

Tuia FAQs

What does TUIA aim to do?

TUIA aims to develop leadership skills in Māori rangatahi and give them opportunities to grow through participating in their wider community. The name 'Tuia' is derived from a tauparapara that is hundreds of years old. This saying recognises and explains the potential that lies within meaningful connections to: the past, present and future; to self; and to people, place and environment. The TUIA programme explores all of these things.

How do I apply?

The interested applications are to write a statement (no longer than one page) about why they would like to apply for TUIA and what they might be interested in pursuing as a project. You will also need to provide 1-2 referees in support of your application (name, phone number, and email).

Does my community project have to be completely decided before I start?

No, not at all. In fact, the projects naturally progress and change as the year goes along and as part of the meetings with the Mayor.

What do the mentoring meetings with the Mayor look like?

The meetings are in at the Dunedin City Council and usually last half an hour. This is an opportunity for you to ask the Mayor questions about leadership, discuss your wānanga and what you've been learning, and develop your community project. They are also reciprocal: you may have things you would like to share and teach the Mayor. The mentoring meetings are also attended by a Community Advisor, who will be your main point of contact in helping develop your project, make connections in the community, and answer any questions between the meetings/wānanga.

100 hours of community work sounds like a lot.

To clarify: 100 hours is not on top of what you already do within the community. The hours count what you already do before you apply. Most applicants meet this target before they even begin the programme – through your regular commitments such as coaching sports teams, whanau and marae commitments, involvement in local training and organisations etc.

Who can I use in support of my application?

Anyone you feel knows you well enough to support your leadership development. If you are using a whanau member, please ensure you have a second referee outside of our whanau too.

Anything else I need to know?

The wānanga sometimes start on a Friday and continue over the rest of the weekend, so if you're in work or study, you'll need to have a chat to your education provider or employer about what this commitment means. There are 5 wānanga throughout the year. They are always held on a weekend, and at least 2 of these require a Friday start. We also provide supporting documentation to help explain the importance of your role and can help you with these conversations if need be.