



The University of Newcastle and The University of Waikato Partnership Seed Fund – Overview

We invite staff to apply for the 2026 round of the Partnership Seed Fund. The Fund supports collaborative projects across research, teaching, and professional services, with a strong emphasis on initiatives that foster transdisciplinary collaboration, alignment with UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), that forge pathways to long-term impact.

The Seed Fund acts as a strategic mechanism for international professional development, particularly for Early Career Researchers (ECRs) and Early Career Professionals. We strongly encourage proposals that include PhD candidates and Indigenous staff contributing in meaningful ways.

Key Details

- **Eligibility:** Each project must be led by a staff member from both UoW and UoN. Lead investigators must be on continuing appointments or fixed-term contracts that extend beyond December 2026.
- **Funding:** AU\$50,000 (UoN) and NZ\$50,000 (UoW) available. Maximum funding per project: AU\$15,000.
- **Project Duration:** Projects must run from June to December 2026.
- **Assessment:** Proposals are assessed by a joint UoW–UoN panel based on Innovation, Excellence & Impact, Partnership Impact, and Reputation Building.
- **Expected Outcomes:** Proposals should outline tangible outcomes such as publications, external funding applications, stakeholder engagement, or sustainable collaborations.

Applications open	Applications due	Peer review and funding panel	Applicants notified	Project time	Reports due
19 January 2026	9 March 2026	March-April	18 May 2026	June-December	28 Feb 2027

Eligible	Ineligible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research materials / consumables • Analytical costs • Fieldwork/data collection • Reasonable travel costs (including visas), accommodation¹ and subsistence (for guidance see your institution's policies²) • Software access (for collaborative projects/benefit) • Short-term research or specialist support deemed vital to the project • Costs associated with organising hybrid events/conferences/workshops • Costs associated with appropriate cultural support (for example, koha, kaumatua etc.) • Translation costs • Travel to meet up at a research facility or other global partner's campus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salary costs³ • Overheads • Capital expenditure • Open access fees/other publication fees • Travel to conferences/conference fees

¹ Accommodation costs are to be included in the budget of the home institution. For example, a Waikato staff member travelling to Newcastle needs to include accommodation costs in the Waikato budget.

² The seed fund will cover flights in economy class

³ The fund is not intended to cover staff costs or time, or to fund fixed term contract extensions

Whereas staff salary costs are not eligible to be funded – costs for very short-term research or specialist support, vital to the success of the project will be considered i.e costs to employ students and / or research assistants in support of the PI / project