

MEMORANDUM

TO: Te Pōkai Tara
Universities New Zealand Vice Chancellors Committee

FROM: Evie O'Brien¹
Executive Director, Atlantic Institute
Rhodes Trust

CC: Elizabeth Kiss
Warden and CEO – Rhodes Trust

SUBJECT: Sponsorship Proposal for UK Māori Graduate Study Tour to the University of Oxford,
Cambridge and London School of Economics

DATE: September 2021

Tēnā koutou katoa,

*He hōnore, he korōria ki te Atua. He maungārongo ki te whenua, he whakaaro pai ki ngā tāngata katoa.
Ko te mea tuatahi māku, he tuku hōnore ki te Atua. Nāna nei ngā mea katoa.
Ko te mea tuarua, he mihi ki a rātou mā kua whetūrangitia, kua kapohia e te ringa o te Atua. E moe, e moe,
whakangaro atu rā.
Ka hoki mai ki a tātou te hunga ora, tēnei rā ka mihi, ka mihi, ka mihi.*

Warm greetings from Oxford in England. We are writing to explore with you of sponsoring a place es on a proposed UK Māori Graduate Study Program at the University of Oxford. The Study Tour scheduled for 9 – 16 October, 2022 is part of a wider strategy to increase the number of Māori applying to and studying at Oxford. Within this initiative, we aim to increase the number of Māori applying and being selected for the New Zealand Rhodes Scholarship. The long-term goal is to offer this opportunity to all indigenous peoples with a vision to establish a global Indigenous Leadership Institute at Rhodes House.

1.0 Background and Context

Despite historical barriers to higher education in New Zealand, Māori participation rates have grown exponentially over the past 30 years. The steady increases have been underpinned by Government, tertiary institutions and Iwi commitment and action to increase Māori participation and success *as Māori* in the higher education sector. However, participation is not yet on par with non-Māori; in 2020, the proportion of Māori with a bachelors or higher qualification was 18%, compared with 35% of the total population.

¹ Evie O'Brien (Ngāti Awa, Ngāti Ranginui, Ngāti Pikiao) is currently the Executive Director at the [Atlantic Institute](#) which is partner program at Rhodes House.

For the most part, the increase in the Māori tertiary participation and success has occurred in New Zealand universities and wānanga with very small numbers studying in overseas universities. The historical challenges for Māori in domestic institutions are the same for those in international contexts and include invisibility of Māori, racism and a perception that Māori do not belong in these places, as well as the prohibitive cost of study. Studying at the University of Oxford, for example, is seen by most as foreign, unattainable, and therefore not worth considering. The Rhodes Scholarship is the most prestigious scholarship available to New Zealanders to study at Oxford; of the more than 247 New Zealand Rhodes scholars selected since 1904, only three were Māori. A clear strategy is needed to enable more Māori students to take their place in these world-leading universities.

Fortunately, the example has already been set for them. The first Māori students to matriculate at the University of Oxford were Te Aonui Dinnan and his mother, renowned Tūhourangi māreikura, Mākereti Papakura (also known as Margaret Staples Brown). They enrolled in 1926 and 1927 respectively, initially in the Diploma of Anthropology. Part way through, Mākereti was admitted to the Bachelor of Science (Anthropology), but passed away shortly before her Viva examination. Her supervisor was Henry Balfour, the first Curator of the Pitt Rivers Museum. We believe that Mākereti was the indigenous woman to study at the University. She was in her early fifties and her academic manuscript was posthumously published by her mentor and friend, American Rhodes Scholar TK Penniman, eight years later in 1938. Mākereti's story is important to this project because her reasons for studying at Oxford nearly 100 years ago are still relevant today. These include:

- Participation as Māori in elite universities providing platforms and relationships one would not get in New Zealand;
- To gain the disciplinary framework and intellectual and academic mentorship, encouragement and assistance;
- A personalised tutorial system;
- To correct the errors of Pākehā anthropologists and to centre and tell the story of Māori as an insider (autoethnographic work);
- To legitimise and honour Māori ways of being and doing.

Finally, Mākereti had such love for her people and culture that she believed Māori people had much to offer and receive from the oldest English-speaking university in the world.

This project draws as it should from Mākereti's story and from the many Māori who have subsequently studied at Oxford and other universities in the UK. It is likely that the University of Oxford will formally acknowledge Mākereti's contribution to Oxford and to the discipline of Anthropology during the study tour.

2.0 Purpose

Strategic Goals

1. To establish an Indigenous Leadership Institute at Rhodes Trust in 2025;
2. To increase the number of Māori and indigenous students receiving the Rhodes Scholarship;
3. To increase the number of Māori and indigenous student at the University of Oxford, Cambridge University and the London School of Economics;
4. To establish and trial a UK Māori Graduate Study Tour in 2022.

Phase 1: Study Tour

The proposal is to trial an inaugural UK Māori Graduate Study Tour to Oxford, Cambridge and London in September 2022 with a view to this being offered annually. The Study Tour is based on a successful model offered to Indigenous Australian students over the past 10 years which has resulted in 26 indigenous scholars being accepted into full-time studies at Oxford and Cambridge. This [Study Tour](#) was founded by Rhodes Scholar, Richard Potock, and is facilitated by the Charlie Perkins Trust and the Aurora Education Foundation. It is funded by the Australian Government, individual Australian universities and philanthropic organisations. To date, 18 Indigenous Australian scholars have graduated and in the same period, four have received the Australian Rhodes Scholarship. This is significant given that the starting point was zero – that is, up until the establishment of this programme, no indigenous Australian had ever been accepted into these universities.

The Study Tour and vision for the UK Māori Graduate Study Tour is endorsed by Elizabeth Kiss, Warden of the Rhodes Trust, and Sir John Hood, former Vice Chancellor of the University of Oxford and the University of Auckland and former Chair of the Rhodes Trust.

Sponsorship has been received from the following organisations and Iwi:

- Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei: one place on the study tour
- Te Arawa: one place
- Tūhourangi: one place
- Te Pūtea Whakatipu (Te Ohu Kaimoana – Māori Fisheries Commission): two places
- Māori Development Incorporation: one place
- Atlantic Fellows for Social Equity (University of Melbourne): one place
- Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiarangi: one place
- Waikato/Tainui: one place
- Rotoma 1 Inc: one place
- Te Kāhui Amokura (Universities NZ) .

3.0 UK Māori Graduate Study Tour Details

Host:	Evie O'Brien, Atlantic Institute and Rhodes Trust, Oxford
Duration:	11 days (with 2 days wānanga in Aotearoa pre and post visit to the UK)
Dates:	9 – 16 October, 2022
Number of students:	Up to 20
Program Design:	To be co-designed by an Advisory Committee formed under the Rhodes Trust with membership from Iwi and NZ Universities who sponsor a student place on the Study Tour. At a high level, the programme would include the segments below.

Selection Criteria

Participants in the UK Māori Graduate Study Tour must:

- Have graduated from at least a first degree with a distinction average or an Honours degree or be in their final year of study and on track for distinction;
- Have a strong interest and ability in postgraduate study at Oxford, Cambridge or London School of Economics;
- Demonstrate leadership and contribution to whānau, hapū and Iwi;
- Be willing to act as an ambassador while overseas and on return home.

The sponsoring organisation will make the decision on selection however the Advisory Committee will moderate selections before announcements are made. Promotional materials and application forms will be provided.

University of Oxford Requirements

Throughout selection process the general requirements that Oxford has for incoming graduate students should be kept in mind. This is with the view that those who come on the haerenga are eligible candidates for most Oxford graduate courses as well as any scholarship opportunities offered at Oxford.

Note that this document does not include details regarding actual application to courses. These details will be highlighted during the planned application workshops.

Academic criteria

Oxford is very competitive especially at the graduate level. Academic achievement at a very high level is a must-have if considering application to any of the courses offered. Grade requirements across courses are firm and will need to be met in order for an application to be considered. Below are some general criteria outlining the academic requirements for most graduate courses. Of course there will be differences depending on the course being applied to with some courses requiring higher academic achievement than others.

Requirements:

- A first class/strong second class undergraduate degree with honours OR a first class/strong second class Master's degree. Note: most applicants have a first class degree so this is recommended. For some DPhil programs a Master's level degree is required.
- Recommended: 7.5/9 GPA across undergraduate degree. This will be necessary if planning to apply for scholarships e.g. Rhodes, Chevening.

Cost

- NZ \$10,000 per student which will include:
 - Return flights Auckland – London (economy)
 - Ground travel;
 - Programming including a formal black tie dinner at the Natural History Museum
 - Accommodation
 - All meals;
 - SWAG set for each participant.

Recommendations: