

Poutoko Taiea | Distinguished Chair

AWARD GUIDELINES

Purpose

The Distinguished Chair (Poutoko Taiea) award recognises the work of the University's highest-achieving professors towards the University's mission to undertake outstanding research and research-informed teaching, enable transformative learning and student experiences, and engage in meaningful service to society with a dedication to excellence, innovation and positive impact.

Introduction

The Distinguished Chair award will acknowledge professors (Distinguished Professor – Ahorangi Taiea) with highly distinguished accomplishments who have maintained an extraordinary level of activity across their scholarly work and have achieved pre-eminence in their field. They will be recognised for their leadership, as evidenced by their contribution within the broader University community.

The Distinguished Chair is initially awarded for a fixed period, during which the recipients will be provided with the opportunity to showcase their work and to engage and inspire others, and a grant of \$10,000 per annum to support this. Distinguished Chairs can continue to use the title after the initial four year period while they are still working within the university.

Seven Sesquicentennial Distinguished Chair appointments were made in 2019, the award's inaugural year. Thereafter, up to five awards will be made biennially, with a maximum of ten Distinguished Chairs held at once (a maximum of fifteen during the term of the inaugural appointments).

Content

1. Aim

- a. To acknowledge and reward the highest-achieving Professors by
 - i. raising awareness of their work via a high-profile platform of external and community engagement opportunities
 - ii. providing them with financial recognition of their special achievements.
- b. In turn, the award will promote the work of the University through the public activities of the Distinguished Chair recipients.

2. Criteria

Recipients of the Distinguished Chairs are

- a. outstanding citizens with a record of strong engagement in leadership and service in the University
- b. committed to raising the profile of the work of the University of Otago, in alignment with the goals of Vision 2040, Pae Tata and our other guiding documents.
- c. pre-eminent within their discipline and, where appropriate, internationally renowned in their fields
- d. top achievers in all aspects of their Professorial roles, including sustained outstanding leadership in teaching, research and service.

- e. carrying out research at the highest level that has positive impact on the understanding, development and well-being of individuals, society and the environment.

3. Expectations of the role

The expected activities of the Distinguished Chair holders include

- a. participating in University events and public lectures, such as the Distinguished Lecture Series
- b. attending and speaking at national and international alumni events
- c. community and secondary schools engagement
- d. assisting with professional and leadership development.

4. Eligibility

- a. Professors, Research Professors and Clinical Professors are eligible for the award.

5. Application and selection process

- a. Human Resources sends the notice of the application round to all professors in the year following a biennial review. Any Professor may choose to apply. The Vice-Chancellor or Pro-Vice-Chancellor may also invite selected Professors to apply.
- b. Professors apply with a covering letter of 1-2 pages to academic.promotions@otago.ac.nz, stating how they would make use of the award and the opportunities that it entails.
- c. Human Resources supplements each application with the documentation already on file from the applicant's Professorial Review (or the documentation submitted at the time of appointment or promotion to the professorial role). Applicants may submit an updated CV if they wish.
- d. Human Resources asks Pro-Vice-Chancellors to write a brief note of endorsement for each application.
- e. Applications are considered by a Selection Committee comprising the Vice-Chancellor and two or three Deputy Vice-Chancellors, with the power to co-opt members as required.
- f. Up to five awards will be made biennially.
- g. The process is administered by Promotions and Remuneration, Human Resources.

6. Terms of appointment

- a. The Distinguished Chair appointment is for a fixed term of four years.
- b. Distinguished Professors receive a non-superable salary supplement of \$10,000 per annum (not pro-rated for part-time staff) during the four-year appointment.
- c. At the end of the initial four year appointment, recipients may continue to use the title of Distinguished Professor.

Contact for further information

If you have any queries regarding the content of this procedure or need further clarification, contact Human Resources Promotions and Remuneration, academic.promotions@otago.ac.nz.