



Māhuahua Ka Lae Research Fellowship

Cohort 3: 2026-2027

Nā Nīnau Ma‘amau

Frequently Asked Questions

MĀHUAHUA KA LAE INTENTIONS			
Nīnau		Pane	Overview Document
1	When does the Fellowship start & end?	The Fellowship runs from September 2026 through December 2027.	pp. 1, 5, 10
2	What are the expectations for ownership of the research/content produced through a research project?	Researchers will maintain all intellectual property rights. We assert no claim of whole or partial rights to such intellectual property. Fellows are encouraged to follow established means (whether through copyright or other cultural practices) to safeguard, as desired, their intellectual property.	p. 10
3	Can my research go beyond one year? Will I get funding for a second year?	The Fellowship runs from September 2026 through December 2027. Research must be completed within one year with the dissemination phase to follow in the last three months of the Fellowship. Fellows will not be eligible for a second round of funding.	pp. 1, 5, 10
4	Can the research focus on 1 year within a longitudinal community research project?	Yes. However, you need to have year one findings to disseminate. Your Articulation of Interest should describe the longitudinal project and the component that would be the research focus for the Fellowship.	pp. 5-7
5	How many awards do you plan to have?	We expect to select up to eight projects for this Fellowship.	p. 3
6	Will this be available every year?	The continuation of the Māhuahua Ka Lae Research Fellowship beyond this third cohort year is yet to be determined.	N/A
7	What does the Practitioner-Applied Research eligibility entail?	In the context of Māhuahua Ka Lae, the target applicant(s) for this pathway is <u>NOT</u> someone who is in the beginning/novice phase within a particular practice. This pathway focuses on the seasoned/veteran practitioner who has already delved into research within his/her practice and is looking for a Fellowship opportunity to delve further into research that contributes to the perpetuation of their practice. The Letter of Support functions as the means through which the “established” nature of the applicant(s) are affirmed.	pp. 5-6

MĀHUAHUA KA LAE INTENTIONS CONT'D

Nīnau		Pane	Overview Document
8	For the Practitioner-Applied & Community-Applied Research Pathways, how far into a research project do I need to be to be eligible to apply?	The research needs to be completed within the one-year time research period so that you have findings to disseminate in the last 3 months of the Fellowship. You should have a well-developed research question and a clear methodology by the time you apply.	p. 5
9	Should the dissertation proposal be approved before the application deadline, or can it be done by the end of the semester?	The dissertation proposal should be approved by the beginning of the Fellowship. The methodology may change along the way, but it should remain tightly aligned to the focus of research that advances the well-being of our lāhui and Hawai'i.	p. 7
10	Can I use the funding to participate in an apprenticeship program for a particular cultural practice?	No. This is not a grant or award for personal or professional development or to run a program.	pp. 2-3
11	I am a doctoral candidate, but not yet at the dissertation defense. Can I still apply?	<p>Every doctoral program is different and may have different sequencing of proposals and defenses and so not yet at dissertation defense could mean different things. At the start of the fellowship, you should be in a phase where learning from this Fellowship can be incorporated into the research methodology.</p> <p>If for example, at the start of the Fellowship, your research is already in the data analysis phase, the research has in essence been conducted. There would be very little left to research during the research period of the Fellowship. The timing of this Fellowship and your doctoral research would be misaligned.</p>	p. 7
12	<p>Can the funding be used to publish the dissertation?</p> <p>And does the dissertation count as your single document that needs to be submitted?</p>	If you are looking specifically for publishing funding, that would fall more into a research award or grant, which this Fellowship is not. Dissemination is one aspect of the Fellowship (see Table 5 of the Overview document). The dissertation does not count as an appropriate Waihona submission.	p. 9
13	I'm a Hawai'i resident and studying abroad. Am I eligible?	Yes, as long as you are a Hawai'i resident and the research is conducted in Hawai'i and focuses on uplifting our lāhui and Hawai'i. The university also needs to be accredited. That information can be included in the applicant introduction section of the application.	p. 8

APPLICATION PROCESS

Nīnau	Pane	Overview Document	
14	How do I access the application?	The application is available on the Māhuhua Ka Lae page of the Pauahi Foundation website (https://pauahi.org/mkl-fellowship). There is a “click here to apply” hyperlink. The application window opens on March 11, 2026 and closes on April 6, 2026 at 12 noon.	11 - 12
15	Is there an age eligibility for applicants?	Yes, all applicants must be 18 years old or over at the time of application.	p. 8
16	For the Affirmation of Support, if we are a part of a group does the affirmation of support have to be for every member?	No. Pairs or groups may use the same Affirmation of Support if the person submitting the Affirmation of Support has a relationship with and can speak well to each applicant’s eligibility for this Research Fellowship. If that is not the case, each member should seek out their own Affirmations of Support.	p. 13
17	If we are a KS alumni, should we go through the verification process?	Yes. KS Alumni should first check to see if they have already been verified with Ho’oulu Verification Services. Additional information about ancestry verification is available at http://www.pauahi.org/verification .	N/A
18	Do you have to be of Hawaiian ancestry to apply?	Applications are open to the general public, however, it is the policy of the Pauahi Foundation to give preference to applicants of Hawaiian ancestry to the extent permitted by law. We encourage you to begin working directly with the Ho’oulu Verification Services team as soon as possible to complete the Ancestry Verification process. Additional information about ancestry verification is available at http://www.pauahi.org/verification .	p. 10
19	Can you help me with my proposal and ideation?	To maintain fairness for all potential applicants, we will not provide assistance with individual proposals. We have two optional, virtual Ko’o sessions (Mar. 19 & 24, 2025) where you can ask more specific questions to better understand the different pathways, timelines, and application prompts.	p. 11
20	How will I know if my application was received?	Once you click submit, you will see a confirmation message acknowledging that your application has been submitted. You will also receive a confirmation email containing your responses to verify that your submission was received. If you do not receive an email, please follow up by emailing scholarships@pauahi.org .	N/A
21	Should the application be written in a particular language?	We accept applications in ‘Ōlelo Hawai’i and English.	N/A
22	How specific should I be in identifying the community(ies) that my research serves?	Be as specific as possible in your Articulation Of Interest (Prompt 1) when describing the community your research is serving whether it be a geographical, cultural or demographic community. The tables that describe the different pathways can help guide your identification and description of the community.	pp. 5, 6, 12

FELLOWSHIP EXPECTATIONS

Nīnau		Pane	Overview Document
23	Aside from the Kalaeloa sessions, will I be providing progress updates in any other way?	Yes. You will schedule bi-monthly 1:1 Ko’o Sessions with The Fellowship Director and submit assignments that chronicle your research progress and growth throughout the Fellowship.	pp. 8-10
24	Should all group members be present for the Kalaeloa In-person sessions?	Yes. The expectation for engagement in this Research Fellowship is that all Fellows (individuals, pairs, and groups) fully attend all Kalaeloa in-person sessions, Ko’o sessions, the Māhuahua Ka Lae Research Summit, and the Kūkā Pani.	pp. 8-10
25	What are the actual expectations?	The Fellowship Expectations are described in the Overview document. Look specifically at the Readiness section of each pathway overview (Tables 2-4) and the Expectations section.	pp. 5-7 pp. 8-10
26	Do we pay for our travel to attend the various engagements?	Yes, you should account for travel (airfare, ground transportation, overnight accommodation, etc.) in the budget section of your Articulation of Interest.	p. 13

OTHER

Nīnau		Pane	Overview Document
27	When will the funds be distributed?	Funds will be issued to Fellows in multiple disbursements. The first disbursement can be expected in mid July 2026. Subsequent disbursements will be made upon full participation in engagements, successful completion of assignments, and overall progress.	N/A
28	Will I pay taxes for this award?	You will receive a 1099 tax form, and may be subject to taxes. Please consult with your tax advisor.	N/A
29	Can the funding go to a non-profit instead of a person?	No. The intent of the Māhuahua Ka Lae Research Fellowship is to support, recognize, and uplift an individuals’ research efforts. It is not intended to be an award grant for an organization.	N/A
30	Can funding be used for our time?	Yes. Funding can be used to cover your research time. You would include that as part of your application’s budget section description.	p. 13
31	Are KS Employees eligible to apply?	KS employees are eligible to apply. If your research includes KS staff and/or students, proper permission for research must be granted <u>before applying</u> . You are encouraged to consult with your supervisor.	N/A
32	Will there be an opportunity for future fellowships (a Cohort 4 or beyond)?	There is yet to be a decision on whether Māhuahua Ka Lae will continue beyond this upcoming third Cohort.	N/A
33	Is it encouraged that your papahana can continue after the Fellowship?	Yes. The research you conduct as part of the Māhuahua Ka Lae Research Fellowship will likely lead to new or more questions. We encourage our Fellows to pursue avenues through which they can continue their research work.	N/A