

Matariki Research in Focus Competition – Submission Guidelines

Overview

The Matariki Network is delighted to launch its new “**Research in Focus**” competition! This initiative invites research staff of all career stages (including PGT and PGR students) who are / have been involved in a Matariki Network Seed Fund collaboration. The aim of the competition is to communicate collaborative work through just one compelling image and a short, accessible caption. Merit prizes will be awarded to the best submissions (selected by both a panel of experts and a People’s Choice vote).

Objectives

- Enhance visibility of Matariki research globally
- Engage wider audiences beyond academia
- Promote collaboration and shared identity across the Network

Eligibility

Researchers of all stages (including PGR and PGT students) across all Matariki institutions who are participating / have recently **participated in Matariki Seed Fund research collaborations with at least one other Network member.**

Submission

- One image (photograph, illustration, or visual representation of research)
- Max. 150-word caption in plain English

Competition guidelines

- Submissions must be based on current research, or a recently concluded research project
- Competition registrations are to be made via the online form created for the competition - [Research in Focus Competition – Fill in form](#). **Once the form is completed, the image itself must then be submitted in either PNG or JPEG format by email to the following email address (*with your name and image title as the Subject Heading*):**
matarikinetwerk@durham.ac.uk
- Descriptions should be written in plain English, targeted at a non-specialist audience
- **Submissions must be applicants’ own creations. AI generated images will not be accepted**
- Only one submission per candidate will be accepted
- By submitting a picture to the competition, applicants agree for it to be displayed in our online competition gallery, as well as other Matariki communications / promotional materials

Timeline

- Competition launch / entries open: Monday, 19th October 2026 (00:01 BST)
- Entries close: Sunday, 8th November 2026 (23:59 GMT)
- Panel voting: W/c 9th November 2026
- Public voting period: 16th – 29th November 2026
- Results announced – Early December 2026

If you have any questions, please contact us via matarikinetwerk@durham.ac.uk or submit your entry [here!](#)