Call for Scholarship applications
3-year Doctoral Scholarship
Funded by QuakeCoRE
Hosted by the Centre for Sustainability University of Otago
Ōtepoti Dunedin, New Zealand

Interdisciplinary Theme 3: A resilient Aotearoa New Zealand Transport System
A resilient transport and logistics system is critical to the ongoing and future viability of businesses and communities across the country, supporting the efficient movement of goods and people

This doctoral research project will investigate the role of the state highway network during disruptive events, from the perspective of community resilience and recovery in Aotearoa. Using applied mixed methods, the project will consider community values and expectations of the transport network related to disruptive events, including recovery and restoration timeframes, resilience decision-making and investment. The successful candidate will work closely with key agencies, including Waka Kotahi, to shape the research, to ensure the outcomes are useful, useable and used in policy and practice.

We seek an applied, interdisciplinary research candidate with exceptional communication skills, and prior research knowledge in community-based research, transport planning and resilience to join our dynamic research team in New Zealand.

The successful candidate will work closely across QuakeCoRE’s Interdisciplinary Theme 3 and Disciplinary Theme 4 (Cultural and Social Factors Shaping Resilience) research programmes. The aims of QuakeCoRE are to advance the science and implementation pathways of earthquake resilience through system-level science with highly integrated collaboration across the physical, engineering and social sciences, as well as relevant research institutions. For more information visit http://www.quakecore.nz/

This project will build upon knowledge about resilient communities in New Zealand, across the continuum of hazard risk reduction, preparedness, response and recovery.

The successful candidate will be funded by QuakeCoRE for three years, based at the University of Otago and will have supervisory and advisory support from within the QuakeCoRE team as required. They will join a supportive, engaged and dynamic cross-
disciplinary team of scientists and practitioners, including doctoral students working in related fields.

It is anticipated that this research will begin as soon as an appropriate candidate has been identified, no later than 1 February 2024.

Value and tenure

- If successful, the QuakeCORE scholarship includes a NZ$30,696 stipend (tax free) plus a tuition fee waiver of up to NZ$8,800 per annum for three years.
- This project will span March 2024 - March 2027 (inclusive).
- The recipient will be supervised by Assoc. Prof. Caroline Orchiston at the Centre for Sustainability, University of Otago (Dunedin, New Zealand) and other appropriate academics once the topic has been confirmed.
- The Centre for Sustainability has an outstanding reputation for providing excellent pastoral care and support for their graduate students. Visit https://www.otago.ac.nz/dsm-psm/index.html

Applicant eligibility

This PhD scholarship is open to domestic and international candidates. Note international students are eligible to pay domestic fees if they are living in New Zealand with the appropriate student visa (for more information, http://www.otago.ac.nz/international/otago002190.html#phdfees). For all students, please note you will need to have an excellent GPA and English writing and communication skills to apply.

It is a prerequisite that applicants have a Masters qualification in a relevant discipline with a research thesis component which totals ~30% of their overall Masters grade. Inter-disciplinary skills are encouraged, including: social science, engineering, resilience and risk science.

How to apply

Applicants should submit an email to Assoc. Prof. Caroline Orchiston that includes:
- A full curriculum vitae;
- Academic transcript;
- Contact details and supporting letters of two academic referees;
- An example of your best written work (e.g. a chapter of Masters thesis, or a published journal article);
- One A4 page cover letter outlining your interest in the topic, and why you would like to be considered for this scholarship.

The closing date for applications is 1 September 2023. Short-listed applicants will be invited to an interview either in person or online to discuss their application.

Please email your application to caroline.orchiston@otago.ac.nz. Contact Caroline via email or phone (+64 3 4799244) with any questions or queries about the research.