



# Leading Beyond Sustainability (Micro-credential) Handbook

*Valid for October 2021 intake.*

This student handbook provides applicants with an introduction to The Mind Lab and the *Leading Beyond Sustainability (Micro-credential)*, also referred to as the 'Programme'. It outlines the expectations and requirements of the Programme.

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# The Mind Lab

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[The Mind Lab](#)<sup>1</sup> is a specialist education provider dedicated to enhancing contemporary practice, digital fluency and change in education across New Zealand. Our mission is to continue to lead New Zealand education, to share knowledge, to collaborate, and to build partnerships in order to achieve sustainable, impactful change. We are committed to transform New Zealand education to better align skills and capabilities to the demands of the contemporary world.

## Programme Information

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*Leading Beyond Sustainability* is a Level 8, 15 credit micro-credential supporting individuals from a range of industries and communities to critically engage with diverse and holistic approaches to enhancing genuine sustainability and contextualise knowledge to lead authentic and ongoing change in mindset and practice. This is supported by a focus on critical engagement with contemporary perspectives on sustainability, including systems thinking, indigenous and collaborative approaches to leadership and the role of scientific evidence and education to support individuals and communities to develop the knowledge, awareness and capability to lead and apply strategies to work toward sustainable transformation for a resilient and thriving future.

The first intake of this micro-credential begins on 11th October 2021.

### Learning Outcomes (Graduate Profile)

All graduates of the *Leading Beyond Sustainability (Micro-credential)* will be able to:

1. Evaluate diverse, contemporary and emerging approaches to leading authentic sustainability in practice.
2. Critically reflect on personal, professional and collective skill and knowledge gaps in the context of working toward authentic sustainable futures in areas of practice.
3. Develop and apply strategic approaches to address sustainability challenges in their contexts.

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<sup>1</sup> *The Mind Lab (including its subsidiary Tech Futures Lab) is a Tertiary Education Organisation registered by the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) to deliver qualifications approved by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) under the provision of the Education Act 1989. Based on our NZQA external evaluation and review (EER) we have been classified as a Category 1 education organisation.*

## Programme Structure and Delivery

This 8-week micro-credential includes an average of 18 learning hours per week. The Leading Beyond Sustainability micro-credential's blended delivery approach includes self-directed and directed learning activities supported by 90 minute virtual synchronous class sessions fortnightly. The first synchronous session will serve as an orientation and create a sense of community of learners. The subsequent sessions will have two purposes: to provide an opportunity for learners to ask questions and discuss and reflect on key learning during the course, as well as a 45min session on a key topic from teaching staff.

Online synchronous sessions will take place on Wednesday 12pm - 1:30pm.

Module		Themes	Online Synchronous Session	Assessment
Week 1	Introduction to Challenging Sustainability	Current state of Sustainability	Orientation and Welcome	
Week 2		Our current global challenges - an overview		
Week 3	Leadership	Learning From Indigenous Leaders and Values	Indigenous and purpose driven Leadership and Values + Assessment Q & A	
Week 4		Leading with Purpose		Assessment 1 Due
Week 5	Transformational Change for Sustainable Futures	Beyond linear thinking - an introduction		
Week 6		Beyond Linear Thinking - practical examples	Ecosystem approaches to sustainability + Assessment Q & A	
Week 7		Developing a strategy for sustainable change		
Week 8		Down to Action		Assessment 2 Due

## Resources Required for Study

Students will need to have access to appropriate devices and the Internet to be able to enrol in this programme. This is important as they will need to be able to access the online materials and communication tools throughout both the self directed parts of the programme and the sessions online.

## Application for Admission

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Applications to the Programme are made through The Mind Lab [enrolments site](#). This is where all the required details and documentation for enrolment are provided by applicants to be processed, and the payment method selected.

### Eligibility

To be eligible to study on the Programme, applicants must meet the admission criteria. The high-level entry criteria as approved by NZQA are as follows:

A Bachelor's degree or an equivalent level qualification OR equivalent professional experience in a relevant field.

*Note: Applicants must supply robust evidence to show academic qualifications and/or equivalence to academic qualifications. Evidence of informal and formal learning can include but is not limited to;*

- Professional and/or community positions held
- Professional and/or community awards
- Professional and/or community references
- Professional and/or community outputs
- Invitations to represent to professions and communities at conferences

*Evidence of informal and formal learning will be assessed by the National Academic Director or delegated authority.*

Students are unable to gain credits learning towards this 15 credit microcredential through cross-crediting or accreditation of prior learning.

### International Students

This programme is available to study as an international student either via online distance learning or if you currently reside in New Zealand and your visa conditions allow study. To find out more about studying with The Mind Lab as an international student, and for programme fees, visit our International Students page.

### Admission

If an applicant is eligible to undertake the programme, and the required documentation has been provided and verified, the applicant will be enrolled as a student on the Programme.

## **Verification of Enrolment**

The Mind Lab admissions team will verify applications as they come through and request further information from applicants if required. Once their enrolment is complete, successful applicants will receive an email confirmation of their enrolment.

## **Fees**

The tuition fee for the Programme is \$900 (including GST).

Unfortunately students are not eligible to apply for StudyLink Student Loans for this micro-credential.

## **Scholarships**

The Aotearoa Sustainability Scholarship is available for up to 20 students to enrol in the *Leading Beyond Sustainability* micro-credential in the October 2021 intake (starting 11th October). The scholarship is available only for domestic students and on a first-come-first-serve basis. You will be applying for the scholarship by completing your application - there is no separate application form for applicants to complete.

There's no specific criteria to meet to be awarded an Aotearoa Sustainability Scholarship (other than the entry requirement criteria to the programme), but we do ask you agree to attend all sessions and complete assessments to the best of your ability.

At The Mind Lab we believe wholeheartedly that learning at the front edge of sustainability will contribute significantly to the future of Aotearoa New Zealand. This is your opportunity to learn with New Zealand's most innovative education provider and gain insights into how you can contribute to address sustainability challenges that impact us all.

## **Withdrawal Scenarios**

If you are already enrolled in the Programme and decide to withdraw, there are different [withdrawal scenarios](#) depending on when you withdraw.

On application, candidates must agree to the [Terms and Conditions](#) before we can process an enrolment into the Programme.

# Assessment

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## Assessment Strategy

Assessments in this Programme have been designed to support the learning process. Students on the Programme are assessed through both a formative and summative assessment. The summative assessment is the academic assessment of the Programme which grades are awarded against and contribute to credits for the course. Assessments should be thought of as learning tools, where students present and receive feedback on their work in order to improve it. The assessments on this Programme are completed both individually and collaboratively.

The Leading Beyond Sustainability micro-credential has two summative assessments across the 8 weeks that will provide an opportunity for students to apply their learning to their context, and complete the programme with a change strategy for a sustainability initiative that they have begun to implement in their context.

- Assessment 1: Case study - evaluate a case study of a model or organisation relevant to your context and analyse "How does [model or organisation] provide leadership for authentic sustainability.
- Assessment 2: Project Brief - present a project brief applying strategic approaches to address a sustainability challenge in your context.

*Due dates for assessments are provided in the programme calendar that is provided upon commencement of the programme via the student Portal. Further detail on assessments can be provided if requested. Please contact [lbs@themindlab.com](mailto:lbs@themindlab.com)*

## Assessment Outcomes

The Programme provides students an opportunity to value learning for learning's sake, as well as to achieve a practical outcome which contributes to their own professional development and that of their context.

All assessments in the Programme are measured against a competency-based format. Final outcomes for the summative assessment, and therefore the micro-credential course, are a Not Yet Competent or a Competent grade.

To get a Pass grade for the micro-credential overall, students must satisfy all assessment criteria related to the Learning Outcomes of the courses. Importantly, students will receive feedback targeted to these Learning Outcomes especially through the formative assessment process. A student can also receive an interim outcome of 'Pass with Requirements' for an assessment, which means that there are further requirements to fulfill in order to pass the assessment. These requirements must be met in the stated time frame before continuing.

## Resubmission

You may apply to undertake a resubmission/reassessment for a failed assessment within seven days of receiving your marked assessment. This application is assessed by the Programme Lead who, guided by the Assessment and Moderation Panel, approves resubmission applications based on the Assessment and Moderation Panel being convinced that the resubmission can be completed in an appropriate time frame, normally not longer than one month. All resubmissions will be carried out within a specified time period as agreed with the Programme Lead.

## Te Reo Māori and New Zealand Sign Language

All students are offered the opportunity to submit any assessment in the official languages of New Zealand: New Zealand English dialect, Te Reo Māori, and New Zealand Sign Language. We ask students to indicate to the Programme Lead when starting the Programme if they intend to submit assessments in Te Reo Māori or New Zealand Sign Language, to ensure there is available resourcing to support their learning.

## Special Assessment Circumstance (SAC)

If an unforeseen circumstance impairs the ability of a student from doing well on an assessment (including submitting assessment on time and/or giving a presentation), students are able to apply for a Special Assessment Circumstance with relevant evidence within 5 working days of the assessment item due date.

## Staff

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This micro-credential will be facilitated by Saskia Verraes and Hayley Sparks.

Saskia is also the Programme Lead for the Postgraduate Certificate in Leading Change for Good and was the Chief Responsible Management Officer at Tourism Holdings Limited before moving to the Mind Lab. Saskia is a devoted fighter for a better world. One that is socially just, economically inclusive and environmentally restorative.

Hayley is the National Academic Manager at The Mind Lab, and has a passion for sustainability and social justice and equity in particular. Hayley has a PhD in Geography from The University of Auckland and her research interests continue to focus on the intersection of geography and education and understanding relationships between people and place.

Please visit [themindlab.com](http://themindlab.com) for more information on the team at The Mind Lab.

## Student Support and Wellbeing

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The Mind Lab team is committed to creating an inclusive learning environment and to working alongside all students to support them through their studies on this Programme. This support includes educational and learning support, as well as different types of non-educational support.

If a student has any impairments that impact their learning, we encourage them to speak to the Programme Lead so that appropriate support systems can be put in place to assist them.

### **Variations on Enrolment**

If students encounter circumstances or challenges which are impacting their ability to continue with a programme or course, they should contact the Programme Lead or the local Facilitator in the first instance to discuss what options for support are available. It may be possible to suspend enrolment for a period of time, or for students to withdraw from a course and re-enrol at a later date. Terms and conditions for variations to enrolment are outlined during the enrolment process.

## Important Student Information

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Below are some key policies and procedures relevant to all programmes of study at The Mind Lab.

[\*The Mind Lab Code of Conduct\*](#) is designed to promote the upholding of professional standards and academic integrity. It covers the personal conduct of all staff, students and contractors.

[\*The Mind Lab Privacy Policy\*](#) provides details of how student and staff privacy will be maintained.

[\*The Mind Lab Student Complaints and Appeals Policy\*](#) outlines the procedures to be followed if an applicant or student makes a formal complaint, or makes an appeal against *The Mind Lab's* decision outcome.



Complaints and appeals are submitted in writing, with evidence to [academicmanagement@themindlab.com](mailto:academicmanagement@themindlab.com). An appropriate investigator is assigned by The Mind Lab Academic Team to review the complaint or appeal and conduct an investigation and identify a resolution. All groups involved in the investigation will be kept up to date throughout. Full details of the process can be found in TML Student Complaints and Appeals Policy and Procedures.

In the instance that a complaint is not resolved to your satisfaction by The Mind Lab, you can [raise your concern](#) in writing with the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA).

### **About The Mind Lab Governance and Management**

*The Mind Lab* is governed by an Independent Board, and *The Mind Lab Academic Board* is accountable to *The Mind Lab Board* for ensuring processes exist to facilitate, manage, evaluate, and monitor all aspects of the *Quality Management System* including the *Academic Quality of Programmes*.

All Governing Members of *The Mind Lab* have provided a verified statutory declaration to NZQA and no conflicts of interest have been declared.

Information in this handbook is subject to change and is updated with a version number and valid date, please check the programme page on [themindlab.com](http://themindlab.com) for the most current version.