Creating Connections Grant 2026

The Creating Connections Grant supports doctoral candidates in building inclusive research communities. Funded by the School of Graduate Studies, ten grants of up to $300 each are available to doctoral candidates each year, to support the development of research communities.

Applications are assessed on:

1. The number and diversity of participants the proposed activities will reach

2. The novelty of the proposed initiative

3. Anticipated impact on community building

4. Whether additional funding was sought (Proposals that seek to secure additional financial support for the activity from departments, schools or external bodies will be well regarded)

Goals:

1. The goal of this pilot scheme is to encourage doctoral candidates to initiate and lead a range of research-related activities that will contribute to the development of supportive networks of peer researchers.

2. Doctoral candidates may organise activities such as symposia, exhibitions, discussion groups, seminars, and visiting speakers.

3. Activities should be designed to build interdisciplinary networks, spanning at least two faculties.

4. Applications are encouraged that enhance inclusiveness and target participation from a diverse group of people.

5. Events may be arranged for face-to-face interactions, or online, in order to reach candidates who may be unable to participate in-person (e.g. candidates studying off-campus, candidates with whānau responsibilities, or part-time candidates).

Criteria:

1. Applicants must be currently enrolled doctoral candidates at the University of Auckland.

2. Proposed activities should include a minimum of 10 participants.

3. Doctoral candidates from a minimum of two faculties should be involved in activities, either as co-organisers or as targeted participants.

4. Activities should be related to research, or the personal or professional development of researchers.

5. The activities proposed should complement, not replicate, other established activities/groups on campus.

6. Activities must be booked, held and paid for before the end of November each year, and should primarily target doctoral candidates.

7. Activities may include on-off events, or a series of ongoing events.

8. Funds may be used for: refreshments, venue hire, gifts/prizes, printing, or professional services supplied by UoA-approved vendors.