

**A NEW ZEALAND – UNITED KINGDOM  
RESEARCH, SCIENCE AND INNOVATION WORK PROGRAMME  
2024 - 2025**

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The New Zealand Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) and the United Kingdom Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) ('the Participants') have approved a high-level Work Programme aimed at facilitating substantive bilateral RSI cooperation and exchange for mutual benefit.

Reflecting the strong researcher-to-researcher links between New Zealand and the United Kingdom, as well as our shared values, a close security partnership, and a commitment to addressing climate change, we want to further integrate our two science systems to better cooperate with each other, and together with other countries, to address global challenges.

Under the framework of the *Arrangement relating to Research, Science and Innovation Cooperation Between the Government of New Zealand and the Government of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*, and recognising the New Zealand Government's commitment to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi, the Participants have decided the following elements for the Work Programme:

1. The Work Programme will advance the development of enduring connections and networks between our researchers through deeper integration of our two science systems, including through people-to-people connections, and seeking to better align our respective funding mechanisms.
2. Collaborative efforts will be focused on the below thematic areas:
  - a) Quantum technologies
  - b) Oceans and climate change
  - c) Aerospace technologies
  - d) Agritech
  - e) Bioengineering
3. The Participants will consider mutual support for initiatives in the priority areas on a case-by-case basis, including creating research opportunities, support for early-career researcher engagement, conducting joint research projects, and enabling adoption of science outcomes by industry and other end-users.
4. The Participants, noting their shared status as Associated Countries in Horizon Europe, will work to identify opportunities for their researchers to collaborate within Pillar II of Horizon Europe, and to coordinate on issues of mutual interest in the governance of Horizon Europe.
5. The Participants will cooperate on initiatives outside these areas when jointly decided. Initiatives under this Work Programme may involve, or be led by, other government agencies in either country as appropriate.



6. Funding administration and mechanisms for collaborative activities will be the independent responsibility of the New Zealand and United Kingdom funding agencies. The Participants will work to ensure researchers are supported to apply into joint funding opportunities and to explore options for dedicated funding to support research connections.
7. The Participants accept to hold joint policy dialogues (Joint Commission Meetings) at least biennially to review progress under the Work Programme and to exchange RSI priorities. The Participants will nominate officials to a joint working-group that will design, conduct, and report on cooperative activities.

The New Zealand – United Kingdom RSI Work Programme, intended as the first in a series, will come into effect after the Participants announce this joint statement in April 2024.

For the Ministry of Business, Innovation  
and Employment of New Zealand

For the Department for Science, Innovation  
and Technology of the United Kingdom

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