



**CREST** is a nationwide awards scheme, administered by the Royal Society of New Zealand.

In **CREST**, students are given authentic experience in

- ✓ technological practice or scientific investigation;
- ✓ working with consultants and experts from industry;
- ✓ carrying out projects focussed on finding creative solutions to practical problems that are of real significance in their lives.
- ✓ Students work at their own pace and to their own potential.

**CREST**

- ✓ develops enterprise and entrepreneurial skills;
- ✓ encourages and rewards creative and innovative thinking;
- ✓ teaches students goal-setting and problem-solving, risk-taking and perseverance in the face of adversity.

**CREST**

- ✓ exposes students' families and local communities to their projects, thus increasing scientific and technological literacy in society generally.

**CREST** requires close collaboration between students and role models from knowledge-based, wealth-creating industries, so provides students with valuable insights into,



and creates interest in careers they may not have even previously known of.

As students work on their projects they **develop social, environmental and financial awareness**, often being required to consider questions of **sustainability, environmental impact, ethics, social responsibility and fiscal responsibility**.

Required to keep a detailed log of their practice, students **reflect** on how they could improve and what can be learned from past mistakes, so they learn to **self-evaluate**.

The nature of this award scheme strongly promotes them being **innovative, lateral thinkers**, open to **new concepts and ideas** as well as continual **self-improvement**.

Students of **all** abilities can succeed and develop to their potential, as assessment is based on meeting certain criteria which reflects:

- ✓ the student's ability to demonstrate **creativity** in solving problems;
- ✓ **perseverance** in overcoming difficulties;
- ✓ the **application of knowledge** in seeking practical solutions and
- ✓ the ability to communicate.



There are four progressive project stages in CREST:

The CREST programme			
Years 6, 7, 8	Years 9, 10	Years 11, 12	Years 12, 13
First CREST	Bronze	Silver	Gold
Team First	Team Bronze	Team Silver	CREST

First CREST and Team First CREST are *practical* project work for students usually at the Year 6-8 level.

Bronze CREST and Bronze Team CREST are awards for *independent* projects for students at the Year 9-10 level.

Silver CREST and Silver Team CREST are awards for *challenging* projects for students usually at the Year 11-12 level.

Gold CREST awards are for *advanced* projects for students at the Year 12-13 level.

Thus students begin with small entry-level projects and build up to large research or technological practice projects that can take up to 18 months at Gold level, and have the potential for major new discoveries.

Students are able to showcase their completed projects at regional science and technology fairs and national science and technology competitions.



The outcomes of **CREST** projects also fit securely into the **Growth and Innovation Framework**, which seeks to improve the wellbeing of New Zealanders through sustainable economic growth led by new technologies.

**CREST** develops **scientific and technological literacy** amongst the population, raising interest in **science and technology** from an early age, and celebrates **successes** in these fields

Our education system is based on a belief of the value of investing in the future of our nation through our young people.

Development of interest and excellence in the fields of science and technology in our young people underpins the human capability requirements for New Zealand's future.

The **CREST** scheme leverages off the talent and enthusiasm already existing in our youth, in order to reap the human capital dividends for the wealth-creating industries of tomorrow.

