

# International Conferences and the University of Otago



dunedin



**100% PURE  
NEW ZEALAND**  
[businessevents.newzealand.com](https://businessevents.newzealand.com)

# Nau mai, haere mai

Hosting an international conference in Ōtepoti is a powerful way to advance our shared ambition for the University of Otago to be a leading university of the Pacific.

Vision 2040 sets a clear direction for our university — one that embraces whakawhanaungatanga the pursuit of mātauranga, and a commitment to sharing that knowledge across borders. International conferences offer an opportunity to bring the world to us — to showcase the depth of our research, the strength of our academic community, and the unique character of both the University of Otago and our city.

They also help us forge new connections, raise the profile of our disciplines, and deliver lasting benefits for our taurira, our staff, and our wider community.

I encourage you to consider whether conferences you attend abroad could be hosted here in Aotearoa. The Conference Assistance Programme, supported by Tourism New Zealand and Enterprise Dunedin, provides expert support and funding to help you prepare and submit a strong bid for conferences with over 200 international delegates.

This is a valuable opportunity to grow Otago's global impact while celebrating who we are and where we stand.

Ngā manaakitanga,

**Grant Robertson**

*Vice-Chancellor, University of Otago | Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka*



# Why host an international conference?



Build profile as a global leader with activities contributing to your Performance Based Research Fund



Enhance awareness of research programmes to secure new funding



Knowledge sharing opportunities for staff



Showcase the University of Otago's areas of strength to future staff and students



Forge new international links

## Conference Bidding: what you need to know

The University of Otago provides a research-led learning environment with an international reputation for excellence. Hosting more international conferences helps to build on this reputation and raise our profile as a global leader.

To help academics prepare strong bids we have partnered with Tourism New Zealand and Enterprise Dunedin. These agencies have an established track record of bringing prestigious conferences to New Zealand, and have a wealth of resources – financial and non-financial – to help you prepare your bid and market your conference.

International conferences can be hosted at the Auckland, Christchurch, Invercargill, or Wellington campuses of the University of Otago, as well as at our main campus in Ōtepoti Dunedin.



# Introducing the Conference Assistance Programme

The Conference Assistance Programme is managed by Tourism New Zealand to help universities and internationally affiliated organisations with bids to host international conferences of over 200 international delegates in New Zealand.

Tourism New Zealand provides flexible funding and resources to support international conference bids, including but not limited to:

## STEP 1



Contact Tourism New Zealand or Dunedin Business Events for an initial meeting to understand bid requirements and look at venue options (site visits can be arranged if required).

## STEP 2



Tourism New Zealand provides funding for a professional conference organiser to prepare a financial feasibility study into the costs and benefits of hosting your proposed conference.

## STEP 3



Tourism New Zealand and Dunedin Business Events work with you to manage the production of a world-class bid document and presentation.

## STEP 4



Tourism New Zealand funds flights and accommodation for you to present your bid to the International Committee.

## STEP 5



Tourism New Zealand provides funding to support conference delivery and marketing activity.



# Recent conference wins for the University of Otago

## IASIL 2027 – Conference of the International Association for the Study of Irish Literatures

Professor Maebh Long – The Centre for Irish and Scottish Studies

## RECE 2026 – Reconceptualising Early Childhood Education 2026

Dr Sonya Gaches – College of Education

## TERMIS AP 2026 – Termis Asia Pacific Congress of Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine 2026

Professor Tim Woodfield – Christchurch Regenerative Medicine and Tissue Engineering research group (Ōtepoti Christchurch Campus)

## 27th International Congress of History of Science and Technology 2025

Honorary Associate Professor Hugh Slotten – Department of Media, Film & Communication

## International Human Resources Conference 2024

Associate Professor Paula O’Kane – Department of Management

## 18th International Congress on Photosynthesis Research 2023

Professor Julian Eaton-Rye – Department of Biochemistry

## 9th Asia Pacific International Congress of Anatomists (9th APICA) and 20th Australian and New Zealand Association of Clinical Anatomists (ANZACA) Conference 2023

Professor Steph Woodley – Department of Anatomy

## World Leisure Congress 2023

Professor Neil Carr – Department of Tourism

## Indo Pacific Fish Conference 2023

Professor Gerry Closs – Department of Zoology (Auckland Campus)

## ANZMAC 2023 Australian and New Zealand Marketing Academy Conference

Professor Maree Thyne – PVC Commerce and Dean of the School of Business Department of Marketing



# Case Study

## Dunedin hosted the prestigious 27th International Congress of History of Science and Technology in 2025, attracting more than 900 researchers from both the Humanities and the Sciences.

**The event is the world's largest conference for the study of history of science, technology, and medicine, and had never been held in the South Pacific before.**

University of Otago Media, Film and Communication Associate Professor Hugh Slotten played an integral role in the successful bid for the Congress.

He says: "This Congress is very important for the international reputation of the university and Dunedin. It highlights a particular strength of the university, not only in the Health Sciences and the Sciences but also in areas of research/teaching that connect the Humanities with the Sciences and the Health Sciences. Science Communication and Bioethics also have world-class reputations here."

"With 22 concurrent streams and a rich programme of plenaries, panels, and discussions, this event provided a vibrant platform for the presentation of research in the field and for facilitating international exchanges and understanding."

"The support we received from Tourism New Zealand was absolutely crucial over the last four-plus years. This included funding the upgrade of the New Zealand Network for History of Science, Medicine, Technology's website to support the bid, assistance in preparing an attractive bid document and presentation, and supporting international travel to present the bid."



# Contact us

---

## THE UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO

**Jasmine Millar**

*Manager, Events*

**E** [jasmine.millar@otago.ac.nz](mailto:jasmine.millar@otago.ac.nz)

**P** +64 210 912 1662

**W** [www.otago.ac.nz/marketing-services/events](http://www.otago.ac.nz/marketing-services/events)

## ENTERPRISE DUNEDIN

**Teresa Fogarty**

*Business Development Lead –  
Tourism Trade, Business & Major Events*

**E** [teresa.fogarty@dcc.govt.nz](mailto:teresa.fogarty@dcc.govt.nz)

**P** +64 21 357 486

**W** [dunedinnz.com/meet](http://dunedinnz.com/meet)

## TOURISM NEW ZEALAND

**Wendy Desiles**

*Business Development Manager | Business Events*

**E** [wendy.desiles@tnz.govt.nz](mailto:wendy.desiles@tnz.govt.nz)

**P** +64 21 242 8722

**W** [businessevents.newzealand.com](http://businessevents.newzealand.com)

LLOYD SPENCER DAVIS  
HOST OF THE PUBLIC  
COMMUNICATION OF SCIENCE AND  
TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE



# CALLING THE HISTORY MAKERS

Join the world's best with funding and support to  
host a conference in New Zealand



**100% PURE  
NEW ZEALAND**  
[businesssevents.newzealand.com](https://businesssevents.newzealand.com)