



Membership Information Pack

Background

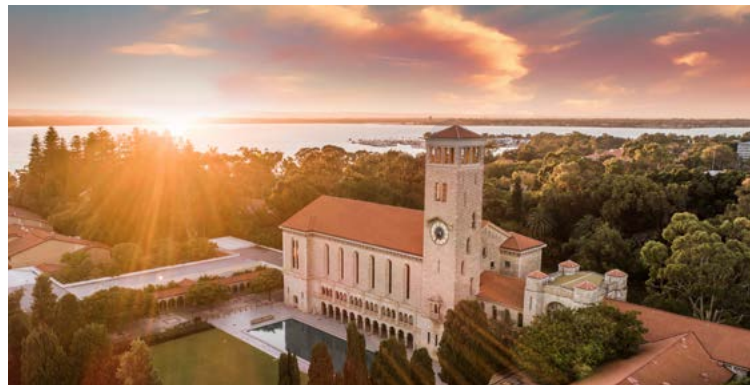
Founded in 2010, The Matariki Network of Universities (MNU) is an international group of seven leading universities; each amongst the first-established in its own country and recognised as being:

- A premier place of advanced learning, internationally;
- Research-intensive across a broad subject base;
- Focused on providing a high-quality student experience;
- Innovative, comprehensive and globally-orientated.

MNU member institutions promote excellence in research-led education and in doing so, promote a combination of academic learning and personal growth through extra-curricular activities in diverse scholarly communities, to develop rounded citizens of the world and leaders of the future.

Our members to date are as follows:





Network Structure

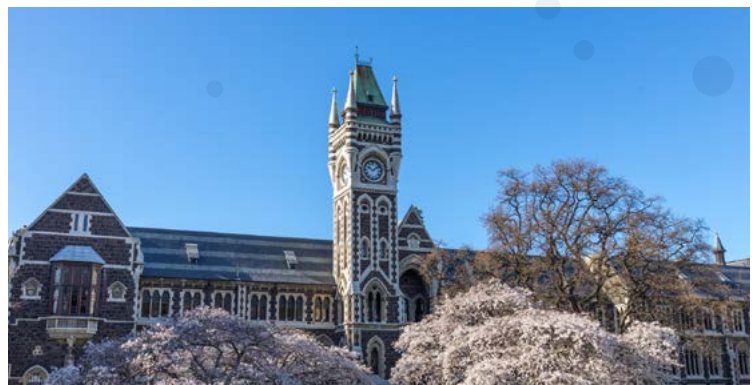
The Matariki Network of Universities is governed by the Executive Board (Vice-Chancellors/Principals), under the leadership of the Chair and Vice-Chair.

The International Leads (responsible for Internationalisation activities within their own institutions) provide advice and recommendations on strategy to the Executive Board and oversee the implementation of Network activities. Working Groups (such as Research Affairs and Student Mobility) are formed as required to coordinate longer-term strategic input of senior colleagues working in particular areas. Each member institution also has a designated MNU Co-ordinator to manage the implementation of Network strategy and programmes at institutional level. Central co-ordination and oversight of all activities is provided by the Secretariat, which

currently employs one full-time, permanent member of staff as well as part-time administrative support as required.

All members contribute an annual subscription fee to the Network, which covers the essential running costs of the Secretariat and a modest number of collective activities. There is also an expectation of support for Network initiatives at the individual institutional level, which may require occasional additional financial contribution, as well as appropriate representation at semi-regular Network meetings (both online and in-person).

For more detailed information about our Network and activities, please refer to our special 10-year report. Please visit our website at matarikinetwerk.org or contact the Secretariat on matarikinetwerk@durham.ac.uk for any further information required.





Research



- **Over 2,000 co-publications between researchers at member institutions**

Ranging from Astronomy and Neuroscience, through to Peace & Conflict and Human Evolution;

- **Joint workshops**

Over 600 researchers have attended a total of over 40 different research workshops and conferences; covering a diverse range of topics such as Quantum Science, Research Ethics, Cyber Security and Marine Extremes.

- **The Matariki Public Lecture Series**

In recent years, lecture topics have included Big Data, Race, Racism & Decolonisation, Earthquake Risk Reduction and Human Evolution.

- **The Matariki 3 Minute Thesis (3MT®) competition**

A PhD competition to support the development of succinct research project presentation to a non-specialist audience.



Education

- **Student exchanges**

A total of almost 1,000 students have now been involved in formal academic exchanges under the Matariki umbrella. An additional 150 students so far have accessed our exciting extra-curricular exchange opportunities; such as the Matariki Global Citizenship Fellowship Scheme, which allows students to spend a fully-funded period working on global citizenship/community engagement projects at another member institution;

- **The Matariki Global Citizenship Programme**

Enabling students from all member institutions to share ideas on various aspects of global citizenship, founded upon three main strands: Community Engagement, Empowering

Learners and Creating Spaces for Dialogue. Since 2020, the programme has moved to an online global citizenship platform in conjunction with the non-profit organisation "Common Purpose", with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals at its core.

- **The Matariki Indigenous Student Mobility Programme**

An experiential learning programme exploring Indigeneity and what this means in different locations across the Matariki Network. Residential programmes have included local community engagement to gain an in-depth understanding of similarities and differences between Indigenous communities and their different national settings.

Sharing Practice

- Membership on external advisory/curriculum review boards for fellow members;
- Providing expert advice during strategic reviews;
- Acting as informal “critical friends” on an ongoing range of strategic issues being experienced by partners;
- Sharing best practices in a range of different areas of common interest; including academic freedom/freedom of speech, student support services, emergency response and race & discrimination;
- Creation and maintenance of working groups to support development of various departments and services, e.g. Library Benchmarking and Alumni Relations;
- Collaborative leadership training programme for university senior leaders.

“As a relatively small network, Matariki offers excellent opportunities for collaboration and the sharing of knowledge, practice and ideas across international borders. This has been invaluable to network members, particularly when considering the many and varied challenges facing our sector globally. Learning how each of us manages the same set of issues, but coming from different contexts, really helps us in our own thinking on such complex issues”.

– Professor Karen O’Brien, Matariki Network Chair 2022/23



Looking to the future

Now thirteen years since the Network's inception, Matariki has become a well-established group of institutions with deep connections and the collective commitment and enthusiasm to go even further beyond this. Building on our previous success, we have recently reviewed and refined our values and guiding principles and together share:

- 1. Commitment to Transnational Dialogue**
Intentionally creating opportunities to discuss similar issues from different perspectives; structured and resourced appropriately;
- 2. Academic Freedom and Autonomy, Freedom of Expression**
Courage to have, respect and protect difficult conversations among all constituents, (students, faculty and professional staff);
- 3. Respect for Diversity**
We enable, encourage and promote diversity in all that we do, and we commit to Indigenisation.
- 4. Critical Friendship**
We are a trusted, close-knit network of friends and offer a safe space that respects the value of different perspectives;
- 5. Purposeful Collaboration for Improving Lives**
We always remain grounded in why we exist; to have positive impact, social purpose, and to make a difference in our communities.

As well as continuing previously successful initiatives, the Board is also in the process of developing complementary priority activities to reflect these updated guiding principles:

- **Create new curricular – and co-curricular collaborative activities for students**
(e.g. Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL), co-development of modules, certificates and/or micro-credentials in areas where Matariki already has expertise/joint-working);
- **Foster research collaboration**
(creation of a new seed fund to support new- and existing collaborative research activity);
- **Collective advocacy and action on big issues**
(e.g. operational sustainability on campus, joint educational activities and research collaborations around the SDGs);
- **Civic engagement activities**
(e.g. community-engaged research).

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