

The background is a solid yellow color with a repeating pattern of white geometric shapes, including squares and triangles, some of which are nested or overlapping. In the center, there is a large white circle. A dark blue herring is positioned horizontally across the middle of the circle, facing left. A dark blue eel is positioned vertically, with its head at the top right and its tail at the bottom left, curving around the circle. The herring and eel are both outlined in white and have detailed scales and fins.

# WAI MĀORI SCHOLARSHIP

Guidelines

## PURPOSE OF THE SCHOLARSHIP

The Wai Māori scholarship has been established in order to strengthen the presence of Māori experts in freshwater and freshwater fisheries related fields of academic study and professional fields, contributing to the advancement of one or more of the following areas:

- Indigenous freshwater species research,
- Effects of climate change on indigenous freshwater species
- Kaupapa Māori freshwater research,
- Māori rights and interests in freshwater,
- Freshwater and/or freshwater fisheries/species management and protection
- Freshwater and/or freshwater fisheries/species policy, regulation, and development and;
- Building or strengthening connections of tauira to their iwi/hapū

## ABOUT TE WAI MĀORI TRUST

Te Wai Māori Trust is an independent Māori Trust established under the Māori Fisheries Act 2004. The long-term outcomes Te Wai Māori Trust work towards include:

- enhancing the health and well-being of the indigenous fisheries and their environment;
- increasing Iwi and hapū capacity and capability in freshwater fisheries and their ability to take responsibility for the health and well-being of freshwater fisheries<sup>1</sup>;
- promoting and sharing indigenous fisheries expertise, knowledge and understanding; and
- increasing the quality and range of information to iwi and hapū on freshwater fisheries and their interests thereof.

Our core values are **te mana o te wai, whakapapa, and kaitiakitanga** and represent the natural order of the Te Wai Māori Trust worldview. First and foremost, we value freshwater and all that is encompassed in its ecosystems. The inherent right for water in its own state. Each water body has its own mauri. Whakapapa recognises our interdependence which binds us as tangata of the environment; and kaitiakitanga, our obligation and responsibility to care for Papatūānuku and ngā atua. Māori do not distinguish land from lakes, lagoons, rivers, wetlands, freshwater species and their associated beds. They are considered part of an undivided entity. Ensuring the health and well-being of freshwater is essential for the continued health and well-being of freshwater fisheries. Healthy waterbodies are a direct source of mahinga kai for Māori and the use of mahinga kai is an important expression of cultural identity and values, passed down through generations.

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<sup>1</sup> The Māori Fisheries Act defines “freshwater fisheries” as including the species, habitat, surrounding land, water column, and water quality and quantity. Sports fisheries or unwanted aquatic life or activities conducted under the Freshwater Fish Farming Regulations 1983 are excluded from this definition.

## REQUIRED DOCUMENTS/INFORMATION:

To apply for this scholarship, fill out the [online application form](#) and supply the following documents:

- Full name and contact details
- Date of birth
- Iwi affiliations
- A short bio, this must include a statement on your suitability for the scholarship.
- Details of your proposed programme of study
  - A one-page summary and a 120 second "Cover Video" - outlining your research/proposed programme of study illustrating how your research aligns with the scholarship purpose, the long-term goals that Te Wai Māori Trust work toward and of your ongoing commitment to freshwater/freshwater fisheries and to advancing tikanga, mātauranga and Te Ao Māori within it, particularly post-grant and at the completion of your proposed course study
- Confirmation of enrolment
- Evidence of academic achievement such as an academic transcript
- Details of any other scholarships held, including the amount awarded/received
- Two character references
- If you are undertaking post-graduate research, details of your academic supervisor and their confirmation of the commitment.

## AWARD CONDITIONS

- A total of \$40,000 has been made available for this scholarship, this may be awarded to a single recipient or split between a number of recipients, at the discretion of the selection panel.
- Your award is conditional on the acceptance to an approved institution and course of study or research.
- This scholarship is open to students undertaking post-graduate study and to undergraduate students from their second year of study onward.
- Your selected course of study must begin within a calendar year of the confirmation of your award, and the grant cannot be deferred to subsequent academic years.
- A condition of acceptance is that recipients permit publication and announcement of their acceptance of the award by Te Wai Māori Trust and are willing to present their research at a Māori Freshwater Fisheries conference or other forum such as a seminar or webinar. Additional funding may be available to assist with any travel and conference attendance for this purpose.
- Should a recipient withdraw from a specified course of study for which the scholarship was awarded, the scholarship will be withdrawn.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

- Applications open on **Thursday 14 August 2025**.
- You must complete and submit an [online application](#) by 12pm **Monday 22 September 2025**.
- A Selection Panel will consider applications on their merit against the purpose of the scholarship and the long-term outcomes of the Trust.
- The successful candidates will be notified by **Friday 26 September 2025**. This will also be announced via Te Wai Māori Trust's website and associated social media channels and included in reporting material.