

SUMMER RESEARCH 2024/25

PROJECT ABSTRACT



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WAIKATO
Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato

PROJECT # 15

SUPERVISOR/S:	Associate Professor Sophie Nock
PROJECT TITLE:	Empowering Language Learning: Cultivating Health, Wellbeing, and Cultural Revitalisation through Te Reo Māori
FIELD:	Language/Linguistics
DIVISION/SCHOOL:	Te Pua Wānanga ki te Ao Faculty of Māori and Indigenous Studies
PROJECT LOCATION:	Hamilton

PROJECT ABSTRACT:

Our research will contribute to the ongoing preservation, revitalisation, and normalisation of te reo Māori/ the Māori language within New Zealand society. By fostering an environment where te reo Māori is valued, promoted, and utilised in various contexts, such as education, media, government, and everyday interactions, individuals of all ages and backgrounds will be encouraged and supported to engage with the language and its cultural significance. Te reo Māori learning impacts positively on cultural identity, it allows for full participation in the Māori world and enhances our understanding of the Māori way of being. The project seeks to understand and to identify the barriers, challenges, and enablers that individuals encounter during their language learning journey which is crucial for maximising the benefits. Understanding these factors can inform the development of effective support systems and interventions to promote and enhance language learning experiences. The research investigates how learning te reo Māori can enhance individuals' wellbeing, resilience, and self-determination, while also diminishing experiences of psychological language trauma.

- A. investigate the cultural and holistic significance that language learning holds for its learners;
- B. to identify the challenges, and enablers that individuals encounter during their language learning journey which is crucial for maximising the benefits;
- C. investigate how learning te reo Māori can enhance individuals' wellbeing, resilience, and self-determination, while also diminishing experiences of psychological language trauma

STUDENT SKILLS:

- An understanding and passion for te reo Māori.
- Competent and skillful in literature search engines, good understanding on how to search for relevant literature.
- Excellent written and communication skills, skills and experience in writing literature reviews.
- Excellent time management.
- Commitment and focus to the tasks at hand.
- Commitment to deadlines.
- Good communicator.
- Self-motivated and driven.
- Able to follow instructions.

PROJECT TASKS:

1. Complete a search for literature on language learning (te reo Māori) - barriers, challenges and enablers. Search for literature on well-being, resilience, self-determination in relation to learning te reo Māori.
2. Complete a search for literature on effective support systems and interventions to promote and enhance language learning experiences. Search for literature on psychological language trauma in respect to te reo Māori.
3. Investigate and record what is the Mātauranga Māori that has been revealed. What is the Māori pedagogy that has also been revealed as cultivators of resilience, empowerment and well-being.
4. Write up a comprehensive literature review on; language learning (te reo Māori) - barriers, challenges and enablers, well-being, resilience, self-determination in relation to learning te reo Māori, effective support systems and interventions to promote and enhance language learning experiences, in respect to te reo Māori and psychological language trauma in respect to te reo Māori.

5. Complete poster describing what are the barriers, challenges, and enablers in relation to learning te reo Māori. What are effective support systems to promote and enhance language learning experiences. What is the psychological language trauma students experienced when learning te reo Māori? What are the holistic benefits of language learning on one's well-being, resilience and self-determination? How can well-being, resilience and self-determination be promoted, and psychological language trauma diminished when learning te reo Māori?
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EXPECTED OUTCOMES:

- Student's Research Poster (as per clause 6 of the [Scholarship regulations](#))
- Improved understanding of language learning, what are the barriers, challenges and enablers in respect to learning te reo Māori. An improved understanding of the psychological trauma and how can this be better understood.
- Holistic understanding: A more holistic understanding of the Māori way of being, encompassing values, customs, and worldviews that are integral to the language.
- Complete poster describing what are the barriers, challenges, and enablers in relation to learning te reo Māori. What are effective support systems to promote and enhance language learning experiences. What is the psychological language trauma students experienced when learning te reo Māori? What are the holistic benefits of language learning on one's well-being, resilience and self-determination? How can well-being, resilience and self-determination be promoted, and psychological language trauma diminished when learning te reo Māori?