



Tertiary Education Commission
Te Amorangi Mātauranga Matua

**A Centre of Research Excellence
focused on Māori Research**

**Assessment framework for the
2014/2015 selection round**

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Te Koronga – Purpose of the selection round

E ngā mana, e ngā reo, e rau rangatira mā, piki mai, kake mai.

The Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) seeks to fund, through a contestable selection process, a Centre of Research Excellence (CoRE) focused on Māori research.

The mission statement and selection criteria are set out in the Minister's funding determination for the selection process (see Appendix 1). The mission statement sets out high-level expectations for the role, performance and achievements of the CoREs, including the Māori CoRE, as well as the shared responsibilities of host and partners. It underpins the selection criteria that the selection committee will apply in the selection process and also the on-going performance monitoring of the successful CoRE.

The selection criteria are as follows:

- research excellence
- contribution within the tertiary education system
- contribution to New Zealand's future development
- governance and management.

The selection committee, led by the Chair, Emeritus Professor Sir Mason Durie, will give particular consideration to the distinct Māori dimensions expected of this CoRE:

- Use of Māori knowledge, specifically Mātauranga Māori, reflected alongside other bodies of knowledge such as science, humanities, commerce, and jurisprudence.
- Inclusion of Māori researchers who are experienced, reputable, and have international standing.
- Established connections with Māori networks that encompass Māori end-users (eg iwi), Māori academics, Māori non-government organisations (NGOs), Māori policy makers, and Māori governance bodies.
- The CoRE will make identified and measurable contributions to Māori social, cultural, and economic advancement.

Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā tātou katoa.

He Tirohanga Whānui – Context

Through Budget 2014, the Government is funding a CoRE specifically focused on Māori research, providing support for excellent research to underpin Māori advancement. The funding also recognises the unique nature of this research and its importance to the New Zealand research environment, and for indigenous research around the world.

By investing in the CoREs fund, the Government intends to support growth in research excellence and the development of world class researchers in areas of existing excellence that are important to New Zealand's future development. This is the paramount focus of selecting a CoRE focused on Māori research excellence.

The TEC is managing the Māori CoRE selection process. At the same time, the TEC has contracted the Royal Society of New Zealand (the Royal Society) to manage the process for recommending three general CoREs for funding from 2016 to 2020.

Māori CoRE selection round 2014/2015

The selection round has been designed to ensure that the decision-making process:

- is robust, open and transparent;
- balances compliance with the need for sufficient information to make robust decisions; and
- builds on good practice to ensure the best possible outcome for Māori research excellence.

While the process aligns, where practicable, with the Royal Society process, this round has some important distinctive elements:

- four Māori dimensions which must be considered;
- the need to consider the Government's Māori strategies in addition to the CoREs mission statement and assessment criteria;
- a three-stage application process comprising submission of expressions of interest (now closed), pre-proposals and full applications; and
- a single assessment panel (the selection committee) to assess pre-proposals and then full applications against all the mandated criteria and dimensions.

The expression of interest stage was not part of the decision-making process. It provided the TEC with sufficient information to select selection committee members with the relevant skills and experience. The selection committee will assess the three pre-proposals and then at least one full application.

The selection committee will consider pre-proposals against all the selection criteria and the Māori dimensions. Applicants will have the opportunity to present on their

pre-proposals when the selection committee meets in Wellington. The selection committee will invite the applicant(s) that best meet the selection criteria to submit a full application(s). The invited applicant(s) will have approximately six weeks to develop and submit the full application(s) by the closing date.

The TEC will then invite referees to review and comment on the full application(s), with a focus on the quality of the research programme and whether it is of a world-class standard.

The selection committee will meet to score and assess the application(s) against each of the selection criteria and the Māori dimensions. The TEC will also ask the applicant(s) to host the selection committee for a site visit to meet face-to-face and to clarify aspects of the application.

The selection committee expects to make a final recommendation to the TEC on the application that best meets the selection criteria and the Māori dimensions in April 2015. For a flow diagram of the process see Appendix 2.

Timeline

The TEC will confirm the assessment meeting dates directly with selection committee members. The closing dates for submitting pre-proposals and full applications are confirmed and will not change.

Activity	Indicative Dates
Inaugural meeting of the selection committee	5 November 2014 (completed)
Pre-proposal submission closes	14 November 2014
Selection committee assessment meeting - pre-proposals, including possible presentations	10-11 December 2014 (confirmed)
Applicants advised of pre-proposal outcome and invited to do full application(s) if recommended	By 16 January 2015
Full application due	27 February 2015
Referee reports and rebuttal period	28 February–19 March 2015
Selection committee assessment meeting, including site visits	Late March–early April 2015
Applicant(s) informed of the outcome, followed by a public release of the funding decision	May-June 2015

Role of the selection committee

The selection committee has been established to assess the range of applications, on the basis of the information provided in the expressions of interest. As a whole, the selection committee has high levels of skill and capability in areas that are directly relevant to Māori research, including expertise in the research fields of interest. The selection committee have a high level of expertise in the assessment of quality and excellence; and an understanding of the importance of Māori research to New Zealand's social, economic and cultural advancement.

The selection committee is required to:

- take into account all information submitted in the pre-proposals and full applications, referees' reports and applicant rebuttals, and any presentations and site visits;
- consider and score pre-proposals and the full application(s) against all four selection criteria and the Māori dimensions;
- consider and score the pre-proposals and full applications for their contribution to the Government's Māori strategies, that is:
 - He kai kei aku ringa: the Crown-Māori Economic Growth Partnership
 - Ka Hikitia: Accelerating Success 2013-17
 - Vision Mātauranga; and
 - the Māori Language Strategy.
- meet to discuss pre-proposals and the full application(s), and possibly amend their scores in light of the discussions.

The selection committee will score both pre-proposals and full applications against all of the selection criteria and Māori dimensions using the following weightings:

- research excellence: 40%
- contribution within the tertiary education system: 20%
- contribution to New Zealand's future development and especially future Māori development: 20%
- governance and management: 20%

The Chair of the selection committee is responsible for the effective conduct of the assessment process and will ensure that the ranking of proposals is defensible, by:

- ensuring that the selection criteria are adhered to;
- ensuring that members consider only the information that has been provided to them through the assessment process;
- identifying and taking appropriate action over conflicts of interest; and
- ensuring that information provided for feedback to applicants is appropriate.

The details of the selection criteria and assessment indicators can be found in Appendix 3.

Decision process

The selection committee is led by the Chair, Emeritus Professor Sir Mason Durie. In the event of his absence, the Deputy Chair, Haami Piripi will oversee proceedings. The advice of all members must inform the selection committee recommendations to TEC for both the pre-proposal and full application decisions, primarily through face-to-face meetings, or via tele- or video conference. While meetings will be arranged to maximise members' attendance, the quorum for face-to-face meetings will be at least three members plus the Chair (or Deputy Chair).

Assessment of a pre-proposal

The pre-proposals are due on 14 November 2014. The purpose of the pre-proposal assessment is to review all information contained within them, along with presentations from applicants, and then recommend which applicant(s) will be invited by the TEC to submit a full application.

Scoring the pre-proposals

Selection committee members will receive electronic copies of the pre-proposals shortly after the closing date, along with a spread sheet consisting of an automatically calculated summary tab, and a tab for each pre-proposal with room for scores and comments to be entered. An example of the sheet for an individual pre-proposal is given in Appendix 4.

Scoring will be completed individually by the selection committee members and can only take into account the information contained within the pre-proposal. Members must send the completed spread sheet to the TEC's secretariat by 8 December 2014, to allow the TEC secretariat time to produce an initial overall ranking for discussion at the meeting.

Initial average scores for each pre-proposal will provide a starting point for the meeting discussion. Members will also consider the information presented by applicants. Members are able to amend their initial rankings in light of the discussions at the pre-proposal assessment meeting.

Presentations from applicants

Applicants will be invited to present their proposals to the selection committee in the morning prior to the committee's pre-proposal assessment meeting. Members will be able to ask questions and clarify aspects of the pre-proposal, specifically regarding the applicants plans for the further development of their proposed CoRE. This information will then inform the final decisions on which applicant(s) will be invited to progress in the assessment process. See Appendix 5 for the presentation format.

Meeting procedure

The purpose of the pre-proposal meeting is to review all pre-proposals and decide which applicant(s) will be invited to submit a full application.

At the beginning of the meeting, selection committee members will be asked to identify any pre-proposals for which they have a conflict of interest (or perceived conflict), and to explain the nature of the conflict. All pre-proposals will be assessed by all members unless a conflict of interest has been declared and the Chair has deemed it necessary to put in place management actions.

A summary sheet will be provided to each member at the meeting with the initial grades made by members for each pre-proposal. This will assist with the moderation of individual members scoring against the criteria and assessment standards. Any changes made as a result of moderation during the meeting will be recorded and identified as such.

The selection committee will work on the basis of consensus-based decisions, rather than voting. Where a decision is required, the Chair will, after reasonable deliberation and when the Chair judges that there is a consensus amongst the members, state that: the Chair believes that agreement has been reached; and what the agreement is.

If any member of the selection committee considers that a consensus has not been reached they may say so and discussion will continue, including on whether there is a consensus. There may also be discussion on exactly what the agreement entails. This consensus means that each member fully supports the outcome of the committee's deliberations but cannot be assumed to have supported every element of every decision. Therefore they do not need to state dissenting views on particular items that they did not fully agree with.

The selection committee will also discuss the themes and wording of feedback information for the applicants. This will also form the basis of any changes the invited applicant(s) will need to make to their full application.

The ranking information and feedback will be collated by the TEC secretariat.

Recommendations to invite full applications

The selection committee will develop recommendations for the TEC on which applicant(s) will be invited to submit a full application (and which will not).

Assessment of a full application(s)

The purpose of the full application assessment is to review all information contained within the full application(s), referees' reports and applicant rebuttals, and site visits in order to determine which proposed Māori CoRE best meets the selection criteria and the Māori dimensions and therefore receives funding.

Referee assessment process

Once the TEC receives the full application(s), these will be provided to referees.

Referees are expected to be internationally respected experts in the relevant fields of research and they will be asked to assess the proposed research programme of the CoRE with respect to excellence, its research team, and its intended methodology for research and knowledge transfer. Referees will receive the full application, but will be asked to focus their attention on the research programme components.

The TEC aims to obtain a minimum of three referee reports for each application. The TEC will also aim to include at least one referee that has not been proposed as a referee by the applicant. The referee reports will assist the selection committee to determine how well the proposed CoRE meets the research excellence criterion.

Further information on the role of referees and the guidelines for referee reports is provided in Appendix 6.

Applicant rebuttal process

Applicants will be given the opportunity to respond to the referees' comments for the selection committee, with a total of two pages allocated to each response to a particular referee, whose identity will be anonymous and confidential to the selection committee. The referees' reports and the applicants' responses will form a part of the selection committee's assessment of the applications.

Scoring the full applications

Members will receive electronic copies of the full application shortly after the due date (27 February 2015), along with a scoring spread sheet.

Scoring will again be completed individually by the selection committee members and will take account of all information in the full application along with referees' reports and applicant rebuttals, in order to make a preliminary assessment of the proposed CoRE. This preliminary assessment will inform the preparatory teleconference and assist the selection committee with preparing for site visits.

Members must send the completed spread sheet to the TEC's secretariat prior to the preparatory teleconference in late March 2015. This will assist with preparations for the site visit(s) and the final full application(s) meeting in late March/early April 2015.

Preparatory teleconference

The purpose of the teleconference will be to discuss the full application(s) in light of the changes made as a result of feedback on the pre-proposal, and determine the focus of the site visit(s). As with the pre-proposal meetings, members are required to identify any conflicts of interest relating to the full application(s), explaining the nature of the conflict. The selection committee will continue to work on the basis of consensus-based decisions.

Site visits

Following the teleconference, the selection committee will conduct the site visit(s) to the host institution of the proposed CoRE(s). These site visits will allow selection committee members to ask further questions and raise issues that have not been addressed in the written proposal. The visits also allow the committee to assess the suitability of the host organisation's provision of facilities, and to observe interactions between representatives of both host and partner organisations. The expected duration of a site visit is half a day. The TEC will confirm appropriate tikanga arrangements for site visits in discussion with applicants.

Final committee meeting

Immediately following the site visit(s), the selection committee will meet to discuss and rescore the full application(s) in light of all the information now at their disposal.

As with previous selection committee meetings, members will continue to work on the basis of consensus-based decisions, with the Chair stating, after reasonable deliberation, that agreement has been reached; and what the agreement is. There may also be discussion on exactly what the agreement entails.

The selection committee will also discuss the themes and wording of feedback information for any unsuccessful applicants along with any areas of continued improvement for the successful applicant which may form the basis of funding conditions applied by the TEC.

The ranking information and feedback will be collated by the TEC secretariat.

Final recommendations to the TEC's Board of Commissioners

The committee is required to make their final recommendations to the TEC Board of Commissioners on the Māori CoRE that best meets the selection criteria and the Māori dimensions.

The TEC will make the final decisions on the level of funding for the proposed CoRE.

Confidentiality

The TEC takes the issue of confidentiality very seriously.

- Committee members must ensure the safe keeping of all applications and related confidential documents (e.g. application spread sheets, referee reports, committee summaries).
- At the conclusion of the final committee meeting, members must leave documentation with TEC staff and destroy any documentation remaining elsewhere.
- Outside the meetings of the committee there must be no correspondence or discussion by committee members of the contents of the applications with referees, third parties, or the applicants, except with the Chair of the selection committee or the TEC's secretariat.¹
- Selection committee members must not discuss or make public comment on the selection process at any stage during, or subsequent to the final decision. Members must refer any requests for information regarding the selection process from third parties, the applicants, or the media, to the TEC.
- Applicants' intellectual property must be held in strict confidence by selection committee members and referees.

Privacy

The TEC must comply with the Privacy Act in relation to personal information collected through the CoRE application process.

All scoring information will be provided at an aggregate level to ensure the privacy of individual member's scoring, and narrative feedback will be kept anonymous.

Official Information Act

Information received by the TEC will be official information in terms of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) and may be requested by various parties. The TEC will be responsible for responding to any requests made under the OIA.

Selection committee members are not authorised to release any information. They may, however, share information that has already been publicly released by the TEC.

¹ Unless explicitly authorised by the TEC to do so.

Conflicts of interest

The TEC takes the issue of conflict of interest very seriously. A rigorous approach will be taken in order to maintain the credibility of the assessment process and to ensure that applications are subjected to a fair appraisal.

What is a conflict of interest?

In determining whether a conflict is present or not, there are two considerations:

1. Would a reasonably informed objective observer infer from the circumstances that the committee member's or referee's professional judgement is likely to be compromised in evaluating a proposal?
2. Does the interest create an incentive for the committee member or referee to act in a way that would be contrary to the objectives of a fair, impartial and effective assessment process?

A committee member's or referee's current or previous employment at a tertiary education institute (TEI) does not automatically exclude the individual from the assessment of a proposal where that TEI is either the Host or a Partner institution. This also applies to other non-TEI organisations, such as Crown Research Institutions or other community organisations that may be named as Partners.

How and when to declare a conflict of interest

A selection committee member or a referee may declare a conflict of interest at any time during the CoRE selection process. The following stages in the process are when the TEC will formally request any conflicts to be declared:

- when first appointed to the role (selection committee and referees)
- on receipt of the pre-proposal (selection committee)
- on receipt of the full application(s) (selection committee and referees).

All conflicts of interest must be declared in writing to the TEC.

Conflicts raised by TEIs

A TEI may also raise perceived conflicts between committee members and proposals. The TEC will require the notice to be in writing, and to be specific about the committee member affected, and the circumstances giving rise to the notice.

Conflict of interest management

The Chair and the TEC, with advice from an independent probity advisor, will consider all the interests that would give rise to a conflict as declared by the individual for the assessment of proposals. The TEC will establish a management plan for the known conflicts of interest of the Chair and any committee member.

The following will apply where conflicts of interest arise for the Chair, committee members or referees:

- The Chair, committee members and referees may not be part of an application to the 2014/15 Māori CoRE selection round.
- If the Chair has a conflict of interest, then the TEC will be responsible for determining the appropriate action. Should it be required, the duties of chairing the meeting shall be passed to the Deputy Chair.
- If a committee member has an interest in an application, such as collaborating with an applicant or an applicants' group, or being a close relative, then that member, at the discretion of the Chair, shall leave the room, remain silent or answer technical questions only.
- If a referee identifies a serious conflict of interest on receipt of the full application, they must return the application without appraising it.

Appendix 1: The Minister's funding determination

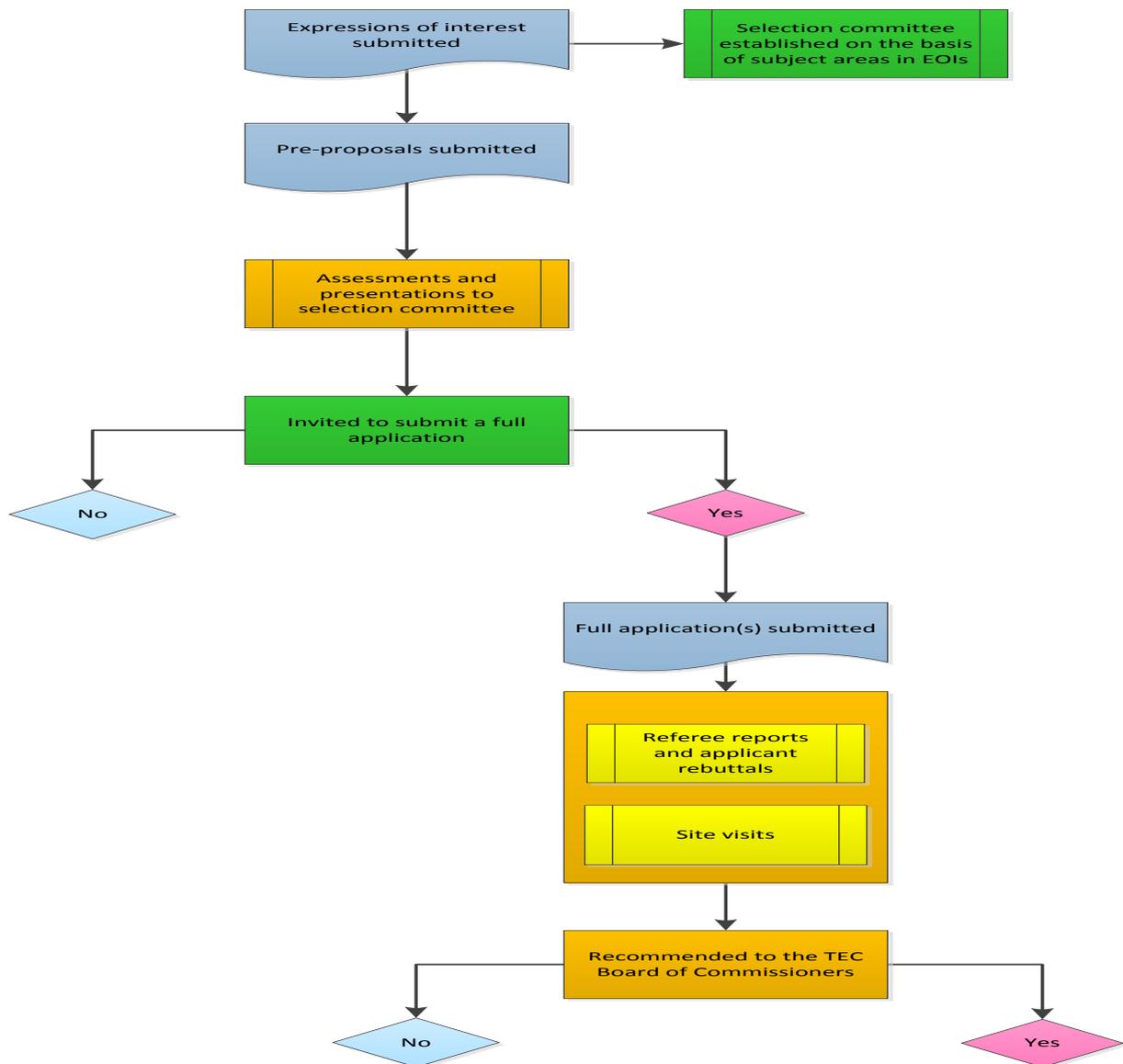
Funding determination:

<http://www.tec.govt.nz/Documents/Ministerial%20determinations/159L-for-CoRES-2013.pdf>

Funding determination supplement:

<http://www.tec.govt.nz/Documents/Ministerial%20determinations/Funding-Determination-CoREs.pdf>

Appendix 2: Flowchart



Appendix 3: Selection criteria and assessment indicators

Selection criteria

Prospective Māori CoREs will be assessed on the basis of four general CoRE selection criteria and the Māori distinctiveness elements, and only the application(s) that best meet(s) the selection criteria will go forward in the assessment. Please note that the selection committee will be looking at the strength of the research team as part of the CoRE itself.

The selection criteria are drawn from the Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment's letter of determination issued to the TEC under section 159I of the Education Act 1989, and have been contextualised specifically for the Māori CoRE selection round:

Excellence: excellent research, including assessing the:

- academic strength of the proposed research team, and the inclusion of experienced Māori researchers in the team;
- proposed research programme and the place of Mātauranga Māori alongside other methodologies;
- commitment to ensuring research is leading edge and solution focused, and relevant to Māori development;
- collaborative depth of the proposed partnership and the degree to which this strengthens the proposal; and
- proposed national and international influence of the CoRE.

Contribution within the tertiary education system, including assessing the:

- contribution to the priorities of the Tertiary Education Strategy;
- contribution to Māori graduate, postgraduate and new researcher education;
- expected impact on the development of the future Māori workforce; and
- contribution to the development of a culture of innovation and wealth creation in New Zealand.

Contribution to New Zealand's future development, including assessing the:

- potential for the research to have public good and/or economic impact in New Zealand, and especially on Māori advancement and development;
- commitment to engagement and exchange with potential stakeholders/end-users; and
- strength of intention to drive the connections that lead to research translation into practice.

Governance and management, including assessing the:

- strength of planned governance and management;
- clarity and benefits of proposed host and partner contributions; and
- commitment of parties to proposed collaborative practices.

Assessment indicators

The four selection criteria, and the associated Māori dimensions, will be assessed on the basis of several assessment indicators, including, but not limited to, the following:

Research excellence indicators

The academic strength of the research team and the breadth and depth of their knowledge and experience will be assessed by reviewing:

- the previous research productivity of the Principal and Associate Investigators including their publication record;
- key presentations;
- the structure of the research group for future development (incorporating senior and less experienced Māori researchers, postdoctoral fellows, postgraduate students and appropriate other assistance);
- national/international awards to the research leaders for achievements relating to their research; and
- the ability to attract new Māori researchers to the field; and the credentials of the Centre Director, such as academic and professional standing, and their capacity for research leadership.

The excellence of the research programme and the commitment to ensuring research is leading edge and solution focused will be determined by assessing:

- whether the research proposal is well constructed and represents a creative and pioneering approach to Māori research;
- it is likely that significant new findings will be produced; it will substantially advance knowledge in the field;
- the proposed collaborations are likely to spark new directions in Māori research;
- the programme intends to develop new techniques or technologies that can be applied to relevant problems; and
- the CoRE has the ability to respond quickly to opportunity.

The collaborative depth of the proposed partnership will be evaluated by reviewing:

- the significance of the additional skills and resources;
- the inclusion of new Māori researchers;

- the level of exchange of visitors and research personnel; and
- the extent of participation in international events.

The proposed national and international influence of the CoRE will be determined by:

- the international standing of the research team;
- the likely impact of the proposed research within the wider field;
- the likely impact of the research on questions and goals specific to New Zealand; and
- the ability of the CoRE to facilitate wide stakeholder debate on issues of significance.

Contribution within the tertiary education system indicators

The [Tertiary Education Strategy](#) (TES) 2014-19 highlights the need to build international relationships that contribute to improved competitiveness, to support business and innovation through development of relevant skills and research, and to improve outcomes for all. This requires a strong focus on improving the economic, social and environmental outcomes of research for Māori communities and on attaining Māori educational and economic success.

The ability of applicants to contribute to the tertiary education system will be assessed by the strength of their application in responding to the priorities and success indicators of direct relevance to Māori, especially for priorities 1, 3, 5 and 6, that is:²

- better matching of labour market demand with skills and qualifications attained by Māori graduates, and better employment outcomes for Māori graduates particularly to support the Māori economy;
- more opportunities within tertiary institutions for Māori to participate in study and research that will engage them as Māori within tertiary education;
- stronger Māori outcomes from joint research programmes through collaborations of tertiary education organisations, industry and research organisations; and
- develop and maintain research partnerships with overseas institutions that create enduring economic, social and cultural benefits.

The ability of applicants to contribute to Māori focused outcomes for the tertiary education system under the TES will be assessed by how their application will:

- contribute to Māori cultural outcomes through greater knowledge and use of Māori language and Tikanga Māori;

² Priority 1: Delivering skills for industry; Priority 2: Getting at-risk young people into a career; Priority 3: Boosting achievement of Māori and Pasifika, Priority 4: Improving adult literacy and numeracy, Priority 5: Strengthening research-based institutions, and Priority 6: Growing international linkages.

- contribute to survival and wellbeing of Māori as a people;
- improve Māori achievement and the economic benefits of improved skills and education;
- support Māori aspirations under the Treaty of Waitangi, such as strengthened Māori language and Mātauranga Māori research; and
- work in partnership with Māori and iwi to support Māori language, Tikanga Māori and Mātauranga Māori.

Contribution to New Zealand's future development indicators

The ability of the applicants to enhance both Māori and New Zealand's future development will be assessed by the extent to which a compelling case is made in that the proposed CoRE:

- has a research programme that has the potential or is proven to provide for public good and/or social, cultural and economic advancement goals for Māori in New Zealand;
- has a research programme that is addressing these goals as a focus of the Centre;
- expands, rather than duplicates, existing capabilities within New Zealand's research system; and
- can either validate their potential (for a new CoRE) to generate positive outcomes, or (for an existing CoRE) maintain and validate their value add through capability and network development.

The commitment to engagement and exchange with potential Māori stakeholders/end-users will be evaluated by:

- the understanding shown of the research needs of Māori communities and industries;
- plans for effective translation of research and knowledge into applications for new and existing commercial success, and/or Māori social or environmental benefits;
- involvement of significant Māori end-user groups in determining the CoRE's research programme; and
- the demonstration of innovative value from the new or expanded activity in service or policy development, or in enhancing productivity, developing new products and helping New Zealand firms compete in high-value products and services.

The strength of intention to drive the connections that lead to research translation will be assessed by:

- the relationship to other groups in the particular field of research, including internationally;

- the involvement of other end-users and the wider community in the planning, implementation and uptake of the research programme; the plans for promoting the CoRE's activities to the wider community, including where appropriate, for commercial gain; and
- the strength of institutional connections with key stakeholders in industry, community, and iwi.

Governance and management indicators

The strength of the governance, management and operational arrangements will be evaluated by:

- considering the CoRE's Charter or Business Plan and proposed performance measures to determine the clarity of the principles of operation and the extent to which the governance and management structures will ensure these are met;
- the credentials of the CoRE Director such as capacity for strategic leadership, management skills and successful experience;
- a robust CoRE establishment plan;
- the adequacy of the proposed reporting arrangements;
- the ability for the CoRE to meet its primary purpose;
- the ability to fulfil Treaty of Waitangi obligations;
- host institution support, such as CoRE establishment, funding or other financial policies, provision of space and other resources; and
- the financial viability of the proposed CoRE.

The clarity and benefits of proposed host and partner contributions will be evaluated by considering any Memoranda of Understanding or other agreements those organisations have in place, including:

- agreements regarding combined responsibilities for resourcing the CoRE; and
- agreements setting out host and partner contributions including financial and/or in-kind contributions (e.g. agreements for personnel sharing, cost sharing, and intellectual property sharing).

The appropriateness of the CoRE's facilities will be assessed by the:

- ability for the CoRE to develop a separate identity from its host;
- standard of the accommodation;
- extent to which the equipment and other research tools are considered state of the art; and
- the standard and ease of access to support services, including financial systems provided by the host.

The commitment of parties to proposed collaborative practices will be determined by agreements recognising the combined responsibility of host and partners for ensuring that research is of excellent quality and adds strategic benefit.

Contribution to the Government's Māori strategies

The contribution to the Government's Māori strategies will be considered by assessing the strength of evidence provided in support of the key focus areas for the strategies, including thematically across these as relevant:

[Ka Hikitia](#) - *Accelerating Success 2013-2017*, the Government's Māori education success strategy, identifies five areas for accelerating educational success for Māori learners:

- Māori language in education – embedded across the other four focus areas
- Early learning
- Primary and secondary education
- Tertiary education
- Organisational success.

[He kai kei aku ringa](#), the *Crown Māori Economic Growth Partnership*, has six goals for boosting Māori economic performance:

- Greater educational participation and performance
- A skilled and successful workforce
- Increased financial literacy
- Government, in partnership with Māori, enabling growth
- Active discussions about natural resources
- Māori Inc as a driver of economic growth.

The [Vision Mātauranga](#) policy unlocks the science and innovation potential of Māori knowledge, resources and people has four key themes:

- Indigenous Innovation: Contributing to economic growth through distinctive research and development
- Taiao / Environment: Achieving environmental sustainability through iwi and hapū relationships with land and sea
- Hauora/Health: Improving health and social wellbeing
- Mātauranga: Exploring indigenous knowledge and science and innovation.

The [Māori Language Strategy](#) has five goals to support the achievement of the vision, that by 2028, the Māori language will be widely spoken by Māori. In particular, the Māori language will be in common use within Māori whānau, homes and communities. All New Zealanders will appreciate the value of the Māori language to New Zealand society:

- Goal 1: Strengthening Language Skills
- Goal 2: Strengthening Language Use
- Goal 3: Strengthening Education Opportunities in the Māori Language
- Goal 4: Strengthening Community Leadership
- Goal 5: Strengthening Recognition of the Māori Language.

Appendix 4: Example scoring sheets for pre-proposals and full applications

Table 1: Example scoring sheet for pre-proposals

Criteria:	Maximum mark
Excellence: excellent research	40
academic strength of the proposed research team, and the inclusion of experienced Māori researchers in the team	10
proposed research programme and the place of Mātauranga Māori alongside other methodologies	15
commitment to ensuring research is leading edge and solution focused, and relevant to Māori development	5
collaborative depth of the proposed partnership and the degree to which this strengthens the proposal	5
proposed national and international influence of the CoRE	5
Contribution within the tertiary education system	20
contribution to the priorities of the Tertiary Education strategy	5
contribution to Māori graduate, and postgraduate and new researcher education	5
expected impact on the development of the future Māori workforce	5
contribution to the development of a culture of innovation and wealth creation in New Zealand	5
Contribution to New Zealand's future development	20
potential for the research to have public good and/or economic impact in New Zealand, and especially on Māori advancement and development	10
commitment to engagement and exchange with potential stakeholders/end-users	5
strength of intention to drive the connections that lead to research translation into practice.	5
Governance and management	20
strength of planned governance and management	10
clarity and benefits of proposed host and partner contributions	5
commitment of parties to proposed collaborative practices	5
Overall grade for contribution to the Government's Māori Strategies	
Grade 1: Outstanding (evidence of contribution is very strong for the relevant strategies)	
Grade 2: Excellent (evidence of contribution is strong for most relevant strategies)	
Grade 3: Well above average (evidence of contribution is good for most or some relevant strategies)	
Grade 4: Average (evidence of contribution is good for some relevant strategies)	
Grade 5: Below average (evidence of contribution is weak for the relevant strategies)	
Grade 6: Well below average (no evidence of contribution)	

Table 2: Example scoring sheet for full application

Criteria:	Maximum mark
Excellence: excellent research	40
academic strength of the proposed research team, and the inclusion of experienced Māori researchers in the team	10
proposed research programme and the place of Mātauranga Māori alongside other methodologies	15
commitment to ensuring research is leading edge and solution focused, and relevant to Māori development	5
collaborative depth of the proposed partnership and the degree to which this strengthens the proposal	5
proposed national and international influence of the CoRE	5
Contribution within the tertiary education system	20
contribution to the priorities of the Tertiary Education strategy	5
contribution to Māori graduate, and postgraduate and new researcher education	5
expected impact on the development of the future Māori workforce	5
contribution to the development of a culture of innovation and wealth creation in New Zealand	5
Contribution to New Zealand's future development	20
potential for the research to have public good and/or economic impact in New Zealand, and especially on Māori advancement and development	10
commitment to engagement and exchange with potential stakeholders/end-users	5
strength of intention to drive the connections that lead to research translation	5
Governance and management	20
strength of planned governance and management	10
clarity and benefits of proposed host and partner contributions	5
commitment of parties to proposed collaborative practices	5
Overall grade for contribution to the Government's Māori Strategies	
Grade 1: Outstanding (evidence of contribution is very strong for the relevant strategies)	
Grade 2: Excellent (evidence of contribution is strong for most relevant strategies)	
Grade 3: Well above average (evidence of contribution is good for most or some relevant strategies)	
Grade 4: Average (evidence of contribution is good for some relevant strategies)	
Grade 5: Below average (evidence of contribution is weak for the relevant strategies)	
Grade 6: Well below average (no evidence of contribution)	

Appendix 5: Pre-proposal presentation format

Pre-Proposal Presentation Format Māori Centre Of Research Excellence (CoRE) Selection Process 2014/15	
Confirmed date	11 December 2014, in the morning
Presentation duration	Up to 1 hour maximum for the presentation itself. Out of courtesy to the other applicants, we encourage all applicants to keep to the allocated times.
Number of attendees allowed	It is up to applicants to decide who is best placed to attend and respond within the maximum presentation timeframe allowed. TEC will ask you to confirm manuhiri names, roles and total numbers.
Time available	Available times are 9.00am-10.15am, 10.30am-11.45 am, 12.00pm-1.15pm.
Format	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mihi whakatau and karakia 2. Applicant presentation (up to 15 mins) 3. Selection committee questions and responses (up to 35 mins) 4. Further discussion (up to 10 minutes) 5. Close meeting – karakia <p>Refreshments will be available for applicants in a central space.</p>
Focus areas of inquiry for presentation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the unique approach that will characterise this Māori research CoRE, for example, its breadth or depth and research impact? 2. What are the key challenges and opportunities for the success of this application? 3. If this pre-proposal is successful how will you progress this CoRE to full application stage, particularly to secure partners and in collaborating with unsuccessful applicants? <p>Individual selection committee members may ask for clarification of specific matters arising from the pre-proposal.</p> <p>It is unnecessary to repeat the written pre-proposal information. The timing for the questions and responses session aims to ensure there is sufficient time for committee members to clarify any outstanding matters.</p>
Other notes	<p>The venue is to be confirmed, but the location will be in central Wellington.</p> <p>Applicants will be sent invitations to confirm details as soon as possible.</p>

Appendix 6: Guidelines for referees

Role of the referees

A referee is an integral part of the assessment process. The scores and detailed comments from referees (referees reports) will make a significant contribution to the assessment of the proposal, and provide valuable feedback to the applicants.

There is an opportunity for referees to add additional overall comments and suggestions for improvement that may assist the selection committee in their decision processes. Please note that the completion of referee reports cannot be delegated to a third party.

General points about being a referee include the following:

- Referees names are not disclosed to the applicants.
- If the referees believe they are not qualified to comment on the requested sections of the proposal or do not wish to act as a referee, they must advise the TEC's secretariat as soon as possible so another referee can be contacted. Those who are able to be a part of the assessment will be provided with the full application and instructions on how to complete the Referee Report.
- Section 1 of the Referee Report goes back to the applicant for comments. Information on grades and the referee's identity remains confidential to the TEC and the selection committee.
- If a referee believes they have a minor conflict of interest, they will need to contact the TEC and describe its nature in writing, after appraising the application. If the conflict of interest is serious, the referee must return the proposal without appraising it.
- Referees will be advised which CoRE is awarded funding.

Assessment criteria

The full assessment criteria for the Māori CoRE selection round are given in Appendix 2. Referees are asked to comment on and grade against one criterion.

When completing a report, referees must consider the following:

Excellence: excellent research, including assessment of the:

- academic strength of the proposed research team, and the inclusion of experienced Māori researchers in the team;
- proposed research programme and the place of mātauranga Māori alongside other methodologies;

- commitment to ensuring research is leading edge and solution focused, and relevant to Māori development;
- collaborative depth of the proposed partnership and the degree to which this strengthens the proposal; and
- proposed national and international influence of the CoRE.

Referees can only consider the information that has been provided in the application material. More detailed assessment indicators are also given in Appendix 2.

The selection committee will use the referees' expert advice to guide them in assessing the research excellence criterion. As such referees comments are an essential tool in their assessment process.

Referees' reports

A template will be provided to referees to complete. This template will include two sections. Section 1 should be approximately 2-3 pages in length, while Section 2 requires referees to clearly indicate the grade and identify any minor conflicts of interest.

Section 1 – referee comments on the proposal

Section 1 will require referees to comment on the research excellence criterion and the outcomes of the proposed CoRE.

This section is provided back to the applicants for rebuttal and comments should be consistent with the grades given. Referees must ensure that they do not refer to the grades given in Section 2 of the report, as they are not revealed to the applicants.

Referees are also expected to include a paragraph on how the proposal could be improved. Referee comments in this section can provide valuable feedback to applicants.

The selection committee consists of researchers from a broad range of disciplines, so comments as a specialist referee are essential in making final judgments on the applications. Please note also that referee comments are the most important aspect of your review. Grades without comments may be discounted by the TEC secretariat.

Section 2 – grading system (confidential)

Section 2 of the report requires referees to provide four grades; one for each criterion. Note that the grades will not be made available to applicants, which is why this scale is identified as “confidential” information for the selection committee and referees only in section 2.

Overall grade for the research excellence criterion	
	Grade 1: Outstanding
	Grade 2: Excellent
	Grade 3: Well above average
	Grade 4: Average
	Grade 5: Below average
	Grade 6: Well below average

Section 2 – minor conflicts of interest (confidential)

Referees should also identify any minor conflicts of interest in Section 2 of the Referee Report.

If the conflict of interest is serious, the referee must return the proposal without appraising it.

Information regarding conflicts of interest can be found [here](#).

Submission of reports

Before submitting a report, referees must ensure that the intended grades and all comments have been entered.

Referee reports must be emailed to cores@tec.govt.nz by 12.00 noon, 13 March 2015 at the latest.