



Key Changes to the Unlocking Curious Minds contestable fund 2022 investment round

Previously applied for Unlocking Curious Minds contestable funding? If so you will notice that we have made some key changes.

We have made some changes to the Unlocking Curious Minds contestable fund (the Fund). We anticipate these changes will improve and streamline the application and assessment processes, and provide efficiencies in the management and monitoring of funding.

The key changes you will notice in the Fund's 2022 investment round are outlined below.

The Structure of the Fund

- > While still retaining the original themes, the Fund's outcomes now include language to reflect:
 - > the Government's aims of strengthening Māori-Crown relationships and building space for Mātauranga Māori.
 - > Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and workforce planning priorities.
- > There is now a single type of grant. All applicants can now simply apply for between \$50,000 (*minimum*) and \$150,000 (*maximum*) to fund a project with a duration of up to 11 months within one or more New Zealand regions. The fundable activities have been adjusted to help ensure:
 - > inclusivity of smaller providers, and
 - > that the range of fundable projects meet minimum levels of reach and impact for their target audiences.
- > Although welcomed in proposals, co-funding is no longer a requirement.

Application and Assessment

- > The assessment criteria has been adjusted to more clearly align with the Fund's objectives and outcomes, and to reflect science engagement and awareness.
- > Accordingly, the proposal application template now also clearly aligns with the criteria.

Reporting Requirements

Successful applicants will no longer need to have put aside time to complete and submit a mid-term progress report. Instead they need only complete a simple and quick mid-term declaration in our Information Management system (IMS). Specific reporting guidelines will be supplied separately to successful applicants at the contracting stage.

Funding Payments

Funding payments are no longer linked to provision of a satisfactory progress report. Subject to specific contract conditions, funding will be provided to successful applicants as follows:

- > 30% of the approved funding will be paid when the Funding Agreement is signed.
- > Two instalments, each 30% of the approved funding will be made at regular intervals over the term of the Funding Agreement.
- > 10% will be paid on completion of the project and acceptance of a Final Report that demonstrates that the project has achieved its stated outcomes.