteratively refining prototype benchmarking tools based on evaluation results and expert feedback
- Designing the benchmarking suite architecture to be adaptable to future dialect-specific data
- Regular check-ins and technical discussions with the supervising researcher and project team
- Documenting all methodology, design decisions, and tool usage throughout

### **Research skills the intern will develop:**

- Deep understanding of LLM evaluation methodologies, including GLUE and SuperGLUE benchmarking frameworks
- Practical experience adapting NLP benchmarking approaches to low-resource and morphologically distinctive languages
- Hands-on skills with HuggingFace and related Python NLP libraries in a real research context
- Experience designing and implementing extensible, dialect-adaptable NLP evaluation tools
- Understanding of the specific linguistic features of te reo Māori relevant to automated language model evaluation
- Experience collaborating with language experts to develop linguistically grounded labelled datasets
- Familiarity with indigenous data sovereignty principles applied to AI and language technology development
- Technical documentation and research reporting skills

## 26-27INTPROJ 08: Ngā Mōteatea a Te Kooti Arikirangi Te Turuki – Songs of a Prophet

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**Project Supervisor(s):** Prof. Te Kahautu Maxwell

**Institution:** Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato – The University of Waikato

**Project location:** Ideally the student would be located in Waikato and Bay of Plenty, though remote/online supervision would be considered for those in other locations.

### **Project summary:**

This project will support the preparation of a substantial, long-term research programme on the mōteatea compositions associated with Te Kooti Arikirangi Te Tūruki (Ngāti Maru), the Ringatū prophet and resistance leader of the nineteenth century. Over the past fifteen years, the supervisor has compiled and analysed a large corpus of compositions by Te Kooti and his contemporaries, focusing on his compositional style, his adaptation of other composers' works, and the ways in which his own compositions were subsequently adapted to different tribal and historical contexts.

The internship will centre on organising, editing, and contextualising this corpus in preparation for a book-length publication. Under close supervision, the student will conduct an in-depth literature review of existing scholarship on Te Kooti, Ringatū theology, mōteatea and Māori musical traditions, and will assist with the systematic organisation, formatting and annotation of the research materials already compiled. This research would suit a student in Māori Studies with particular interest in te reo, tikanga, Te Hāhi Ringatū, mōteatea, and music. Ideally the student would be located in Waikato and Bay of Plenty, though remote/online supervision would be considered for those in other locations.

### **Project team:**

The internship will be supervised by Professor Te Kahautu Maxwell. The selected candidate will be part of a cohort alongside six Summer Scholars hosted at Te Pua Wānanga ki te Ao (Faculty of Māori and Indigenous Studies), funded by the University. Manaakitanga will be provided by other supervisors to support pastoral care.

### **Ideal applicants:**

This research would suit a student in Māori Studies with particular interest in te reo, tikanga, Te Hāhi Ringatū and mōteatea. A student that is developing a research profile in mōteatea will be prioritised. Those with an interest in the intersection of music and mātauranga Māori are encouraged to apply.

### **Programme of work to be carried out:**

Over 10 weeks the intern will undertake orientation and whakawhanaungatanga, including tikanga and ethics for working with prophetic and archival materials, and review the existing Te Kooti mōteatea corpus to confirm detailed goals for the internship. Then they will conduct a focused literature review on Te Kooti, Ringatū theology, mōteatea and Māori musical traditions, producing an annotated bibliography organised by key themes to support future publications.

The intern will organise and catalogue the corpus by creating/refining a master spreadsheet of mōteatea and related materials, standardising file names, metadata and digital storage structures. They will edit and format selected texts and translations, draft brief contextual notes, and assemble several of these into a draft sample chapter or section outline for the planned book. Lastly, they will document their work in a short internal report and participate in a handover hui so the supervisor can immediately build on the internship outputs.

**Day to day nature of the work:**

- Desk based research and writing, including reading and summarising literature on Te Kooti, Ringatū, mōteatea and Māori musical traditions.
- Updating an annotated bibliography and working in Word/Excel (or similar) to maintain the mōteatea catalogue and file structures.
- Editing and formatting texts and translations and drafting brief contextual notes on selected compositions.
- Regular hui (e.g. weekly) with the supervisor to review progress, plan next steps, and reflect on methods, ethics and learnings.

**Research skills the intern will develop:**

- Advanced literature review skills, including database searching, critical reading, and writing an annotated bibliography in a kaupapa Māori context.
- Practical research data management: cataloguing texts and recordings, metadata creation, and organising digital research corpora for long term use.
- Editing and academic writing skills, including consistent use of te reo Māori orthography, translation presentation, and concise contextual commentary.
- Experience in kaupapa Māori and indigenous research methodologies, including tikanga for working with prophetic and archival materials, reflective research journalling, and supervised project work within a larger research programme.

## **26-27INTPROJ 09: Haumarū Ngāa Taonga - Kairangahau Puutaiao Internship**

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**Project Supervisor(s):** Dr. Claire Dowsett

**Institution:** Te Herenga Waka – Victoria University of Wellington

**Project location:** Preference is for a Whanganui base. Pooneke is also an option dependent on the intern's circumstances as long as travel to Whanganui for in-person hui and waananga is possible.

### **Project summary:**

Our rangahau programme, Haumarū Ngāa Taonga, contributes towards the MBIE funded Precision Pest Control Endeavour Research Programme. Our research is a collaboration between researchers from Victoria University; Dr Claire Dowsett and Dr Billy van Uitregt as well as researchers from Te Kaahui o Rauru; Matua Patrick Woon and Whaea Arareina Davis. Haumarū Ngāa Taonga aims to enhance the current Te Kaahui o Rauru Puutaiao Management Plan to expressly communicate how biosecurity decisions are made in the rohe. Paying close attention to Te Tiriti we support statutory requirements for rangatiratanga with a practical guide for robust decision-making guided by kawa and tikanga, described as Ngāa Rauru Kiitahitanga.

The Kairangahau Puutaiao Internship would assist in the co-ordination of the final rangahau waananga, utilising Kaupapa Māori waananga methodologies to consolidate learnings from prior performed rangahau koorero and to seek a deeper collective perspective from uri o Ngāa Rauru Kiitahi. Our specific preference is that applicants have a connection to Ngāa Rauru Kiitahi or closely related iwi of Taranaki and Whanganui and be based in, or have the ability to travel to Whanganui. Ideal applicants will be taura of Māori studies, Environmental studies, Ecology, Conservation, Planning, Policy, Political studies or related fields and have interest in iwi development.

The Kairangahau Puutaiao intern will be responsible for: Promotion of the rangahau programme and related kaupapa Co-ordination of waananga research methods and analysis (support provided from team) Contribution to producing any resulting academic publication The skills the internship will develop include: Community research skills, relationship skills, project management, communications and engagement, bookings, facilitation of waananga activities, qualitative analysis skills and academic writing.

### **Project team:**

The research will be co-supervised by Dr Claire Dowsett, Dr Billy van Uitregt, Arareina Davis and Patrick Woon. A collaborative team from across Te Herenga Waka and Te Kaahui o Rauru.

### **Ideal applicants:**

Uri o Ngāa Rauru Kiitahi or closely related iwi of Taranaki and Whanganui.

Be students of Māori studies, Environmental studies, Ecology, Conservation, Planning, Policy, Political studies or have interest in iwi development.

### **Programme of work to be carried out:**

- Co-ordination of research waananga, including all activities related to project management, communications, engagement, bookings, organisation of key uri support from maarae, travel, kai, health and safety etc
- Lead waananga activities with support from the research team.
- Lead analysis of waananga findings with support from the research team.

- Co-author final publication.

**Day to day nature of the work:**

- Self-directed Kaupapa Maaori Methods research and Kaupapa related readings (many readings can be provided).
- Whanaungatanga with uri o Ngaa Rauru and kaimahi at Te Kaahui o Rauru
- Co-ordination of the waananga
- Analysis of waananga findings
- Contribution to writing of academic publication

**Research skills the intern will develop:**

Community based participatory research skills will be developed, particularly around recruitment strategies, promotion, event co-ordination and project management

## 25-26INTPROJ10: Tikanga and the Sentencing Act 2002: How is Te Ao Marama operating in the District Court in Sentencing Matters

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**Project Supervisor(s):** Mrs Rachael Evans

**Institution:** The Whare Wānanga o Waitaha – The University of Canterbury

**Project location:** Christchurch | Ōtautahi, University of Canterbury campus and also the District Court at Christchurch

### **Project summary:**

This project will examine whether tikanga and kawa and Te Reo Māori have worked their way down from higher courts to the District Court, with a focus on the Sentencing Act. The researchers are interested in whether, after the significant increase in tikanga jurisprudence following *Ellis v R* [2022] NZSC 114, the writings of Williams J in *Lex Aotearoa*, and the Ministry of Justice Te Ao Marama project, Te Ao Māori concepts are actually in operation in the adult criminal jurisdiction, specifically sentencing. Sentencing has been chosen because it is a snapshot in time of the criminal justice system, and there is ample scope for the inclusion of tikanga.

The intern will conduct a literature review of all case law from 2022 involving sentencing that includes Te Reo Māori, Tikanga and Kawa. A summary of those cases to understand in which circumstances Te Ao Māori concepts are being used. A 5 day observation of Christchurch District Court Sentencing List, as the biggest court of Te Wai Pounamu, to observe the sentencing process in person and see if and how Te Ao Māori concepts are being utilised

### **Project team:**

Rachael Evans is a Senior Lecturer in Law, and Jessica Maclean is a Lecturer in Criminal Justice at the University of Canterbury.

### **Ideal applicant:**

Ōtautahi-based students who are interested in the criminal justice system, tikanga and Te Reo Māori.

### **Programme of work:**

The intern will complete:

- a literature review of all case law from 2022 involving sentencing that includes Te Reo Māori, Tikanga and Kawa.
- A summary of those cases to understand in which circumstances Te Ao Māori concepts are being used.
- (Pending ethics approval) A 5 day observation of Christchurch District Court Sentencing List, as the biggest court of Te Wai Pounamu, to observe the sentencing process in person and see if and how Te Ao Māori concepts are being utilised.
- Drafting an outline of a paper for the *New Zealand Law Journal*.

### **Day to day nature of work:**

- Reviewing case law and summarising Sentencing
- Cases that involve tikanga, kawa, and Te Reo Māori.
- Observing court and taking notes (outside of the courtroom) where Te Ao Māori concepts are used.

**Research skills the intern will develop:**

- Literature review skills
- Observation skills
- Introduction to Kaupapa Māori research
- Introduction to sociolegal research
- Introduction to drafting an academic paper

## 25-26INTPROJ11: Reclamation of Indigenous voyaging and navigation knowledge

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**Project Supervisor(s):** Assoc. Prof. Haki Tuaupiki

**Institution:** Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato – The University of Waikato

**Project location:** Ideally the student would be located in Waikato and Bay of Plenty, though remote/online supervision would be considered for those in other locations.

### **Project summary:**

Pūrākau of the Polynesian ancestors of Māori trace the traversing of voyaging waka across Te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa as early as 1350 AD. However, over time, intergenerational knowledge of non-instrument, long-distance voyaging and navigation, as well as the construction of double-hulled voyaging waka, has been lost as Māori focused on settlement and adaptation in a new environment.

In this internship, the candidate will be supported to draw on traditional Māori voyaging and navigation knowledge – including those of iwi and hapū specific - to help grow the current understandings of Indigenous navigation, linguistics, culture, and language. The premise is that much of this traditional voyaging and navigational knowledge and expertise is encoded and embedded in a distinct way within the language of karakia, mōteatea, whakataukī and pūrākau (incantation, song, proverb, speech and story). The goal of this project is to create an in-depth literature review related to mātauranga Māori understandings of voyaging and navigation knowledge.

The candidate will work under the guidance of the supervisor to explore the source of this traditional knowledge, how much of this knowledge endures, and the role of this knowledge in a modern context. A report will be drafted at the end to outline the reflexive learning, method of the search and interpretation and summary of resources.

### **Project team:**

The internship will be supervised by Assoc. Prof. Haki Tuaupiki. The selected candidate will be part of a cohort alongside six Summer Scholars hosted at Te Pua Wānanga ki te Ao (Faculty of Māori and Indigenous Studies), funded by the University. Manaakitanga will be provided by other supervisors to support pastoral care

### **Ideal applicant:**

This research would suit a student in Māori Studies with a particular interest in Indigenous astronomy. However, students with expertise or interests in related fields such as maritime studies, marine biology, oceanography, linguistics, climate change, or mātauranga Māori are also encouraged to express their interest.

### **Programme of work:**

The candidate will investigate related oral traditions, pertaining to traditional Māori voyaging and navigation knowledge. The scale and focus of the project will be discussed and finalised with the supervisor. This will materialise in an extensive and detailed review. It will not be restricted to published material, but will explore additional items including manuscripts, songs, proverbs and various English and te reo Māori records and story where Indigenous voyaging and navigation knowledge remains.

**Day to day nature of work:**

- Conduct a systematic search and examination of karakia, mōteatea, whakataukī, and traditional navigation narratives
- Summarise the scope of existing Māori knowledge used to pass on navigational understandings of stars, clouds, weather, wind, currents, ocean life, traditional guardians, and navigational birds
- Engage in reflexive discussions with the supervisor on findings and learning
- Complete a draft report

**Research skills the intern will develop:**

- Introduction to kaupapa Māori research
- Analyse mātauranga Māori through intergenerational knowledge sources
- Assess the relevance of mātauranga Māori to contemporary issues
- Literature review and writing skills

## 26-27INTPROJ12: Māori-led financial innovation: conceptualising and enacting koha in contemporary finance systems

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**Project Supervisor(s):** Dr Jack Barrett

**Institution:** Te Whare Wānanga o Aronui - AUT

**Project location:** Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland preferred or Aotearoa nation-wide via remote work.

### **Project summary:**

This internship will focus on conceptualising koha and its application within contemporary finance systems. This is part of a wider project investigating Māori-led financial innovations and their role supporting diverse Māori economies and aspirations. Finance encompasses the way that people, organisations and communities save, invest, borrow and lend; and is an area of increasing importance for Indigenous peoples and their aspirations for self-determination worldwide. An emerging body of research highlights that Māori, and other Indigenous peoples, are not mere subjects to financial processes, but can actively shape financial systems themselves. Picking up on this thread, this project focuses on a relatively under-explored area of Indigenous finance, the challenges and opportunities for shaping finance systems through ground-up, mātauranga Māori-led innovation.

The objective of the internship is to form a conceptual basis for future case studies that will explore the design and implementation of Māori-led financial innovations, such as koha-based lending and borrowing. The research goal will be achieved through a literature review guided by the following questions: How do Māori scholars and knowledge holders articulate koha within Te Ao Māori? Are these reflected within documented financial practice of Māori organisations? What are the opportunities and tensions for enacting koha within contemporary financial systems?

Day to day nature of the work involves collecting, summarising and analysing relevant literature in collaboration with the intern supervisor. The Intern will develop skills and experience relating to: Completing literature reviews. Introduction to mātauranga Māori application for contemporary challenges. Introduction to Kaupapa Māori research and critical business studies. Collaborative research skills and scholarly writing.

### **Project team:**

The internship will be supervised by Dr Jack Barrett, a Lecturer at AUT's Business School.

### **Ideal applicant:**

The research would suit a business, Māori studies, or social-science student with expertise or interest in Māori economies and alternative finance. It would also suit students interested in related areas such as Indigenous self-determination, mātauranga Māori, Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Kaupapa Māori research.

### **Programme of work:**

The primary programme of work is a literature review that will collect, summarise and analyse scholarly and grey literature sources relating to koha, Māori and Indigenous engagements with finance, and where relevant, comparable alternative financial models.

### **Day to day nature of work:**

- Collect and summarise research on the role of koha from pre-colonial through to present-day time periods.

- Collect and summarise research on Māori engagements with finance.
- Liaising with internship supervisor to identify emerging themes, patterns, gaps and areas of relevance to the wider research project.
- Completing above literature review and assisting project supervisor with the drafting of journal article and if relevant, other impactful outputs.

**Research skills the intern will develop:**

- Completing literature review including identifying, summarising and analysing material for an overarching research project.
- Introduction to applying mātauranga Māori to contemporary challenges and contexts.
- Introduction to Kaupapa Māori research and critical business studies.
- Collaborative research skills, working within a wider research team.
- Scholarly writing skills e.g. preparing journal articles and other forms of research communication.

## 26-27INTPROJ13: Kanapu Whakaaweawe: Impacts of the Kanapu Programme

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**Project Supervisor(s):** Emeritus Prof. Poia Rewi

**Institution:** Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato – The University of Waikato

**Project location:** Mātua ko Kirikiriroa te nōhanga matua o te tangata nei, ināhoki, kei Kirikiriroa te tari o Kanapu: heoi anō, mena kei waho paku ake i te rohe, ka taea tonu pea.

### **Project summary:**

Tā Kanapu Whakaaweawe, he torotoro ki te hunga kua whai wāhi mai ki ngā tūāmahi a Kanapu i ngā tau me te tūhura i ngā huanga pai, whakaaweawenga i hua ai ki a ia nā tana whai wāhi ki te hōtaka a Kanapu. Kua 30 tau te kaitiaki o te kairangahau nei i Te Whare Wānanga. Ināhoki kei Kirikiriroa te tari iti nei o Kanapu, ka piri kaha ki Ngā Pae o Te Māramatanga, Te Ngira (Research Institute of Population Studies) me ngā Hanga Rangahau Matua a MBIE, arā, ko nga Primary Research Organisations.

Haere ko te uiui, me ana whakaritenga katoa, ka hua ko te tātaritanga, te whakarōputanga o ngā kitenga ki ētahi marau, he hanga pūrongo hei pūrongo, ka tahi; he hanga kitenga hei pāpāho whakakite, whakatairanga i te hōtaka ki te marea. I tua i tēnā, ko te whakarite i ēnei kitenga hei kiko mā te mahere pāpāho a Kanapu. Whakapūkengatia ana te tangata ki te whakahaere uiui, te tātari, te whakamarau tae atu ki te tuhi pūrongo ki te mahi a te momo kiritaki. Haere hoki ko te reo, ko te tikanga, ko te ao Māori i te rāngai RSIT.

### **Project team:**

Kua 30 tau te kaitiaki o te kairangahau nei i Te Whare Wānanga. Ināhoki kei Kirikiriroa te tari iti nei o Kanapu, ka piri kaha ki Ngā Pae o Te Māramatanga, Te Ngira (Research Institute of Population Studies) me ngā Hanga Rangahau Matua a MBIE, arā, ko nga Primary Research Organisations.

### **Ideal applicant:**

He mea whakatū a Kanapu hei whakapakari, hei whakaāhei i te hanga Māori i te rāngai RSIT i Aotearoa. He whakatūtaki i te hanga Maori ki te rāngai, me te rāngai ki te hanga Māori, nā reira, mena he mōhio ki te ao hangarau, pūtaio, auaha, ā, he mōhio ki te reo me te tikanga, ngā whakapono me ngā uarā; ka mutu he remurere, he kamakama, he mahi pai, he mahi tika, ko te painga atu tēnā.

### **Programme of work:**

He uiui tāngata (ā-waha, ā-pepa), he tātari inga kōrero, he raranga i ngā kōrero kia puta hei pūrongo i ngā putanga, i ngā hua, i ngā whakaaweawenga o te hōtaka a Kanapu.

### **Day to day nature of work:**

He whakahaere uiui, he kōhi kōrero, he tātari, he pūrongo

### **Research skills the intern will develop:**

Ka whakapūkengatia, ka whakamāhinetia ki te uiui i te tangata, he kōrero ki te tangata, he tātari, he whakarāpopoto, he tuhi pūrongo, he tuhi kōrero hei pāpāho. Haere hoki ko te whakapuare i te tirohanga me te mōhio ki te tūtakitanga o te ao Māori me te hanga RSIT.

## 26-27INTPROJ14: Scaling Tikanga Ora Reo Ora: Designing Sustainable Models for Marae-Led Reo and Tikanga Delivery

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**Project Supervisor(s):** Dr Raewyn Mahara, Assoc. Prof. Haki Tuaupiki

**Institution:** Waikato-Tainui iCollege for Research and Development/Te Whakakitenga oo Waikato, University of Waikato

**Project location:** The project is through the Waikato-Tainui College for Research and Development (Waikato-Tainui) at Hopuhopu, Ngaaruawaahia. The internship is primarily a desk-based project and can be carried out virtually, with secure access provided to iwi strategy documents, datasets and programme materials. There are opportunities for online engagement with the project team.

### Project summary:

This internship will undertake a kaupapa Maaori research project focused on strengthening and scaling the Tikanga Ora Reo Ora (TORO) strategy across Waikato-Tainui.

TORO positions reo and tikanga as central to iwi identity, continuity and wellbeing, with aspirations to significantly increase language proficiency across the iwi by 2050. Central to achieving this is the need for delivery models that are sustainable, scalable, and grounded in marae and whaanau contexts.

This project will critically analyse the current Waikato-Tainui train-the-trainer approach, where marae and whaanau are equipped to deliver reo and tikanga programmes within their own communities. Using existing iwi data, programme insights, and strategic frameworks—including Whakatupuranga 2050, Te Ara Whakatupuranga and Tikanga Ora, Reo Ora—the research will evaluate the effectiveness of this model and identify opportunities to strengthen and extend it.

The intern's findings will assist the team to develop future-focused delivery models that enhance marae capability, support localised delivery, and ensure alignment with iwi aspirations for mana motuhake and intergenerational transmission of reo and tikanga.

### Project team:

- Supervisor: Dr Raewyn Mahara; Co-supervisor: University of Waikato Assoc. Prof. Haki Tuaupiki
- Internal contributors: Waikato-Tainui education, reo and strategy teams

### Ideal applicant:

Hons or Master's student (preferred) with a strong background in Maaori Studies, Education, Indigenous Development, Policy or Sociology, strong analytical, conceptual and writing skills.

Interest in:

- Kaupapa Maaori research
- Maaori language revitalisation
- Systems and delivery design
- Working with/for iwi and hapuu

### Programme of work:

#### Phase 1: Strategic and Document Analysis

- Review:
  - Tikanga Ora Reo Ora (TORO)
  - Whakatupuranga 2050
  - Te Ara Whakatupuranga

- Analyse internal programme reports and aggregated delivery data
- Map current delivery approaches (train-the-trainer, programme uptake, capability-building)

### **Phase 2: Critical Evaluation**

- Assess strengths and limitations of current TORO delivery models
- Identify barriers to scale:
  - Resourcing
  - Capability
  - Consistency and quality assurance
  - Reach across marae and whānau
- Evaluate alignment with iwi goals (including increased reo capability across generations)

### **Phase 3: Comparative and Theoretical Framing**

- Review relevant literature and models: of ‘train the trainer’ and community-led reo revitalisation approaches.
- Apply a kaupapa Māori and mana motuhake lens to analysis

### **Phase 4: Output**

A concise report on evaluation and recommendations, informed by the comparative lit review analysis, that would inform next steps

### **Day to day nature of work:**

- Reviewing and synthesising iwi strategy and programme documents
- Analysing data and mapping delivery systems
- Developing conceptual models and frameworks
- Writing and refining analysis
- Regular engagement with supervisor for critique and direction

### **Research skills the intern will develop**

- Advanced kaupapa Māori research methods
- Systems thinking and strategic analysis
- Indigenous programme evaluation
- Policy and delivery model design
- High-level academic and applied writing
- Working within iwi-led research environments

## 26-27INTPROJ16: Accountability as a Pathway to Healing: Mapping Non-Governmental Tiriti Alignment

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**Project Supervisor(s):** Dr Deanna Haami

**Institution:** Massey University

**Project location:** Remote (online). Regular contact with the supervisor will be maintained through online meetings.

### **Project summary:**

The failure of institutions to honour Te Tiriti is a systemic driver of the intergenerational wounds and resulting inequities Māori communities continue to experience in their everyday lived realities. The systematic failure of the current Government to uphold Te Tiriti obligations through legislation has demonstrated the importance of fostering partnerships between non-Māori, Te Tiriti-aligned organisations and Māori-led health and wellbeing organisations - including iwi, marae and charitable trusts - working at grassroots to support whānau to attain tino rangatiratanga over their spiritual, psychological, physical, social, environmental and economic wellbeing. When the Treaty Principles Bill was introduced, a wide range of non-Māori organisations submitted in opposition. This exploratory project aims to identify both organisations visibly practising in alignment with Te Tiriti and lesser known allies whose alignment has not yet been examined, assessing the extent to which their written policies and stated Tiriti commitment - as outlined in their submissions - aligns with the principles of Te Tiriti. This will form the basis of a database for Māori-led health and wellbeing organisations to identify potential partners to support the development and implementation of projects vital to the health and wellbeing aspirations of the wider communities and whānau they support.

The chosen intern will be required to identify non-Māori organisations from the submission database; analyse submissions and policies using Critical Tiriti Analysis (CTA); and develop a database and accountability report for Māori-led health and wellbeing organisations. This project will suit a student studying law, political science, psychology or a related field. The ideal applicant has a genuine interest in Te Tiriti accountability and its relationship to Māori wellbeing, and the ability to work remotely. Experience with document analysis or database work is an advantage but not essential. The intern will be working the Dr Deanna Haami (Massey University) and Cheryl Holloway (Co.Creators Ltd.).

### **Project team:**

Dr Deanna Haami – Co-Lead Investigator, Massey University

Cheryl Holloway – Co-Lead Investigator, Co.Creators Limited

### **Ideal applicant:**

This project will suit a Māori student studying law, political science, Māori studies, social policy, psychology, health sciences, or a related field. The ideal applicant has strong analytical and research skills, a genuine interest in Tiriti accountability and its relationship to Māori wellbeing, and the ability to work independently in a remote setting. Experience with document analysis or database work is an advantage but not essential.

### **Programme of work:**

The intern will conduct systematic document research on a defined pool of non-Māori organisations who submitted in opposition to the Treaty Principles Bill. The intern will locate and analyse publicly available written policies of each organisation and analyse them in accordance with their stated Tiriti position outlined in their submission.

Prior to the internship commencing, the supervising research team will undertake preparatory work to acquire and structure the submissions dataset, including OIA requests to the Ministry of Justice and Parliament. The intern will be inducted into this preparatory work and may contribute to finalising the dataset in the early weeks if required.

Given the scope of the full submissions dataset, the intern will apply Critical Tiriti Analysis to one specific organisational subgroup within the internship timeframe, while the wider pool of identified organisations is entered into the research database for future analysis.

### **Day to day nature of work:**

- Desk-based document research using publicly available sources
- Critical Tiriti Analysis of submissions and policies to identify alignment with principles of Te Tiriti.
- Structured data entry into a research database
- Regular check-ins with supervising researchers
- Contributing to the final report

### **Research skills the intern will develop:**

- Document analysis and systematic policy and literature review
- Kaupapa Māori research framing and Tiriti accountability frameworks
- Database design and structured data management
- Academic and professional research writing
- Working within a supervised research team

## **26-27INTPROJ17: Developing a kaupapa Māori response supporting In Home services for Falls Prevention**

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**Project Supervisor(s):** Ms Katrina Bryant

**Institution:** Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka – The University of Otago

**Project location:** Christchurch

### **Project summary:**

Falls are one of the leading causes of injury, loss of independence, and hospitalisation for older adults in Aotearoa New Zealand. Kaupapa Māori approaches such as the Taurite Tū programme have demonstrated the value of culturally grounded, community-based exercise for improving strength, balance, and wellbeing. However, evidence shows that combining exercise with low-cost home modifications and in-home support provides even greater protection against falls and helps older people remain safely and independently in their own homes. Research with Māori households has shown that simple modifications, such as handrails, improved lighting, and non-slip surfaces, can substantially reduce fall-related injuries.

This summer internship will support the development, implementation, and assessment of an innovative kaupapa Māori in-home service to complement the existing Taurite Tū community exercise programme in Christchurch and the Banks Peninsula. Working alongside an experienced Māori-led physiotherapy and ageing research team, the intern will contribute to designing and evaluating a holistic falls prevention package that combines community exercise with home assessment, practical home modifications, and tailored home exercise support.

The intern will be based in Christchurch and will participate in literature reviews, development of assessment resources, stakeholder engagement, data collection, and evaluation activities to inform future service delivery. The project will explore practical interventions such as night lights, grab rails, handrails, non-slip surfaces, and seating supports that are often inaccessible despite their proven benefits. The internship is suited to students with knowledge or interest in physiotherapy, health sciences, public health, Māori health, rehabilitation, or ageing. Through the project, the intern will develop skills in kaupapa Māori research, falls prevention, service evaluation, community engagement, evidence synthesis, and translation of research into practical solutions that support kaumātua to live safely, confidently, and independently in their own homes.

### **Project team:**

Katrina Pōtiki Bryant and Sheree Tikao-Harkess

### **Ideal applicant:**

The internship is suited to students with knowledge or interest in physiotherapy, health sciences, public health, Māori health, rehabilitation, or ageing. Through the project, the intern will develop skills in kaupapa Māori research, falls prevention, service evaluation, community engagement, evidence synthesis, and translation of research into practical solutions that support kaumātua to live safely, confidently, and independently in their own homes.

### **Programme of work:**

The intern will be based primarily in Christchurch and will participate in literature reviews, development of assessment resources, stakeholder engagement, data collection, and evaluation activities to inform future service delivery.

### **Day to day nature of work:**

The first weeks of the internship will develop relationships with the supervisors and to embed the intern in the Kaupapa of Taurite Tū. Alongside this the intern will be supported to build or strength research skills they may need for the later stages of the project; this may include working with library staff, learning more about the background to Kaupapa māori research, the context of wellbeing/kaumatua/falls.

The later stages of the day to day work the student will work closely with the supervisors, often attending Taurite Tū sessions and attending interviews where appropriate. At all times the student will be supported.

Toward the end of the internship, the student will be involved in report writing. The School of Physiotherapy summer internship programme offers support for the intern to develop these skills.

### **Research skills the intern will develop:**

- Introduction to the broad epistemic and ontological foundations of kaupapa māori research
- Critical literature skills
- Writing and analysis
- An insight into evaluation and implementation methods
- Community based research skills

## 26-27INTPROJ19: Mātauranga of restoration of kutai

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**Project Supervisor(s):** Assoc. Prof Dan Hikuroa

**Institution:** Waipapa Taumata Rau – The University of Auckland

**Project location:** The research project will be based from Auckland but the focus of the research will be at Pakiri Beach where there is kutai (mussel) reef under rāhui recovering from overharvesting. Waipapa Taumata Rau has a nearby Leigh Marine Laboratory that will be used as a field research base. There are strong existing relationships with the hapū that are kaitiakitanga of the kutai reef.

### **Project summary:**

This project will explore kutai (mussel) mātauranga and western knowledge to find new ways to restore depleted kutai beds. The research will be focused on two of the last remaining wild kutai beds in the Hauraki Gulf and will be conducted with hapu and iwi collaborators. At the least the project will advance mātauranga of kutai, and its best it will identify novel new method for restoring kutai.

There are strong existing relationships with the hapū that are kaitiakitanga of the kutai reef.

### **Project team:**

The research team consists of Dan Hikuroa, Andrew Jeffs, Kathy Burnham from Waipapa Taumata Rau, and Sammy Williams – Pakiri – Taumata B – hapū. Dan Hikuroa is the principal supervisor - he is a well-established researcher in the use of mātauranga for understanding resource management. Andrew Jeffs is a marine biologist who will assist with supervising the internship. Kathy Burnham is a completing PhD student who has been working on documenting the effects of rahui on the kutai reef in collaboration with Pakiri – Taumata B – hapū, led by kaumatua Sammy Williams.

### **Ideal applicant:**

Students with an interest and background in mātauranga and kaitiakitanga o te Ao, especially in relation to te tai a moana.

### **Programme of work:**

- Review knowledge of kutai mātauranga and restoration.
- Design field experiment to test new kutai restoration method based on mātauranga review.
- Implement experiment in the field with hapū.
- Analyse results of experiment from the field.
- Write final report.

### **Day to day nature of work:**

The research activities will be as follows:

**Review knowledge of kutai mātauranga and restoration.** There is existing mātauranga of kutai held by the hapū and also scientific knowledge of kutai – these need to be accessed, reviewed, and the integration leading to a concept that can be explored with field experiment(s)

**Design field experiment to test new kutai restoration method based on mātauranga review.** Design an experiment to explore a concept developed through previous knowledge review that is focused on restoration of kutai. One area of interest to the hapū is utilising mātauranga of natural plant fibres (e.g., harakeke) to facilitate kutai settlement to help extend the remnant reef into areas previously covered by kutai.

**Implement experiment in the field with hapū.** This will involve building the materials and installing the experiment in the field with hapū collaborators.

**Analyse results of experiment from the field.** The experimental results will need to be recovered and analysed in some way to determine the outcome of the research question that was being examined by the experiment.

**Write final report.** Write the final report, present and discuss results with hapū at hui. The ideal intern would have an interest and background in mātauranga and kaitiakitanga o te Ao, especially in relation to te tai a moana.

**Research skills the intern will develop:**

- Process for knowledge review and integration
- Hapū liaison and working collaboration
- Experimental design, analyses and writing up
- Accessing, managing and advancing mātauranga

## **26-27INTPROJ20: Researcher perceptions of impact: NPM funded-research projects 2021-2028**

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**Project Supervisor(s):** Prof. Helen Moewaka Barnes

**Institution:** Massey University

**Project location:** Ideally in Auckland 1 to 2 days a week, remote supervision can be considered

### **Project summary:**

Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga has funded impactful research over its almost 25 years of existence. This internship contributes to the toolkit of NPM's research impact reporting by looking at how funded investigators have assessed the contributions of their research projects in 2021-28. The Matakiteanga Research Framework sets up four Pae (excellence clusters) and Pātai (critical questions articulating impact) for the period 2021-28. Funded investigators are asked to report on their contributions to the Pae and Pātai.

The intern will conduct a literature review of Indigenous research impact; a thematic analysis of final reports on funded research submitted to NPM; and will draft a report on researchers' understanding of what their research project aims at changing, how, and for whom. This internship contributes to strengthening how NPM understands, articulates, and demonstrates research impact and transformation across its funded portfolio. By analysing how researchers define what their work seeks to change, for whom, and how, the project will help surface Māori led understandings of impact that align with the Matakiteanga framework and Puāwai aspirations.

### **Project team:**

The research team are research leaders and NPM Secretariat staff: Pou Pātai Puāwai Prof Helen Moewaka Barnes (Te Kapotai, Ngapuhi-nui-tonu), Pouhere Whakaaweawe Sarah-Marie Berghan (Te Rarawa, Ngāti Wai, Ngāti Maniapoto, Ngāti Tarāwhai) and Pouhere Rangahau Dr Sonia Garcia (Catalan, Galician from Spain) will supervise the student.

### **Ideal applicant:**

This internship would suit a 3<sup>rd</sup> year Bachelor student in Māori studies, interested in Indigenous research, research methodologies, and applied research.

### **Programme of work:**

The intern will:

- locate, read and review literature on Indigenous research impact.
- Analyse qualitative data contained in the final reports submitted to Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga.
- Write a report outlining the research findings.

### **Day to day nature of work:**

- Introduction to NPM Matakiteanga Research Framework.
- Literature searches and readings on Indigenous research impact.
- Summaries and note taking on readings.
- Qualitative analysis: organising data, identifying themes and patterns.
- Report writing: synthesising of findings, writing up, editing and proofreading.

### **Research skills the intern will develop:**

Skill development in:

- literature reviews
- thematic analysis
- report writing
- critical thinking
- project and data management
- editing and academic writing skills

The intern will also gain an understanding of key areas of current kaupapa Māori research.