

Māori experiential knowledge in the Central Volcanic Plateau

Funding:	Fully funded (incl. fees) with a scholarship of \$22,000 per year
Ideal student start date:	Semester 1, 2024
Degree:	Masters (MA or MSc)

We seek a creative and dependable Masters student for a fully funded project with a scholarship of \$22,000 per year (a total of \$33,000 over 1.5 years). You will be based in Te Pūtahi-a-Toi at Massey University under the supervision of [Prof. Hēmi Whaanga](#), [Prof. Jonathan Procter](#), and [Dr Melody Whitehead](#). This masters project ideal start date is Semester 1, 2024, however, we can push this to a Semester 2, 2024 start for the right student.

This project is aligned with MBIE funded *Matatuhi: Unlocking the forecasting potential of environmental tohu via ensemble systems models*. The Matatuhi project aims to provide robust forecasts of the future of Ruapehu and the Central Volcanic Plateau through a holistic methodology. Such an approach is intrinsic to Mātauranga Maori which, moreover, provides for an alternative lens on what can be considered data, beyond instrumental readings. We know that adding more voices with alternate understandings leads to better, more transparent forecasts with accurate descriptions of uncertainty.

Your research will provide the first step towards this, through the (oral, textual, and/or visual) documentation of guided discussions on marae of Māori experiential knowledge and subsequently the construction of a conceptual model of the Central Volcanic Plateau.

The exact details of this project will be designed around your strengths and motivations, thus, you can work towards either a [Master of Arts \(Māori Knowledge\)](#) or [Master of Science \(Earth Science\)](#).

In this project, you will:

1. Attend project-focussed hui throughout your degree, with discussions on marae guided by Whaanga and Procter.
2. Produce a body of work that includes the visual, textual, and oral documentation of the tohu and knowledge about Ruapehu and the Central Volcanic Plateau.
3. Develop a conceptual model of the CVP, supported by Whitehead and guided by relevant iwi and other supervision team members as necessary.

To apply, you should have great attention to detail, excellent written and spoken communication skills in both English and te reo Māori, with a flexible and adaptable documentation approach. Applicants must also be iwi affiliated.

Please contact m.whitehead@massey.ac.nz (or any other member of the supervision team) if you have any questions or to start a discussion around applying for this project.

Iwi-centric forecasting tools and training materials for the Central Volcanic Plateau

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Your research will provide the final step in this project, through the design of iwi-specific training materials for the communication and translation of knowledge and models.

The exact details of this project will be designed around your strengths and motivations, thus, you can work towards either a [Master of Arts \(Māori Knowledge\)](#) or [Master of Science \(Earth Science\)](#).

In this project, you will:

1. Produce a body of work that includes training and communication tools around the tohu and knowledge of Ruapehu and the Central Volcanic Plateau.
2. Develop iwi-specific representations of conceptual and causal forecasting models supported by Gabrielsen and Whitehead and guided by relevant iwi as necessary.
3. Attend project-focussed hui throughout your degree, with discussions on marae guided by Whaanga and Procter, culminating in a final-project hui where your materials will be gifted back to the iwi.

To apply, you should have great design and communication skills in both English and te reo Māori, with a flexible mindset, and ideally with some experience in training or teaching. Applicants must also be iwi affiliated.

Please contact m.whitehead@massey.ac.nz (or any other member of the supervision team) if you have any questions or to start a discussion around applying for this project.