

**Faculty of Arts and Education**  
**Summer Research Scholarships**  
**2026/2027 Projects (Humanities)**

<b>Project code</b>	ART003
<b>Project title</b>	<b>Charting Māori Fiction: Developing a Comprehensive List of Published Novels, Story Collections and Fiction Anthologies</b>
<b>Discipline</b>	Humanities
<b>Supervisor(s)</b>	Paula Morris
<b>Contact details</b>	p.morris@auckland.ac.nz
<b>Skills Needed</b>	The scholar does not need prior in-depth knowledge of Māori literature or knowledge of te reo. Most important is thorough and diligent research, attention to clarity and detail, initiative and working as a team. The scholar should be organised, reliable and able to work on Excel spreadsheets. Much of the work will be hands-on in libraries and archives in Auckland, with actual books, so the scholar should be ready to step away from the computer and into the world of dusty shelves and pages. We will also be researching the iwi affiliations of the writers we chart, which may require both study and ingenuity.
<b>Project description</b>	
<p>The past decade has seen a proliferation of novels and story collections by Māori writers, many of them award-winning. However, there is little knowledge of the scope of this – not within Māori communities, the Māori writing world or the New Zealand literary sector. Similarly, there is little knowledge of Māori works of fiction over the last fifty years. Often the perception I encounter – from writers, readers, teachers, librarians – is that very little has been published. This has implications not only for the narratives shaping our national literature but also for our knowledge of our Māori literary legacy. There is no comprehensive overview of titles and writers. Last year I began work charting story collections by Māori writers – and Māori fiction anthologies – over the past fifty years and have presented this research at conferences and symposia in Ireland and NZ. Creating charts is a particular effective way of communicating this information, mapping publications by year and decade, tracing the trajectory of careers. I want to further develop this research, expanding into the larger field of novels, to publish on this subject and create materials that can be widely shared. (Note: a designer creates the actual charts.)</p> <p>This topic can take up to 2 Summer Research Scholars.</p>	

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<b>Project code</b>	ART006
<b>Project title</b>	<b>The Auckland ‘Comfort Women’ Statue Proposal and the Korean Community</b>
<b>Discipline</b>	Humanities
<b>Supervisor(s)</b>	Rumi Sakamoto
<b>Contact details</b>	r.sakamoto@auckland.ac.nz
<b>Skills Needed</b>	<p>The Summer Scholars will assist with the three components of the project described above, including compiling a comparative summary of international ‘comfort women’ memorial cases, identifying and analysing Korean-language media and social media discussions, and conducting interviews in Korean with relevant community stakeholders, including representatives of the organisation that made submissions during the public consultation period. They will also undertake preliminary qualitative analysis of interviews and media materials under supervision.</p> <p>The role requires native or near-native Korean proficiency and strong English skills; some Japanese language ability would also be an advantage. The applicant should have excellent communication, organisational, and interpersonal skills, and be able to conduct interviews in a professional, culturally sensitive, and ethically appropriate manner. Some familiarity with qualitative research methods, particularly semi-structured interviewing, is desirable. Familiarity with academic research practices is essential, including literature searching, citation management, referencing, and synthesising information from multiple sources. An interest in East Asian history, memory politics, diaspora, or transnational social issues would be an advantage.</p>
<b>Project description</b>	<p>This project complements the main study on Auckland’s Japanese community responses to the proposed ‘comfort women’ statue in Takapuna by examining the issue from Korean community perspectives. While domestic and international media have largely framed the controversy through simplified geopolitical narratives, less attention has been paid to how local Korean community actors understood and responded to the proposal, or how the Auckland case fits within broader global discourses surrounding ‘comfort women’ memorialisation.</p> <p>The project has three components. First, it will investigate key Korean community stakeholders' views by analysing submissions to the Local Board public consultation and interviewing people such as representatives of the organisation that submitted the proposal to gain insight into the motivations and local meanings attached to the initiative. Second, it will analyse Korean-language (social)media discussions of the controversy, examining how the issue was framed, circulated, and interpreted across diasporic and transnational media. Third, it will conduct a literature survey of international ‘comfort women’ memorial controversies, producing a comparative summary of major cases and a bibliographic resource. Together, this research will provide a fine-grained understanding of how</p>

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transnational historical controversies are interpreted and negotiated within local diasporic communities, while situating the Auckland case in a broader comparative context.

This topic can take 1 Summer Research Scholar.

<b>Project code</b>	ART011
<b>Project title</b>	<b>Current history? Constructing the history of war as it happens</b>
<b>Discipline</b>	Humanities
<b>Supervisor(s)</b>	Maartje Abbenhuis
<b>Contact details</b>	m.abbenhuis@auckland.ac.nz
<b>Skills Needed</b>	The Summer Research Scholar will undertake research in the holdings and catalogue system of the University of Auckland library system. They will spend the majority of their time reading, analysing and contextualising the content of a historical publication, including textual and pictorial information (including maps, cartoons and photographs). The Scholar will be expected to have studied historical methodologies for analysing primary sources in their degree and have an interest in the history of warfare more generally. This project suits History majors who have completed at least one 300-level course in History.

#### **Project description**

Utilising the University of Auckland's library and archival collections, this research project focuses on the construction of the history of warfare 'as it happened'. It asks the summer scholar to identify a historical publication, published at the time of a war (in the period 1850-1920) that sought to construct the history of that war for a wide-ranging audience. Examples of potential series include The Times History of the War (1914-1918), a 22-volume London-based publication that was circulated around the English-speaking world (including Aotearoa) during the First World War, or the New York-based Current History publication that was first issued in 1916 to construct an 'authoritative, trustworthy and permanent record' of the war for American readers. The summer scholar will then read, analyse and contextualise the contents of their chosen war chronicle and write a research paper summarising their research findings.

This topic can take 1 Summer Research Scholar.

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<b>Project code</b>	ART020
<b>Project title</b>	<b>Children Without Schools: A documentary</b>
<b>Discipline</b>	Humanities
<b>Supervisor(s)</b>	Bernadette Luciano (and co-applicants, Molly Mullen, Kirsten Locke, and Kelly Frances)
<b>Contact details</b>	b.luciano@auckland.ac.nz
<b>Skills Needed</b>	By the summer, most of the filming for Children without Schools should be completed. Students would be asked to assist in final archival research, assistant editing of the documentary, and assistance with next steps in funding, outreach and marketing campaign opportunities.
<p><b>Project description</b></p> <p>Children without Schools is a short documentary (40 mins) that will capture an educational experiment that occurred in schools in Palmerston North and Feilding in 1942 during WW2. After the Government requisitioned local schools, the resulting Emergency Education Scheme (EES) turned the towns into “open-air classrooms” that extended learning beyond the rigid academic curriculum and foregrounded creativity, encouraged self-governance, and generated engagement with the community. The documentary builds on the extensive research undertaken by Molly Mullen, Frances Kelly, and Kirsten Locke had undertaken on the Scheme. The collaborative documentary will interweave interviews with these articulate researchers with archival footage, staged reenactments and observational present-day community scenes. By partnering closely with communities and local schools, the project will illuminate a pivotal chapter in New Zealand’s educational history while forging fresh collaborations between academics and creatives within the new faculty and grassroots voices.</p> <p>This topic can take up to 2 Summer Research Scholars.</p>	

<b>Project code</b>	ART021
<b>Project title</b>	<b>Aotearoa and Te Wai Pounamu: Histories from Below</b>
<b>Discipline</b>	Humanities
<b>Supervisor(s)</b>	Sam Iiti-Prendergast
<b>Contact details</b>	sam.iti.prendergast@auckland.ac.nz
<b>Skills Needed</b>	<p>The only pre-requisite for this project is an interest in Aotearoa history. Ideally the student will have taken at least one course in Aotearoa history, but this is not a requirement.</p> <p>During the project students will learn how to: conduct independent archival research in online and local archives; produce an annotated bibliography; plan a research output of their own design; and produce a research output with the supervisor's guidance.</p>
<p><b>Project description</b></p> <p>In the few texts that tell the histories of Aotearoa and Te Wai Pounamu over a long span of time, historians have generally focused on the highly visible events of nation-making: colonial violence, governance, protest, etc. Yet experiences of living in Aotearoa have not centered entirely upon the big P political events that dominate the New Zealand history timeline.</p> <p>In this project, students will work with the supervisor to identify and conduct independent</p>	

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research into an overlooked aspect of Aotearoa New Zealand history. The student's research will form part of a broader project, which aims to re-think Aotearoa history by focusing on the relational, intimate scales at which ordinary people live their lives: this is commonly referred to as "history from below".

Put simply, Aotearoa history looks very different when we focus on the home, on work, on marae and hapū, on language and food, on community (including church communities), and on experiences of pleasure, pain, grief, and hope.

Outcomes for this research will be determined by the student's interests, but could include producing a short podcast, writing a research article, or developing a public-facing creative work.

Although not required, it will be beneficial to have some language abilities in te reo Māori and familiarity with te ao Māori.

This topic can take 1 Summer Research Scholar.

<b>Project code</b>	ART027
<b>Project title</b>	<b>Engaging with Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland's Past</b>
<b>Discipline</b>	Humanities
<b>Supervisor(s)</b>	Rowan Light
<b>Contact details</b>	rowan.light@auckland.ac.nz
<b>Skills Needed</b>	<p>The start of the project is dedicated to helping the Scholar narrow down a topic of interest that also has a set of archival records to draw on. Preliminary meetings will be held with various sectors who have already indicated a willingness to participate in this programme and have done so in the past to help students identify and scope a topic. They include the UoA Library Cultural Collections team, the Auckland City Library Research Centre, and Auckland City Council Heritage Unit. From these meetings and a brief survey of available source material, the Scholar will select a case study/topic to pursue for their project. Over the following 10-week programme the scholar will be supported through weekly meetings, connections with relevant GLAMRs specialists and through a series of feedback exchanges with the supervisors on this project. Through this process the Scholar will scope their topic, collect source material from a variety of archives, identify key themes and ideas, and present their research in a meaningful story.</p> <p>Our expectations are that the Scholar will meet weekly with the other researchers and supervisors to discuss their project. They will conduct their own research and produce three to five illustrated short articles for the AHI website on their chosen research topic (with each essay c. 1500 words). They will give a presentation in the Auckland Library's Heritage seminar series in early 2027.</p> <p>Some historical training will be a pre-requisite along with basic computer skills. The students will not necessarily have already engaged</p>

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	<p>with primary source material but will have good analytical and writing skills and be prepared to give an oral public presentation.</p> <p>Applicants should address these required skills in their application and indicate if they have been in touch with the proposed supervisor.</p>
<p><b>Project description</b></p> <p>This is an exciting opportunity to pursue a research topic of your choice, based on the rich histories of Tāmaki Makaurau. In undertaking this project, the successful applicant will gain a real world understanding of different archives, hone research writing skills, and gain valuable experience at the interface of the GLAMRs (Galleries, Libraries, Archives, Museums, Records) sector and academia. With six scholarships in the programme, the Scholar will be working in a team environment, under Linda Bryder and Jess Parr’s guidance. The Scholar will identify, scope, and research a topic that interests them, producing three to five short articles that are published on the Auckland History Initiative’s website (<a href="https://ahi.auckland.ac.nz/summer-research-scholarships/">https://ahi.auckland.ac.nz/summer-research-scholarships/</a>).</p> <p>This Summer Scholarship is an introduction to postgraduate study, with the student having autonomy over their project and access to two supervisors as well as the chance to build relationships and applied research skills within leading heritage organisations in Auckland. This programme is a part of the Auckland History Initiative (AHI), located in History, School of Humanities. The AHI seeks to engage with and capture the historical development, vibrancy and diversity of Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland and its importance to Aotearoa New Zealand life and beyond.</p> <p>This topic can take 5 Summer Research Scholars.</p>	

<b>Project code</b>	ART028
<b>Project title</b>	<b>Performing Tāmaki Makaurau: Gathering data to update the Theatre Aotearoa database</b>
<b>Discipline</b>	Humanities
<b>Supervisor(s)</b>	Associate Professor Emma Willis
<b>Contact details</b>	emma.willis@auckland.ac.nz
<b>Skills Needed</b>	<p>The summer scholar will continue the work of our summer scholars in 2024/5 and 2025/6, this will be our final summer of data collection. The scholar will primarily contribute to completing the database update. Additionally, the scholar will have the opportunity to contribute to preliminary data analysis.</p> <p>To begin with, the student will be offered training at the start of the project on both uploading information to the database and extracting it.</p> <p>The key task will require the student to identify gaps in the database for the period under consideration. Our previous scholars made good progress, but some key companies and venues remain to be captured.</p> <p>The student will then undertake research to discover existing records of productions and identify gaps in easily accessible information. This</p>

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	<p>discovery process will involve consulting online sources and existing published research, including print media and scholarly research. Identification of gaps in production knowledge will provide the supervisor with important information to aid future information gathering.</p> <p>The student will be required to upload the records they have discovered into the Theatre Aotearoa database.</p> <p>Lastly, the student will assist the researchers with preliminary data visualization and analysis (with provided training).</p> <p>The student needs to be highly organized and capable of keeping records of their work.</p> <p>The student needs basic online searching skills and/or a willingness to attend a UoA library PG seminar on “Literature review: Finding Information.”</p> <p>Technical confidence.</p> <p>Good attention to detail.</p> <p>Existing knowledge of Auckland theatre is helpful but not essential.</p> <p>An interest in the broad field of digital humanities.</p>
<p><b>Project description</b></p> <p>Performing Tāmaki Makaurau is a joint digital theatre history project being carried out by Emma Willis at Waipapa Taumata Rau and Senior Lecturer James Wenley at Te Herenga Waka, VUW. It principally focuses on the first 25 years of 21st-century theatre practices in Auckland, tracking the development of the theatrical form through programming, venues, and collaboration. The research considers the growth and development of theatre practices in our city holistically relative to factors such as demography, gender, and policy.</p> <p>Rather than focusing on case studies, the research draws from a wide dataset to consider trends and developments across the field of practice. The principal source of this data is the Theatre Aotearoa database. Theatre Aotearoa is an archival database of New Zealand theatre productions that was established in 2004 by colleagues at the University of Otago. It provides a partial historical record of past productions. The database was recently migrated to AusStage, an Australian database managed by a committee of Australasian representatives and affiliated to ADSA, the peak regional organization. This new platform provides much greater opportunities for data analysis.</p> <p>The wider research project also includes a series of community engagement hui and interviews.</p> <p>This topic can take 1 Summer Research Scholar.</p>	

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<b>Project code</b>	ART031
<b>Project title</b>	<b>Researching the First Pacific Men Poets: A Literary Heritage and Creative Writing Project</b>
<b>Discipline</b>	Humanities
<b>Supervisor(s)</b>	Selina Tusitala Marsh
<b>Contact details</b>	s.marsh@auckland.ac.nz
<b>Skills Needed</b>	<p>The scholars will work both independently and collaboratively, in regular consultation with me. The primary research task is identifying and verifying the first Pacific male poets to publish poetry in English, across Pacific nations and territories. Because many early Pacific poets were first published not in solo collections but as individual poems or sequences in literary journals — including Mana, Faikava, and other Pacific periodicals — this work requires searching library catalogues, bibliographic databases, periodical archives, and out-of-print records, contacting Pacific studies departments and literary networks, and potentially travelling to the Alexander Turnbull Library in Wellington to access its Pacific literary archives. The scholars will compile a verified database (poet, nation, publication, journal or collection, date, location of text). They will also trial creative writing prompts I have written based on the FETŪ poets, working through prompts themselves and facilitating testing sessions with small groups of student writers through English and Drama, documenting responses and feedback. Their third task is contributing to the development of a digital platform for community distribution of creative writing resources drawn from the project. Required skills: strong independent research ability; confidence in bibliographic and archival research methods; competence with database or spreadsheet tools; good written communication; willingness to engage creatively with poetry. For at least one scholar, web development or digital design skills are essential. Prerequisites: enrolled in a BA or postgraduate programme in English, Pacific Studies, or a related discipline. Familiarity with Pacific literature is highly desirable. Knowledge of te reo Māori or a Pacific language is an advantage.</p>
<b>Project description</b>	<p>This project has two interlocking components. First, two summer scholars will conduct original bibliographic research to identify the first Pacific men to publish poetry in English, mirroring the methodology of my forthcoming book FETŪ: First Pacific Women Poets (Auckland University Press, in press). No compiled record of these male counterparts exists. Many early Pacific poets published not as solo collections but as single poems or sequences in foundational literary journals such as Mana and island-specific journals like Faikava, requiring intensive archival research. The scholars will verify publication dates, locate original texts, and build a comprehensive database across Pacific nations. This may include travel to the Alexander Turnbull Library in Wellington to access its Pacific literary archives. This research produces an original contribution to Pacific literary history and lays the groundwork for a creative writing handbook drawing on the full first wave of Oceanian poets, women and men. Second, the scholars will trial creative writing prompts I have developed</p>

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from the FETŪ poets, testing them individually and in small groups through English and Drama, and help develop a digital platform for community distribution. The project is housed in the School of English and Drama.

This topic can take up to 2 Summer Research Scholars.

<b>Project code</b>	ART035
<b>Project title</b>	<b>Ancestral Sites as Knowledge Sovereignty: Reconnecting Maori Communities in the North</b>
<b>Discipline</b>	Humanities
<b>Supervisor(s)</b>	Krushil Watene
<b>Contact details</b>	krushil.watene@auckland.ac.nz
<b>Skills Needed</b>	Students will be expected to work alongside the Northern regional Heritage NZ team and as least one Maori community in the North. Ideally, they will bring interests in one or more of the following: living history and heritage, Indigenous knowledge, community-led research methods, intergenerational justice. Skills include: community-engaged methods, literature synthesis, report writing, relationship building.

#### **Project description**

Working in collaboration with Maori tribal communities and Heritage New Zealand, each project explores a subsection of ancestral sites in the Northland region to better articulate their significance, understand their epistemological depth, and (re)connect them with communities. The students will be encouraged to work with their own communities or to build on existing community relationships. By working with Heritage NZ to document these taonga, as well as with communities to build a meaningful knowledge base for them, the students will support communities in the north to reclaim matauranga and build futures grounded in ancestral heritage and self-determination.

This topic can take up to 3 Summer Research Scholars.

<b>Project code</b>	ART036
<b>Project title</b>	<b>Ōpito Bay</b>
<b>Discipline</b>	Humanities
<b>Supervisor(s)</b>	Aroha Harris
<b>Contact details</b>	a.harris@auckland.ac.nz
<b>Skills Needed</b>	The main expectation of the SRS is to build and manage a working annotated index of selected primary and secondary sources. The primary sources will include oral interviews and, if required, coaching will be provided to work with these. Therefore, this role will suit a student who: understands how History distinguishes between primary and secondary resources, knows the requirements of citation in our discipline, can synthesise large amounts of written materials, and has

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	strong written communication skills. The SRS should be able to work independently and show initiative in their work.
<p><b>Project description</b></p> <p>The Ōpito Bay project is drawn from a desire among community members to produce a comprehensive history of the bay. Ōpito Bay is on the eastern coast of Coromandel Peninsula and counts Te Ahuahu (Great Mercury Island) in its environs. The district is steeped in history that ranges across a high density of archaeological sites, including stone-working sites, significant early Māori settlement, and notable Māori-European encounters in more recent centuries followed by comprehensive Pākehā settlement.</p> <p>The SRS research project will add to preliminary steps already taken towards the broader project. Guided by Dr Harris the SRS will gain some experience researching collaboratively in a way similar to commissioned history, bringing together the research needs of a not-for-profit community group and the development potential of current students. The main aim over the summer is to produce a comprehensive annotated index of primary and secondary sources which will provide a springboard for continuing the project into a subsequent phase of intensive research and writing. The successful SRS will also be invited to make written contributions to the Ōpito Bay project, such as topic-based web-stories, if that is something that appeals to them.</p> <p>This topic can take up to 2 Summer Research Scholars.</p>	

<b>Project code</b>	ART039
<b>Project title</b>	<b>Describing and Transcribing Medieval Manuscript Fragments in Cultural Collections, Auckland University Library</b>
<b>Discipline</b>	Humanities
<b>Supervisor(s)</b>	Nicholas Thompson
<b>Contact details</b>	nj.thompson@auckland.ac.nz
<b>Skills Needed</b>	Must be able to read Latin confidently and independently. Undergraduate experience in Art History and/or Medieval History is preferable, though not absolutely necessary.
<p><b>Project description</b></p> <p>The Fragmentarium.ms website based at the University of Fribourg in Switzerland, is an international archive for digital scans, descriptions, and transcriptions of medieval manuscript fragments (i.e. leaves and other scraps of inscribed parchment that have become detached from a bigger document). The University of Auckland has recently uploaded its first fragment record to Fragmentarium: a leaf of a 12th-13th century office lectionary used to bind a 16th-century book. Cultural Collections holds seven more fragments for entry on the Fragmentarium website. This project requires a student with a high degree of proficiency in Latin. It will help them acquire or develop skills in reading and dating medieval scribal hands, and in identifying medieval liturgical texts. Once the details of the fragments have been entered on Fragmentarium, the student will also have a record of online publication that they can add to their CV.</p> <p>This topic can take 1 Summer Research Scholar.</p>	

<b>Project code</b>	ART044
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<b>Project title</b>	<b>Localising the Philosophy of Science</b>
<b>Discipline</b>	Humanities
<b>Supervisor(s)</b>	Emily Parke
<b>Contact details</b>	e.parke@auckland.ac.nz
<b>Skills Needed</b>	<p>The scholar and supervisor will work together to co-design the specific directions and details of both stages of the project. Whatever direction we land on, the scholar's tasks will include, but will not necessarily be limited to: searching online databases to identify and compile lists of references; reading academic journal articles and book chapters; identifying other kinds of sources relevant to this project; providing written and verbal summaries of key themes identified in those readings and other resources; preparing an annotated bibliography; seeking other creative ways to present findings and potentially share them more widely; and attending regular meetings with the supervisor and her research group to discuss the project.</p> <p>The scholars should demonstrate the potential to conduct independent research using academic databases and other internet resources, and to carefully read and summarise journal articles and other published works.</p> <p>The scholars will ideally have background in studying philosophy. Especially helpful (but not necessary) would be coursework in philosophy of science (PHIL260/360) which covers material on which this scholarship project builds, and/or philosophy of biology (PHIL263/363).</p>
<b>Project description</b>	<p>This project will focus on the unique perspectives on topics in the philosophy of science which we can develop through the lens of our location in Aotearoa New Zealand.</p> <p>Two summer scholars will explore two topics of their choice from a list starting with: (1) case studies in history and philosophy of science; (2) scientific objectivity and epistemic diversity; (3) philosophical issues arising in a particular scientific field, such as physics, biology, or climate science. These topics build on themes covered in PHIL260/360 (Philosophy of Science), but anyone is welcome to apply.</p> <p>The project will have two stages. The first stage will develop a set of resources (case studies, annotated reading lists, stories) for engaging with localising philosophical engagement with these questions in Aotearoa: for example, focusing on the contexts of our unique biogeographical location in the Pacific, or the roles of Māori and Pacific knowledge systems in shaping understandings of the natural world.</p> <p>In the second stage, each scholar (with support from the supervisor) will develop and start addressing a specific research question, building on the first stage and guided by the scholars' own interests and experience.</p>

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