

Request for Research Project Proposal: Ako Aotearoa Research and Innovation Agenda – Contestable Funding Round 2024

This Request seeks to contribute to systems change for the tertiary education sector and more equitable learner outcomes by inviting proposals for innovative, ako centred projects. We are interested in potential solutions, improved ākonga and kaiako support mechanisms and teaching and learning strategies and programmes that contribute to:

- equitable outcomes for Māori, Pacific and disabled ākonga
- a response to current global and local issues of import e.g. climate change, technological advances for instance A.I. and online learning
- improved systems and processes to support best practice tertiary education that focus on whole of organisational leadership and change to deliver the outcomes above, including organisational culture and design, the use of data to support planning and action and review, and the connection between the organisation and its wider partners (such as iwi, industry and community).

Who we are:

Since 2006, Ako Aotearoa is a government-funded organisation committed to supporting the country's tertiary sector teachers, trainers and educators be the best they can be for the learners' success. Our vision is the best possible educational outcomes for all learners.

We have taken a new approach to restart the Ako Aotearoa Research and Innovation Agenda (AARIA) programme.¹ Future focused and coherent, the programme for the next nine years involves collaboratively working with tertiary education organisations, researchers, and educators to develop new knowledge to inform improved ways of teaching and learning in Aotearoa New Zealand. With the appointment of the Programme Manager, Research and Innovation, Dr Marvin Hao Wu in May 2023, Ako Aotearoa is implementing its next phase of the AARIA programme, with annual budget of up to \$500,000.

Contestable Funding:

Ako Aotearoa is specifically seeking proposals that align with the AARIA Priorities Guide 2024 (Schedule 1, attached below). Ako Aotearoa and our own independent Board will make the funding decisions based on the quality and creativity of the research content.

¹ For more information, please see AARIA webpage: <https://ako.ac.nz/programmes-and-services/research-and-innovation/>

Value: \$10,000 - \$50,000 over the term of the contract

Duration: 5 months – 12 months

Total funding pool: \$298,400

Eligibility:

1. Be made by an Aotearoa New Zealand-based tertiary education organisation (TEO)² or a New Zealand citizen / resident employed by an Aotearoa New Zealand-based TEO.
2. Be for research or related activities, the majority of which are to be undertaken in Aotearoa New Zealand.
3. Research and related activities are required to completely focus on Aotearoa New Zealand tertiary education. Proposals targeting on the compulsory sector (eg: secondary schools) are not eligible, even if the proposed research result can contribute to tertiary education.

Submission steps:

The process includes phase one registration, phase two full proposal.

1. Registration: By **Tuesday 14th May 2024**: Email Marvin Hao Wu (marvin.wu@ako.ac.nz) and notify your intent to apply in order to receive updates in relation to this fund. The following details are required: Contact person (First Name, Last Name); Institution name; Email address; Telephone number; Proposed research proposal title.
2. Full Proposal: By **Friday 14th June 2024**: Submit your completed Proposal Form and NZ standard CV Template (please download from the AARIA webpage at <https://ako.ac.nz/programmes-and-services/research-and-innovation/how-to-apply/>) by email to Dr. Marvin Hao Wu (marvin.wu@ako.ac.nz).
3. Applicants will receive an email acknowledging that their proposal has been received. If you have not received an email by the Full Proposal deadline, please email marvin.wu@ako.ac.nz or phone +64 9 213 6238 ext. 43238.

Applications are required to be received on or before the deadline: Friday 14th June 2024.

Please feel free to contact Dr. Marvin Hao Wu (marvin.wu@ako.ac.nz) if you have any questions.

² Definition: <https://www.tec.govt.nz/teo/working-with-teos/about-teos/>

Schedule 1: AARIA Priorities Guide 2024

Ako Aotearoa proposed the “broader priorities” and “targeted priorities” as below. “Broader priorities” are high-level funding priorities that bring together the strategic aims of Ako Aotearoa. “Targeted priorities” identify specific areas of research, learning, and teaching provision that we want to see growth or change in. These priorities are more specific and focus on what provision we are seeking in the year ahead.

We consider quality research outcomes above all and expect all providers to **align their research proposals with all of our four broader priorities.**

We expect all providers to align their research proposals **with one or more of our targeted priorities**, which is a key factor in our selection criteria. Nevertheless, we will consider provision outside targeted priority areas if it meets the broader priorities and there is sufficient evidence of stakeholder demand.

We encourage combining several targeted priorities into one research project.

Broader Priorities:

1. Ōritetanga (Equity): Achieving system-wide equity for all ākonga, including Māori, Pacific, neurodiverse, disabled, youth, and learners from low-income backgrounds.
2. Te Tiriti o Waitangi (Treaty of Waitangi): Honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi through tertiary education, including Te Reo provision, Kaupapa Māori education, Mātauranga Māori provision.
3. Auaha (Innovation): Responding to changes in education, especially developments in technology (eg: Artificial Intelligence), innovative and flexible programmes which can support the immediate needs of ākonga, tertiary education system such as Te Pūkenga and the Reform of Vocational Education (RoVE), and work-based learning.
4. Hua Akoranga (Learner Outcomes): Education and training that delivers for all learners, including supporting work readiness of all learners, online and distance learning options meets the needs of all learners, providing learning opportunities for people who wish to change careers.

Targeted Priorities:

Categories	Targeted Priorities
Education	Neurodiversity
	Te Tiriti o Waitangi (Treaty of Waitangi)
	Mātauranga Māori (Māori knowledge)

	Pacific Cultures
	Leadership and Management Training
	Reflective Practice
Technology	Artificial Intelligence
	Education Technology