

# The University of Auckland Inventors' Fund

Open to both students and researchers to assist in the successful transformation of good research into good businesses and exciting new products. This early investment is the riskiest stage of the venture process and typically no other sources of risk capital are available.

## PROOF OF CONCEPT AND SEED FUNDS

Auckland UniServices Limited brings to you the University of Auckland Inventors Fund (UoAIF), an “evergreen” open-ended \$20m investment fund accessible to University researchers and students for the development of technologies for commercialisation.

For over 10 years UniServices has been providing early proof of concept and pre-seed investment to support the University’s research discoveries, ensuring that they reach a point where commercial usefulness can be demonstrated and the first steps are taken to ensure commercial viability.

The availability of seed funds is critical to the commercialisation process in a number of ways – financing access to managerial skills; securing or enhancing intellectual property; supporting additional R&D; construction of prototype; preparation of business plan; covering legal costs and so forth.

In 2015, the University of Auckland made considerable funds available to expand UniServices investment activity.

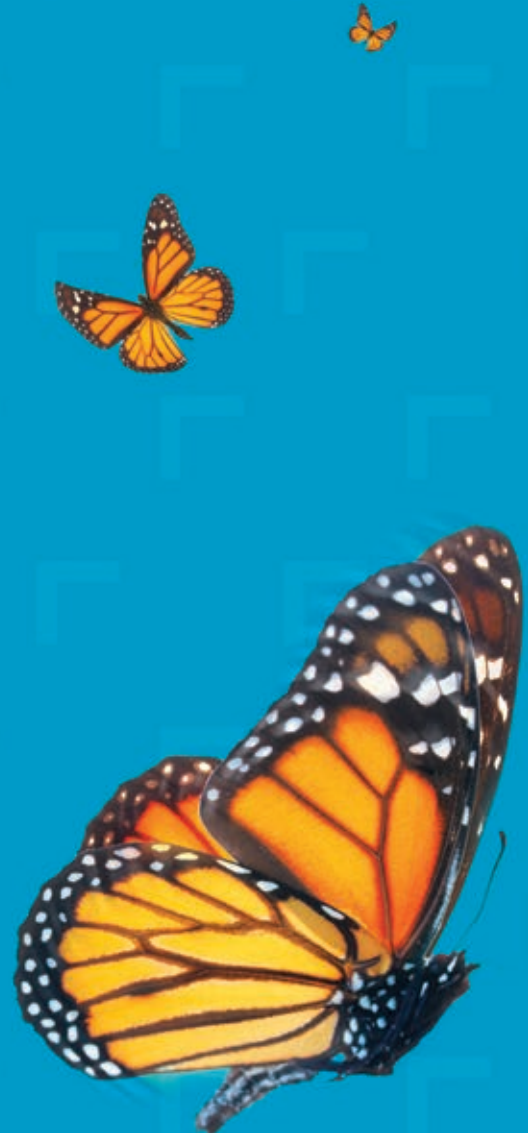
This has meant that UniServices is now able to provide significant commercialisation support to student entrepreneurship.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, REFER TO:**

<http://tiny.cc/UOAIF>

and to the University of Auckland IP policy at

<http://tiny.cc/uoaip>



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**IDEAS TO LIFE**

The University of Auckland  
**Inventors' Fund**  
Powered By UniServices

## AN OVERVIEW OF THE UOAI F

Fund	University of Auckland Inventors' Fund (UoAIF)
Status	Open
Size of the fund	\$20m
Ownership of the fund	Auckland UniServices Limited
Management of fund	Auckland UniServices Limited
Investment policies	Designed to establish a sustainable fund
Level of funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No more than 20% of fund size on any one project</li> <li>• Up to \$500k per application</li> </ul>
Restriction on funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not to replace or subsidise research grants</li> </ul>
Can invest in existing companies	Yes
Investment criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Innovation of science</li> <li>• IP</li> <li>• Key people</li> <li>• Commercial opportunity</li> </ul>
Monitoring and reporting	Appropriate progress report schedules will be agreed between the researcher(s) and their UniServices commercialisation manager
Investment returns	UoAIF funding is expected to produce a return from equity
Investment decisions	Made by UniServices on the recommendation of the Return On Science investment committees

## FUND APPLICATION PROCESS FLOWCHART



## APPLICATIONS

Applications are managed by our commercialisation managers together with staff and students and are presented to the relevant Return On Science investment committees ([returnonscience.co.nz](http://returnonscience.co.nz)). The investment committees will recommend whether an application will be funded by the UoAIF.

## AUCKLAND UNISERVICES LIMITED

Auckland UniServices Limited is the University of Auckland's wholly owned technology transfer company.

Established in 1987, we manage the University's IP portfolio, working with University researchers on identifying, protecting, investing in and marketing technologies through licensing, spin-out company formation, consulting, contract research and material sales.

We provide staff and students with commercial advice, fund patent applications and legal costs, negotiate licence and spin-out company agreements, and identify and manage consultancy and contract research opportunities.

