



Māori Cancer Researcher (Early Career) Awards 2021

Joint PHD Scholarships: Application Guidelines

Opens 20th August, 2021

Closes 5pm, 11th October, 2021

Submit by emailing a completed application form to
research@cancer.org.nz

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1. Introduction

1.1 Scholarship Round Purpose

The aim of the Cancer Society's Annual National Research Grant Round is to fund high-quality research across the cancer continuum (including hauora, mātauranga Māori, prevention, diagnosis, treatment and supportive care). This joint scholarship round between Cancer Society and Hei Āhuru Mōwai is for PHD scholarships for Māori involved in Cancer Research.

1.2 About the Cancer Society of New Zealand

The Cancer Society's mission is to improve community wellbeing by reducing the incidence and impact of cancer. Our activities include:

- Supporting and funding research within New Zealand across the cancer continuum.
- Providing supportive care and information to people affected by cancer, their families/whānau and carers.
- Promoting education about cancer for health professionals and publicising progress made in research and treatment.
- Delivering health promotion programmes focusing on cancer prevention.
- Leading advocacy across the cancer continuum.
- Working collaboratively with organisations who share similar goals to the Cancer Society.

The Cancer Society receives no direct government funding and is reliant on funding support from the communities in which it works.

The Cancer Society is committed to equity and has an equity charter that guides all of our mahi. To read our equity charter please go to;

<https://www.cancer.org.nz/about-us/who-we-are/equity-charter/>

You can contact us with any questions during the grant application process at research@cancer.org.nz or 04 494 7270.

1.3 About Hei Āhuru Mōwai Māori Cancer Leadership

Hei Āhuru Mōwai Māori Cancer Leadership Aotearoa is a national network of Māori cancer professionals, clinicians, researchers and whānau who are committed to Rangatiratanga in cancer control, eliminating cancer inequities between Māori and non-Māori and advocating for better outcomes for whānau.

Our specialties include; general medicine, public health, onco-surgery, oncology, mauri healing, health promotion, haematology, gastroenterology, hauora Māori research, radiation therapy, genomics and epidemiology.

Our vision is for mana enhancing, ora enabling, mauri restoring, wairua protective and whānau centered cancer control.

Our activities include:

- Rangatiratanga - Promoting and affirming Rangatiratanga in cancer control
- Māngai - Leading Māori advocacy in cancer control

- Mātauranga - Providing Māori cancer and equity expertise in cancer control
- Wānanga - Influencing research to provide better outcomes for whanau
- Āhuru - Providing a safe space for Māori cancer kaimahi to connect, collaborate and create.

You can contact us during the grant application process at

moahuia@heiahurumowai.org.nz

2. Scope

Cancer Society and Hei Āhuru Mōwai are committed to equity. This unique early career development award round will consider applications that are relevant to Māori cancer outcomes across the continuum.

Applications peripheral to cancer/matepukupuku should not be submitted.

3. Eligibility

These Māori career development awards are for individuals who are committed to hauora Māori, maximising Māori health gains, addressing existing cancer inequities, and/or fostering Māori health aspirations. We value applications that include kaupapa Māori and mātauranga Māori.

To be eligible you must:

- Be of Māori descent

- Be resident in Aotearoa New Zealand
- Have academic supervision which includes at least one Māori supervisor
 - Those unable to identify a Māori supervisor are encouraged to get in touch prior to applying.
- Intend to enroll or already be enrolled in a PHD. Those who have not yet enrolled for their proposed course of study but are intending to do so may apply for this PHD scholarship. In this case any award will be conditional on the applicant's successful enrolment in a PHD at a New Zealand Wānanga or University.

4. Types of grants

PhD Scholarship

Description	Maximum value of award	Maximum grant duration
PhD scholarships provide funding for students to undertake advanced research in the field of cancer, leading to a Doctorate in Philosophy from a New Zealand University.	\$40,000 per annum stipend \$10,000 per annum for University fees \$10,000 across the duration of the award as a tikanga allowance	36 months

Grant specific notes – PhD scholarship

- Applicants for a PhD Scholarship award should fill in the '2021 Cancer Society PhD Scholarship Application Form' found on our website, available from the 20th of August 2021.
- Priority will be given to PhD scholarship applications in areas where grant opportunities are limited (for example, mātauranga Māori, nursing, allied health care).
- Applicants should include referee letters and clear detail about the research or training environment.

5. Application process and timelines

All grants will be awarded by open competition (for all individuals who meet the above eligibility criteria to apply for funding). Applications will be assessed by Hei Āhuru Mōwai and the Cancer Society. The final funding decision will be made by Hei Āhuru Mōwai and the Cancer Society's National Office.

Applications will be assessed through several stages:

Task	Date
Applications open	20 August, 2021
Applications close	27 September, 2021
Cancer Society and Hei Āhuru Mōwai assessing applications	28 September - 12 November
Applicants notified of outcome of application	15 November
Acceptance letters and contracts sent to applicants	3 December, 2021
Contracts returned	13 December, 2021

Applications made in te reo Māori must be accompanied with a translation into English.

The Cancer Society and Hei Āhuru Mōwai may refuse to consider an application if it considers actions of the applicant to be contrary to the values and interests of the Cancer Society and Hei Āhuru Mōwai or may bring the Cancer Society and/or Hei Āhuru Mōwai into disrepute.

5.1 Submission

The '2021 Cancer Society PHD Scholarship Application Form' should be completed and submitted electronically to research@cancer.org.nz by **5pm on 27th September 2021**. PDF files need to be clear and legible – please scan from originals rather than from another pdf copy if any portion is handwritten (typed is preferred).

5.2 Reporting

Applicants successful in receiving funding through this unique Grant Round will be required to submit annual progress reports and a final report.

Reports will include a lay person's summary which may be used to inform the public about the work we support, an update on the project's timelines and milestones; whether they are met, partially met, or delayed, and an explanation for any delays. The Cancer Society and Hei Āhuru Mōwai recommends writing lay summaries at the **reading age of twelve years old**.

Annual reports in te reo Māori must also provide the english translation.

Funding for the subsequent year will only be released upon receipt of a satisfactory annual report.

For PhD scholarship grantees, in addition to the student's report, the supervisor must submit a report on the student's progress.

5.3 Privacy provisions

The information requested in an application will be used for assessing that application and, in a non-identifiable form, some information will be used for Cancer Society statistical purposes. All research applications will be stored in a secure place. Security and confidentiality will be preserved for any application declined. Personal information contained in the application may be made available to external referees and members of Hei Āhuru Mōwai, and Cancer Society National Scientific Advisory Committee reviewing the application, including electronic and paper copies of the application. When an application is successful, the Cancer Society and Hei Āhuru Mōwai reserves the right to publish the applicants' names, details of the Host Institution, lay summary and funding awarded. You can find the Cancer Society's privacy policy online [here](#).

6. Assessment criteria

All applicants should demonstrate that their proposed research meets the following parameters:

- **Te Tiriti o Waitangi:** The proposal must demonstrate commitment and application of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and responsiveness to Māori health aspirations.
- **Equity:** clear identification how the research will contribute to equitable cancer outcomes across the continuum (such as geography, ethnicity, socio economic status, and gender, where applicable).
- **Strong rationale for research:** addresses important mātauranga/research questions, likely to result in significant benefit

for tangata and whānau affected by cancer or advancement in the understanding of cancer.

- **Research design:** clear objectives and deliverables and appropriate research design.
- **Research team:** qualifications, experience and knowledge in the proposed research area, right mix of expertise, appropriate networks and collaborations, history of productivity and delivery, and supportive research environment. This includes kuia and kaumatua.
- **Research impact:** contribution to increased knowledge, health, social and/or economic gains, appropriate pathway for knowledge transfer and responsiveness to Māori.
- **Value for money:** funds requested are well justified and the applicant's stated time commitment to the work is appropriate and sufficient.
- **Significance/ contribution to the goals of the Cancer Society and Hei Āhuru Mōwai:** the expected outcomes of the proposed research will add value and contribute to the goals of the Cancer Society and Hei Āhuru Mōwai.

7. Eligible costs

All calculations should be GST exclusive and in whole dollar amounts i.e. no cents or decimals. Please use the below table to help calculate the total costs requested (tuition, tikanga allowance).

Category	Acceptable Costs	Unacceptable	Notes
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	(not exhaustive)	Costs	
Tikanga allowance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wānanga costs • Koha for kaitiaki /kuia/kaumatua 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costs not associated with the research project 	
Tuition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actual PHD tuition cost as charged by the institution • Students services fee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student loan costs, e.g. Student Allowance or Living Costs, Loan Renewal Costs, Loan Repayments • Contribution to supervisor 	

If you believe that any of the ‘unacceptable costs’ above should be seen as direct costs of the research, you must provide a full and detailed justification for this in your application.

8. Research ethics approval

General guidelines to applicants:

- It is the responsibility of the Host Institution to evaluate the ethics involved in any research on human or animal experiments or utilizing personal information. However, the Cancer Society wishes to be fully informed on the ethical arrangements covering any work for which it supplies funds.
- The applicant must supply a copy of any submission for ethical approval

that is awaiting approval and evidence of approval must be supplied to the Cancer Society before any research procedures involving animal or human materials, or personal information may commence.

- Research ethical approval(s) must come from an accredited Ethics Committee(s). Please refer to the HRC Research Ethics Guidelines for details on how to apply and a list of accredited Ethics Committees - <https://www.hrc.govt.nz/resources/hrc-ethics-committee>
- If appropriate, more than one Ethics Committee approval may be necessary, for example, if the research geographically covers an area serviced by more than one committee or if human and animal studies will be undertaken. All committees applied to for approval should be listed.
- Where a dispute arises over the ethics of experimentation, the Cancer Society reserves the right to refer the matter to the Health Research Council Committee on Ethics and Research for arbitration.

Guidelines for applicants on research involving animals:

- Animals used for research purposes shall be lawfully acquired. They shall be kept and used in strict compliance with the relevant laws and by-laws.
- Any research project involving animals must be approved by a properly constituted Animal Ethical Advisory Committee, and conform to the guidelines for Institutional Animal Ethics Committees, of the National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee.
- An Act of Parliament (October 1984) established the National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee, to advise the Minister of Agriculture. Further information on how to apply for Animal Ethics approval can be found here - <http://www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/animal-welfare/overview/national-animal-ethics-advisory-committee/>

Guidelines for applicants on research involving human subjects:

All research supported by the Cancer Society on human subjects must conform to the code of ethical principles established by the Health Research Council of New Zealand. In addition, research funded by the Cancer Society must conform to the below principles¹:

- The applicant and any other researchers involved must be satisfied by forethought, by study of the literature, and by consultation that the proposed research is likely to contribute to the understanding of the matter being investigated.
- The Investigator must be satisfied that the research on human subjects is based as far as possible on the results of experiments conducted “in vitro” or on animals.
- The Investigator must be satisfied that adequate facilities will be used for the solution of the problem being investigated.
- The Investigator must be satisfied that the research will not impose unreasonable discomfort or hazard upon the subject. In order to ensure the safety of the subject in an untoward event, the Investigator must ensure that appropriately qualified persons are present during experiments and that proper facilities are at hand to ensure the safety of the subject in any emergency.
- The Investigator must modify appropriately or discontinue the research if it becomes apparent that the procedure is likely to cause unreasonable risk to the subject.
- Before the research project is undertaken, the Investigator must obtain the free informed consent of the subject or his/her guardian in writing

¹ Grants may be terminated at any time and without notice should the Cancer Society find that these principles have not been observed.

and in the presence of a witness. The consent must be obtained without the exertion of pressure on the subject and without being dependent on any obligation of the subject toward the Investigator.

- The Investigator should be satisfied that the subject, or the guardian, has been informed, in terms capable of being understood, of the nature and purpose of the proposed research, the methods to be employed, and the possible risks and discomfort that may be involved.
- Special care must be taken in the case of subjects at particular risk, for example, children, the mentally infirm, the unconscious patient, and pregnant and nursing women. Children should never be the subjects of research which could appropriately be undertaken in adults and, in the case of unconscious patients, the written consent of the next of kin must always be obtained.
- The subject, or the guardian, shall be free at any time to withdraw consent for further participation in the research and must be made aware of his/her right in this respect. Such withdrawal does not in any way prejudice the subjects further management and treatment as a patient.
- New therapeutic or experimental procedures which are at the stage of early evaluation and which might have long-term effects should not be undertaken unless full provision has been made for long-term care and observation of the subject.

9. Contract information and institutional approval

Please ensure the appropriate individuals have signed the application form

confirming their support, before it is submitted:

- Applicant / PHD Candidate
- Supervisor
- Head of Department
- Authorised official on behalf of the Host Institution - The Host Institution is the University, Hospital, or other institution which undertakes to provide facilities and accept overall responsibility for the conduct of the research and the administration of grant funds. The official authorised to sign for the Host Institution will be a matter for decision by that Institution. In the case of a University employed applicant carrying out research on University property, the Vice-Chancellor or his/her nominee would normally sign. Where the research is to be carried out in a hospital, the Chief Executive, or General Manager of the Company would normally sign for the Host Institution.

Successful applicants will be asked to sign a research contract.

When a matter relating to research arises and the Cancer Society does not have a stated policy the Cancer Society may follow any existing guidelines of the Health Research Council.