



UK Science
& Innovation
Network



UK Science & Innovation Network Country Snapshot:

New Zealand

Science and Innovation Landscape

New Zealand has a strong and innovative science ecosystem and culture of innovation, from splitting the atom to reaching space. Research is largely carried out at New Zealand's eight universities and seven commercially-orientated Crown Research Institutes. Firms such as Fonterra (dairy), Zespri (kiwifruit) and Fisher & Paykel Healthcare also maintain sizeable research capacities.

New Zealand's R&D System

In 2018 New Zealand spent NZD 3.9 billion (£1.9 billion) on R&D or 1.37 percent of GDP. While this proportion is below the OECD average of 2.4 percent, New Zealand's business expenditure on R&D doubled between 2012 and 2019, strongly driven by the ICT and health sectors.

All of New Zealand's eight universities are ranked in the top 500 universities by QS World University Rankings, and within the top 800 by Times Higher Education World University Rankings.

New Zealand's Global
Innovation Ranking:

26

Global Innovation Index 2020

National Science Challenges

The [National Science Challenges](#) were established in 2014 by the New Zealand Government and aim to tackle the nation's biggest science-based issues and opportunities. The Challenges, which include themes such as climate change and sustainable marine management, bring together the country's top scientists to work collaboratively across disciplines, institutions and borders to achieve their objectives. Each Challenge is linked with international research activity that supports the achievement of the Challenge.

International Research Collaboration

New Zealand researchers are highly collaborative - between 2014-2017 over half (54 percent) of New Zealand research publications featured international co-authors. This is nearly twice the OECD average of 29 percent. A [2018 study by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment](#) found New Zealand's highest average citation impact is achieved in Medicine, Earth and Planetary Sciences, and Immunology and Microbiology.

UK / New Zealand Science Collaboration

There are strong links between New Zealand and the UK in research collaboration, resulting in decades of UK and New Zealand based researchers entering into fruitful and lasting scientific collaborations of mutual benefit.

New Zealand is the UK's 17th strongest collaborative partner, with almost 1 percent of UK papers published between 2008 and 2017 co-authored with New Zealand researchers. The UK is New Zealand's 3rd strongest collaborator. Between 2014 and 2017 the UK and New Zealand co-authored 7,447 publications.

www.gov.uk/government/world/organisations/uk-science-and-innovation-network



Developing a New Science and Innovation Strategy

The New Zealand Government is developing a strategy for future research, science and innovation investment. The [draft strategy for consultation](#), published pre - COVID, identified a key need to build stronger international connections, helping New Zealand research find their place within major business communities, or position their products to major markets.

UK Science and Innovation Network in New Zealand

The Science and Innovation Network (SIN) in New Zealand is represented by one officer. SIN New Zealand works across Post to deliver HMG and SIN-specific objectives to deliver maximum benefit for UK researchers and firms engaged in research.

SIN New Zealand Activities

Impact is delivered by supporting high-level strategic dialogues between UK and New Zealand stakeholders, identifying fruitful collaboration opportunities, influencing New Zealand science and innovation policy and feeding into UK policy development. SIN New Zealand works closely with a wide range of UK and New Zealand Government Departments.

Recent examples of SIN New Zealand initiatives include:

- Delivered an Innovate UK **Agri-Tech** Global Expert Mission to New Zealand to build strategic and innovative engagement and a pipeline of opportunities and collaboration.
- Facilitated the He Whai Mātauranga (In Pursuit of Knowledge) project for Māori researchers to study taonga (treasured possessions) held in UK and Irish **cultural institutions**.
- Enhancing UK expertise on **pandemic preparedness** by connecting the UK Health Security Agency with New Zealand's Ministry of Health to share best practices on public health issues.
- Enhancing UK-New Zealand collaboration on **marine research**. In February 2018, UK Minister Mark Field, (Minister for Asia and the Pacific) hosted a roundtable with New Zealand researchers which highlighted opportunities for UK-New Zealand joint research.

SIN New Zealand Priorities

For 2021-22, SIN New Zealand has five priority themes for exploration and development:

- Climate change
- Pandemic preparedness
- Agritech
- Ocean science
- Space collaboration

In addition to these priorities, SIN New Zealand works on emerging and disruptive areas of importance for the UK.

SIN New Zealand Contact

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