



Understanding Pōwhiri at UCOL

Pōwhiri and Mihi Whakataū at Manawatū Campus





The purpose of this document is to outline the appropriate implementation of Tikanga Māori (Māori custom) in a traditional and institutional setting as part of the UCOL Staff and Students' learning experience. As each campus is in a different iwi (tribe) and rohe (region), the tikanga of that iwi/rohe may be different, and this guide focuses on the Manawatū Campus. However, the importance and philosophy of both a pōwhiri and mihi whakatau remains consistent to all iwi.

It is important to note that the speakers during a pōwhiri are te reo Māori speakers.

What is Pōwhiri?

Pōwhiri, sometimes also called a Pōhiri, is a welcome ceremony. It removes the tapu (restriction) of the manuhiri (visitors) to make them one with the tangata whenua (local people of the land) and is a gradual process of the manuhiri and the tangata whenua coming together. Traditionally, the process served to discover whether the visiting party were friend or foe, undertaken on a marae or whenua of significance as described by local iwi.

Purpose of Pōwhiri

Manuhiri are considered tapu. By going through the pōwhiri process, tapu is finally lifted with the conclusion of Hongi (pressing of noses), hariru (hand shake) and partaking of kai. At this point, they are considered noa (safe) and the tangata whenua and manuhiri are considered one.

Understanding Pōwhiri

Pōwhiri is an opportunity for UCOL to formally welcome new students to our institution. It is a time where we acknowledge our new and first year students as well as those that have come from all reaches of the motu (land) and internationally. Returning students who have already passed through a pōwhiri, are also part of the tangata whenua group that welcome the manuhiri to our institution.

Pōwhiri at UCOL is a collaboration with Iwi in each of our campus rohe. The iwi we collaborate with for pōwhiri in Manawatū is Rangitāne o Manawatū.

Iwi partners at our other campuses are:

Whanganui Campus:

Te Atihaunui-A-Pāpārangī, represented through Te Puna Matauranga o Whanganui.

Wairarapa Campus:

Rangitāne o Wairarapa and Ngāti Kahungunu.

Horowhenua Campus:

Muaūpoko.

There are two key participants in a pōwhiri: the tangata whenua and the manuhiri.

Dress Code

As this is an important ceremony, and one that carries much sacredness to Māori, it is expected that both the tangata whenua and manuhiri dress appropriately. To uphold the respect for this process, general attire includes women in dresses or knee length skirts with a modest top (covering cleavage); men in long tidy pants and a tidy shirt/top, etc. A relaxed clothing change can be done at the conclusion of the pōwhiri.



The Pōwhiri Process

Preparing and starting

Māori staff members and advisors will assist manuhiri through the pōwhiri process. Manuhiri will gather at 18 Princess Street entrance or by The Green on King Street. They will be advised of the process prior to the pōwhiri starting. The opportunity will always be given to any Māori student in the manuhiri group to participate in the pōwhiri whaikōrero (be a speaker on behalf of the manuhiri). If there are no volunteers, then UCOL will ensure the manuhiri are represented by a te reo Māori speaker on their behalf.

Once these arrangements are complete, the pōwhiri will commence. A karanga (welcome call) given by the kaikaranga (caller) from the tangata whenua signalling the manuhiri to start slowly walking forward. It is important that when the manuhiri move forward, they do so in silence and reverence. The wāhine (women) in the manuhiri group always walk in first followed by the tāne (men) behind. The karanga is normally answered by the kaikaranga from the manuhiri. The purpose of the karanga is to weave a spiritual rope to allow the metaphorical waka of the manuhiri to be pulled on. It should never be broken and the sound should be continuous, each side weaving in and out of each other. The karanga also opens the tapu to allow safe passage across for the manuhiri.

Once the manuhiri arrive at the Atrium, they will be ushered to their seats. It is important to note that only tāne are to sit in the front row that signifies the Paepae. Behind that row, we usually expect the courtesy that the wāhine are given seats first. If there aren't enough seats, manuhiri are welcome to sit on the ground.

Whaikōrero / Mihi

Once everyone has entered the Atrium, the Kaikōrero of the tangata whenua will commence the whaikōrero (formal speech). There are at least two speakers who will present a whaikōrero; the tangata whenua will open the proceedings with whaikōrero. Manuhiri will respond after which tangata whenua will conclude that part of the ceremony.

Each whaikōrero is followed by a waiata (song). The waiata chosen is to support the message that the speaker has provided.

At this stage the Kaumatua may clear the way through karakia to allow UCOL Business Division Senior Leader or their representative to speak. On completion of the pōwhiri and the speakers, manuhiri are invited to hongī (traditional action for a greeting pressing the forehead and noses together). This action breaks the tapu and symbolises the mixing of both the tangata whenua and manuhiri are one. The manuhiri are now considered tangata whenua, part of UCOL.

Manaakitanga

No pōwhiri is complete without the manaakitanga (hospitality) of the tangata whenua. Sharing kai (a meal) is the best way to show that we are now one and sit around the same table. At UCOL, you are invited to join us for a light meal and refreshment following the pōwhiri. A karakia (prayer) is first said before we eat. On the Manawatū Campus, the kaumatua conducts the karakia before dismissing the crowd. Please wait for the karakia to be said before getting your snack. Details of this are always shared by the campus before the Pōwhiri commences.

In summary – key things to remember

- Manuhiri take their lead from tangata whenua if you are in doubt ask someone.
- It is important to arrive before the pōwhiri is scheduled to start.
- Dress appropriately, preferably in black as pōwhiri is a ceremonial occasion.
- Turn cell phones off.
- Food and drink are not to be taken onto the marae - bottled water is usually permitted (safer to check with the tangata whenua).
- Move onto the marae/place where the pōwhiri is held in silence and maintain this until the conclusion of the speech.
- Remove shoes when entering whare tūpuna/ whare moe.
- The first row of seats are held for the kaikōrero and male elders.
- Fill seats in succession, if there are not enough seats sit on the ground.
- Stay seated throughout the whaikōrero if you need to leave, do so in an unobtrusive manner.
- Do not walk in between the kaiwhaikōrero (speakers).
- When greeting you may hongī, shake hands.
- Wait for the karakia (prayer) to be said before eating.
- Don't sit on tables or pillows.
- When on a marae, permission must be given before using cameras.
- In most cases only te reo Māori is used in whaikōrero.
- If you are unavoidably late seek guidance on how to go onto the marae/enter the atrium.



Order of Events

1. The pōwhiri on the Manawatū Campus starts at 9:30am.
2. You are expected to gather on the grassed area in front of the Princess Street entrance of the main building from 9:10am. Please be early as the pōwhiri will start on time.
3. You will be greeted by friendly UCOL team members wearing distinctive black Student Success t-shirts. Feel free to ask them any questions if you are unsure.
4. Returning students and students who have previously passed through a pōwhiri should gather in the farther side of the atrium together with UCOL staff and are to be seated by 9:20am. Please leave the first four rows of chairs on the tangata whenua's side free for the rangatira (leaders) and teaching staff at UCOL.
5. Please remember to dress for the weather conditions, especially if it is predicted to be cool. It is perfectly permissible to wear a warm hat (outside only).
6. At 9:30am the pōwhiri begins.
 - You will hear the kaikaranga start the welcome call from within the building. Please take your cue to move forward from the kaikaranga for the student group as well as the UCOL team members in black Student Success t-shirts.
 - Once in the atrium take a seat by filing into the rows. The front row is reserved for the Paepae and other tāne, both students and UCOL team members supporting you. Please allow the seats from row three onwards to be taken by our wahine and those with disabilities. There is never enough seating, so you are welcome to either stand (not preferred) or sit on the carpeted areas. The ushers will facilitate this area.
7. After the karakia, please proceed down the atrium to one of the serving stations serving kai. As space can be an issue, please feel free to move about the atrium or even use some of the outside spaces we have made available for the day.
8. A Welcome BBQ will be available at 12:00pm.

- First speaker (iwi) will whaikōrero
- All UCOL staff and returning students will sing a waiata e.g., Purea Nei
- You can find this at the following link if you'd like to learn it <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=07w9kmoONy4>
- First speaker (Students or UCOL student representative)
- Students stand and sing a waiata called - Te Aroha.
- You can find this at the following link if you'd like to learn it <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uefjdSckzPo>
- The proceeding concludes with a hongī/haruru
- The kaumatua will say the karakia which allows us all to join in on some kai (food) and manaakitanga together



Learning The Waiata

Purea Nei

Purea nei e te hau
 Horoia e te ua
 Whitiwhitia e te rā
 Mahea ake ngā pō raruraru
 Makere ana ngā here.
 E rere wairua, e rere
 Ki ngā ao o te rangi
 Whitiwhitia e te rā
 Mahea ake ngā pō raruraru
 Makere ana ngā here,
 Makere ana ngā here.

Te Aroha

Te Aroha, te Whakapono
 Me Te Rangimarie
 Tātou, tātou e.

ucol.ac.nz

0800 468 265 (GO UCOL)

Manawatū Campus

18 Princess Street
Palmerston North 4410

Whanganui Campus

16 Rutland Street
Whanganui 4500

Wairarapa Campus

143 Chapel Street
Masterton 5810

Horowhenua Campus

160 Oxford Street
Levin 5510

