

**Building collaborative research capacity in freshwater management through co-supervision of graduate students**

***Invitation to University of Waikato and NIWA staff to develop collaborative proposals.***

Te Waiora seeks to develop the next generation of freshwater scientists and water managers, and provide the interdisciplinary knowledge and innovations required to meet the complex challenges facing freshwater management here in New Zealand and around the world.

As part of its investment in the development of Te Waiora, the University of Waikato is providing funding to initiate new research collaborations with NIWA through co-supervision of graduate research. As well as enabling graduate research to be undertaken under the combined guidance of both partners, this will provide opportunities to build new alliances and explore new research directions.

Collaborative proposals are sought for graduate research projects that involve NIWA and University of Waikato researchers and address one or more of Te Waiora’s strategic focus areas. They can be led by either organisation, across any relevant disciplines and aspects of freshwater (including estuarine) management.



The proposals will be appraised based on the following criteria:

* Science excellence
* Strategic fit and potential opportunities generated
* Iwi and stakeholder engagement and support
* Balance across research themes

Te Waiora has a focus on science approaches that can address the complex interplay of ecological and socio-cultural issues that frequently hinder resolution of freshwater management problems. Therefore, with these inaugural scholarship opportunities, we are particularly keen to encourage inter- and trans-disciplinary projects that cross the boundaries between Mātauranga and Western Science, and between biophysical and socio-cultural spheres to broaden our research capabilities.

Funding for three PhD projects ($40K/yr for 3 yrs) and four Masters projects ($27.5K for one year) is offered. Short proposals outlining the project must be submitted on the attached form before 5 pm on 26th July, 2019. Selected projects will be notified within 4 weeks. The project collaborators will then have up to 6 months to find a suitable student, with enrolment starting in Semester A of 2020 at the latest. If a student deemed suitable by the selection committee can’t be found within this timeframe, then the opportunity will be forfeited and new proposals considered.

For further background, please consult the Te Waiora website: [www.TeWaioraFreshwater.co.nz](http://www.TeWaioraFreshwater.co.nz)

Contacts for further information, identification of suitable research partners, and discussion of potential project proposals:

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