

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Pūkenga Matua - Senior Lecturer in Kaupapa Māori Psychology

Reports to:	Head of School, Te Kura Whatu Oho Mauri School of Psychological and Social Sciences
Division:	Te Wānanga o Ngā Kete Division of Arts, Law, Psychology, and Social Sciences
Tenure:	Permanent
Location:	Hamilton
Date:	April 2026

Vision

Ko te tangata

A research-intensive university providing a globally connected, innovative and inclusive studenty experience in an environment characterised by a commitment to diversity, respect for Indigenous knowledge, and high levels of community engagement.

Values

Ko te mana o Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato ka herea ki tō tātou:

- Tū ngātahi me te Māori
- Mahi pono
- Whakanui i ngā huarahi hou
- Whakarewa i te hiringa i te mahara

The University of Waikato places a high value on:

- Partnership with Māori
- Acting with integrity
- Celebrating diversity
- Promoting creativity

1. GENERAL

Te Wānanga o Ngā Kete the Division of Arts, Law, Psychology and Social Sciences (ALPSS) is a large and dynamic Division that includes Te Kura Toi the School of Arts, Te Kura Whatu Oho Mauri the School of Psychological and Social Sciences, and the School of Law, Politics, and Philosophy. The Division also has one research institute, Te Ngira the Institute for Population Research (IPR) and one research centre, Te Puna Haumarū Centre for Security and Crime Science.

April 2026

Te Kura Whatu Oho Mauri, the School of Psychological and Social Sciences, is predominantly composed of staff from the discipline of Psychology. It has a strong focus on the classic foundations of psychology, broadly construed to encompass behaviour, cognition, neuroscience, social psychology, personality and individual differences, and indigenous psychology. Excellence is pursued in these areas in terms of teaching and research.

It offers a broad education in psychology at undergraduate level and a range of specialisations within psychology at graduate level, including programmes which lead to registration as a psychologist. The School also offers the world's first undergraduate Major in Kaupapa Māori Psychology. In addition, programmes based in the School focus on Anthropology, Sociology, Criminology, and Social Policy. The School has a strong research culture covering a diversity of interests, methodologies and settings. Key goals for the School are to:

- i. Pursue excellence in scholarship, by providing a creative, supportive, and questioning environment for learning.
- ii. Provide an environment that promotes mātauranga Māori, respects Te Tiriti o Waitangi commitments, promotes bicultural practice in psychology and serves the educational needs of the Māori community, in both the Waikato region and nationally.
- iii. Offer high quality training to prepare students to meet the needs of communities within Aotearoa / New Zealand, for career opportunities related to policy development, and the professional practice of psychology.
- iv. Produce high quality research and scholarship that will enhance the school's reputation, both nationally and internationally.

Our School name, **Te Kura Whatu Oho-Mauri** was co-designed by staff in the school and reflects our values and vision.

Whatu' reflects:

- the very broad yet focussed spectrum of the lens that the school (and those external of it) applies to Psychology;
- the heart (whatumanawa), the principles, espoused in, with, and of Psychology;
- the stones of the consolidation of knowledge that - in Tainui tradition - Tāwhaki received from Rehua along with 'Ngā Kete o Te Wānanga' (the Baskets of Knowledge) and the importance of consolidating the theories and practices of Psychology;
- the weave of theory and praxis, by theorists and practitioners, to advance Psychology;

Oho reflects the awakening towards a realisation of the importance (in Psychology) of **whatu** and, in particular **mauri**;

Mauri reflects the quintessence, the very being, the fundamental existence of all and everything that is Psychology.

2. POSITION PURPOSE

To contribute to the teaching, postgraduate supervision and administration requirements of the School/Faculty, maintain and develop original scholarship and research, and undertake professional/community/iwi service activities relevant to the profession or discipline.

Many of the tasks in the Lecturer to Professor range are common to each level, but as staff members advance in their careers they are expected to perform the tasks at a higher level. This may be evidenced by an increase in the quality of teaching performance; a greater contribution to the advancement of the discipline through achievements in research and scholarship and/or artistic or professional practice; increased leadership; and a greater contribution to university administration and academic matters more generally.

3. ACCOUNTABILITY

The Pūkenga Matua - Senior Lecturer is responsible to the Vice-Chancellor through their Head of School who in turn is responsible to the Vice-Chancellor through the appropriate Pro Vice-Chancellor.

4. KEY RELATIONSHIPS:

Pro Vice-Chancellor
Head of School
Other Division staff
Students
Relevant Research Institutes and Centres and external research agencies
External stakeholders

5. KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Having regard to the aims, objectives and long-term strategic goals of the School, Division and University, the primary objectives required of a Pūkenga Matua - Senior Lecturer include the following:

Research

- Maintain an active research programme and conduct quality research and contribute to knowledge development through scholarship and publication. This will include involvement in research projects and attendance and presentation at academic conferences, and may include leadership of a research team.
- Build and maintain national and international research collaborations which enhance the profile and reputation of the University.
- Where appropriate, seek external research funding for specific projects and submit grant applications.
- Where appropriate, engage in knowledge transfer and commercialisation activities.

Teaching and Learning

- Prepare and deliver research-informed lectures and/or seminars and, as appropriate, conduct and/or co-ordinate tutorials, practical classes, demonstrations, or workshops. This role has been developed to underpin the new major in Kaupapa Māori Psychology. The continued design of this major will constitute one aspect of this position.
- Contribute to or be responsible for paper co-ordination and delivery. This includes: administration; initiating and developing material; appraisal, review and evaluation of programmes and papers; development of the curriculum; developing and delivering on-line papers, where appropriate; and updating teaching resources and materials.
- Carry out marking and assessment activities including the setting of examinations.
- Be readily available to advise and meet with students including maintaining regular office hours.

Kaupapa Māori Psychology

- Design and deliver high quality Kaupapa Māori teaching that stimulates learning and is inclusive of mātauranga Māori.
- Continue to support the requirement that undergraduate programmes of study embed all the kaupapa of bicultural competence and confidence at a base and growth level.

- Collaborate with Māori communities and organisations to advance rangahau that meets the needs and aspirations of Māori and ensure research outcomes are disseminated back to those communities.
- Support research consultation protocols and processes with Waikato Tainui, acknowledging the mana whenua of both campus sites and Māori at Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato.
- Conducting research that involves Kaupapa Māori approaches to enable and enrich understandings of the discipline of Psychology.
- Support Māori students' progression and achievements to become capable and competent akonga with the skills to be able to contribute to Māori research approaches.

Supervision

- Supervise honours, graduate and postgraduate students.
- Where appropriate, be Chief Supervisor for PhD students.
- Have the capability to provide Kaupapa Māori supervision or supervise Kaupapa Māori projects

Service and Administration

- Participate in professional and/or community/iwi and/or outreach activities relevant to the School.
- Carry out broad administrative functions including active and constructive participation at Programme or School meetings and undertake administration, planning and/or committee work where appropriate.
- Participate in University-wide committees and working groups and/or represent the University externally as appropriate.

Other

- Participate in the maintenance of a safe and healthy work environment for self and others including students. Comply with and undertake responsibilities set out in the University's Health and Safety Policy.
- Any other duties as required that are consistent with the position held, other than in exceptional circumstances such as rehabilitation after injury or sickness.

NOTE: Staff have annual objectives, development and reflection (ODR) meetings with their Head of School. New staff normally attend such a meeting approximately three months after taking up their appointment.

6. PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

The Pūkenga Matua - Senior Lecturer will be performing satisfactorily when:

- Teaching and associated duties are fulfilled to a high level as defined by School norms and expectations including paper appraisal and teaching evaluation.
- Student learning, at all levels, is appropriately facilitated in accordance with the School, Division and University goals and objectives.
- Personal and/or team research and scholarship activities yield demonstrable outcomes normally evidenced by continued publications in books and refereed journals, presentation or publication of conference papers and/or performance/works of art/other non-print media

outcomes, as appropriate. An established research and publishing record or the equivalent has emerged and there is evidence of an active programme of scholarship and research.

- Research collaborations are developed.
- Research grant applications are submitted.
- Regular contributions are made to appropriate professional and/or community/iwi groups and/or in a public service or University or national representation capacity.
- Regular contributions are made to School and Division administration, as appropriate, relative to workload norms and expectations.
- Safe and healthy work practices are followed. University policies and procedures, relevant work standards and statutory obligations are complied with.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Essential

- A Ph.D. in psychology.

TRAINING, SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

Essential

- Demonstrated a high level of undergraduate teaching skills, including the ability to lecture to large numbers and conduct small group seminars and tutorials effectively.
- Ability to provide a significant contribution to the graduate and postgraduate programme including the supervision of Honours, Masters and Ph.D. students.
- Demonstrated commitment to using innovative teaching methods and materials e.g. online and distance delivery techniques, team teaching skills.
- An established and high-level record of research and publishing or equivalent at a national and international level and an active programme of scholarship.
- Broad and in-depth knowledge of the following areas: (Mātauranga Māori, Treaty of Waitangi, Kaupapa Māori methodologies, inequality, colonisation).
- Demonstrated success in attracting and supervising high quality postgraduate research students.
- Demonstrated success in attracting external research funding and in completing grant applications.
- Ability to apply information and communication technologies to achieve desired outcomes and maintain and update those skills.
- Ability to make a significant contribution to School and Division administration where appropriate.
- Proven ability to communicate and work effectively with staff and students.
- Time management skills.
- Current full driver's license.

PERSONAL QUALITIES

- Self-motivation and a pro-active approach including a demonstrated commitment to innovation.
- Demonstrated capacity to work effectively as a member of a team and, where relevant, to act as a leader of a research team.
- Proven ability to maintain a professional approach while under pressure.
- Ability to relate effectively and sensitively to students and staff from a variety of backgrounds and cultures.
- Commitment to a culture of openness, flexibility and cooperation to achieve excellence in academic programmes, research and service.
- A commitment to equal opportunity and to the University's partnership with Māori as intended by the Treaty of Waitangi.
- Demonstrated manaakitanga, whakawhanaungatanga, tika and pono.