

### CANDIDATE INFORMATION PACK

The Eamon Cleary Chair in Irish Studies

Mātai Airana, Mātai Kotirana | Centre for Irish and Scottish Studies

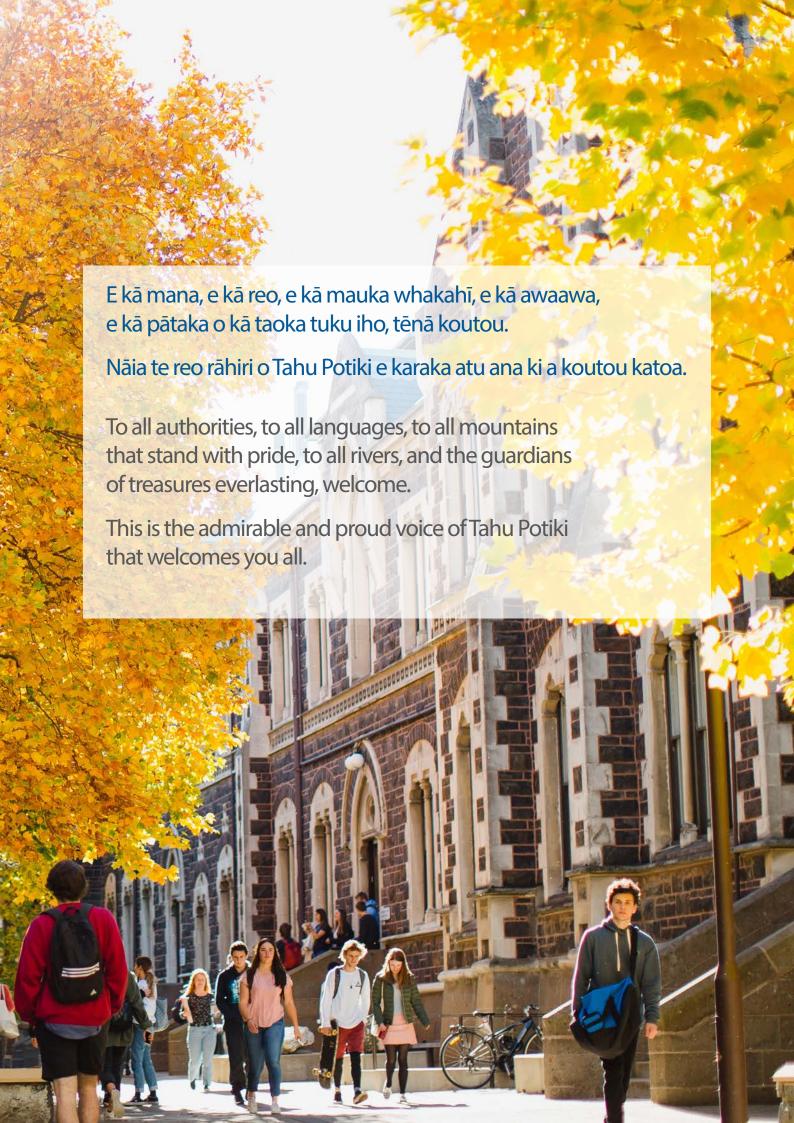
Te Kete Aronui | Division of Humanities

2024



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# Welcome from the Vice-Chancellor Tēnā koe

Thank you for your interest in this position at the University of Otago.



I am priviledged to be the Acting Vice-Chancellor of this outstanding University. We are committed to working closely with iwi and Māori organisations and mātauraka Māori has become an integral part of teaching and research across the institution. Our relationship with Ngāi Tahu as mana whenua within their takiwā of Te Waipounamu and, through this, as the University's principal Treaty partner is especially important.

Our cultural location in the southern Pacific has also become an important component of our institutional identity and we have developed deep and strong links to Pacific communities, both within New Zealand and across the wider Pacific region. The University is strongly committed to broad ongoing engagement with Pacific communities. Our Pacific Strategic Framework formalises this commitment and articulates the University's goals to improve academic and development outcomes for Pacific students and staff.

Grounded in a distinctively Scottish commitment to the value of education for people of diverse backgrounds, the University of Otago has developed into an institution distinguished by its excellent teaching and research. The University has combined the traditions of this proud history with modern scholarship, and earned an international reputation for teaching and research excellence.

We rank as one of New Zealand's top two universities globally and have been awarded five stars plus – the highest rating possible – from the QS Stars international quality evaluation system in recognition not only for our exceptional teaching and research, but also for innovation, inclusiveness, internationalisation, the high standard of our facilities and the employability of our graduates.

The University of Otago has become an enduring educational, cultural and economic force in both the city of Dunedin and in New Zealand as a whole. We take seriously our role as critic and conscience of society, and we attract students from throughout New Zealand and around the world, providing them with a world-class education and encouraging them to be the best they can be.

At Otago, you have the opportunity to be part of an outstanding academic community, offering both challenges and opportunities. This will be an exciting and rewarding role; I welcome your application.

Professor Helen Nicholson BSc(Hons) MB ChB MD Vice-Chancellor (Acting)

#### Mātai Airana, Mātai Kotirana | Centre for Irish and Scottish Studies

The Centre for Irish and Scottish Studies (CISS) is a key institutional site for the study of both Ireland and Scotland, for exploring the distinctiveness of each nation, the significant commonalities that they share, and also for scholarly reflection on the development of migration and diasporic communities.

Irish Studies at Otago is an interdisciplinary study of the literature, history, film and theatre of the island of Ireland over the past two hundred years. While it focuses on issues such as identity, ethnicity, and 'nation building', and the history of their contestation, it also pays attention to Ireland's relationships with New Zealand, Europe and Australia.

Irish Studies at Otago is ideally placed to simultaneously introduce students to Irish culture and history 'at home' within the island of Ireland, while providing rich opportunities to think about Ireland and Irishness through a diasporic lens. Connections to Ireland have played a very significant role in the development of New Zealand and there is a set of strong community groups that actively maintain those cultural connections.

The Centre holds a unique position as the only Irish and Scottish Studies centre in the Asia-Pacific region. Our mission is to provide high-quality teaching and research in the literature, history and culture of Ireland and Scotland (including the Irish and Scottish diasporas), to develop collaborations with Irish and Scottish Studies colleagues in Aotearoa and overseas, to provide expert commentary on Irish and Scottish affairs for a NZ audience, and to engage the local community through an ongoing programme of public events and outreach initiatives. Through its donors, CISS stands as a tangible expression of the University's strong connections to the local business community (via the Eamon Cleary Chair) and to the providers of student accommodation (via the Stuart Residence Halls Council). In our prominent redbrick premises at 99 Albany Street, we embody the University's recognition of the strong Celtic elements in Dunedin's cultural whakapapa.

#### Some Key Initiatives

**CISS Writers Fellowship** 

In association with the Stuart Residence Halls Council, the Eamon Cleary Trust, and the Caselberg Trust, the Centre for Irish and Scottish Studies has established the CISS Writers Fellowship – an opportunity for Irish and Scottish writers to live and work for a two-month period in Aotearoa New Zealand. The Fellowship – which is open to writers of Irish and Scottish residency, background or affiliation – aims to facilitate and encourage literary and cultural exchange between Ireland/Scotland and New Zealand. It provides international flights, a fully furnished apartment and a stipend of \$5,000 dollars per month. Accommodation for the Resident is at Caselberg House, Broad Bay, Dunedin. The Fellow's duties include addressing and mentoring students in the University's Irish and Scottish Studies and Creative Writing programmes; they also undertake a light schedule of readings, masterclasses and public appearances during their stay in New Zealand. The Fellowship is held in alternate years by an Irish and by a Scottish writer, and takes place during the months of September and October. (The CISS Fellowship replaces the earlier University of Otago Scottish Writers Fellowship, which ran between 2014 and 2018 and was housed in the Pah Homestead in Auckland.) The inaugural holder of the CISS Writers Fellowship was Dame Fiona Kidman in 2021; Scottish writers Craig Robertson and Alexandra Sokoloff jointly held the Fellowship in 2022; Kathleen Jamie will hold the Fellowship in 2024.

Visiting Professorship in Scottish Studies and Crime Fiction

Professor Val McDermid FRSL FRSE holds a Visiting Professorship at CISS, spending two months of each year (early September to early November) at CISS, where she lectures to students in Irish and Scottish Studies papers and creative writing papers, and also mentors postgraduate students in Irish and Scottish Studies and Creative Writing. Professor McDermid authored the inaugural CISS Pamphlet (in our Tangata Kereti/ Celtic Peoples series), a 5,000-word reflection on Scottish crime fiction entitled 'I Now Describe My Country As If To Strangers'. Professor McDermid has sold over 20 million books in 40 languages, and her international awards include the CWA Gold Dagger Award, the CWA Cartier Diamond Dagger Award, the Grand Prix des Romans D'Aventure, the Stonewall Writer of the Year and the LA Times Book of the Year Award.

She has served as a judge for the Booker Prize and the Women's Prize for Fiction, holds six honorary doctorates and is an Honorary Fellow of St Hilda's College, Oxford. As a broadcaster, Professor McDermid has guest edited Radio 4's Front Row arts programme, fronted features for BBC Two's The Culture Show, guested on Question Time and Have I Got News For You, captained the winning University Challenge alumnae team, and won Celebrity Mastermind. She has written drama for TV, stage and radio and has played Glastonbury as lead singer for the Fun Lovin' Crime Writers.

#### CISS Pamphlets series: Celtic Peoples/ Tangata Kereti

'Celtic Peoples/Tangata Kereti' is a series of concise and vital interventions in the field of Irish and Scottish Studies, broadly conceived. A new title in the series will be published each year. In each pamphlet, an eminent writer or thinker will explore an aspect of Irish and/or Scottish history or culture, sometimes with an eye to ramifications in Aotearoa New Zealand. The pamphlets are published in limited editions by the Dalriada Press at Ōtepoti Dunedin. The series is inaugurated in 2022 with Professor Val McDermid's authoritative essay on the genesis and development of Scottish crime fiction, 'I Now Describe My Country As If To Strangers'. The 2023 pamphlet, by Dame Fiona Kidman, has been published and the 2024 pamphlet (by Craig Robertson) is in production. The intention is that each holder of the CISS Writers Fellowship will author a title in the series.

#### Celtic Noir Crime Writing Festival

In 2019, CISS hosted a successful 'Celtic Noir' crime writing festival, featuring Scottish, Irish, NZ and Pasifika crime writers (including Val McDermid, Adrian McKinty, Liz Nugent and Vanda Symon.) We partnered with local organizations and institutions (the Dunedin Writers and Readers Festival, the Dunedin City Library, Dunedin UNESCO City of Literature) to deliver a three-day festival with every event sold out. While the 2020 Celtic Noir Festival was cancelled due to the covid pandemic, we intend to revive the festival in the future, building in particular on CISS's existing relationships with tangata whenua, including Māori crime novelist Michael Bennett (with whom Professor McDermid has worked in the UK), and Māori crime novelist J.P. Pomare (with whom Professor McDermid partnered on a book tour of Aotearoa in 2022).

Further information about Irish Studies and its place within the Centre can be found at:

https://www.otago.ac.nz/ciss



## Mō te tūnga About the role

The Eamon Cleary Chair in Irish Studies Mātai Airana, Mātai Kotirana | Centre for Irish and Scottish Studies

The Eamon Cleary Chair in Irish Studies was established in 2005, due to a generous bequest by the benefactor after whom it is named. The Chair was established in recognition of the major resurgence of interest in Ireland and Irish culture evident throughout the Western world, including New Zealand. This interest was spurred by the political and economic development of Ireland, together with a renaissance of Irish culture.

The programme is the first in New Zealand, and enables the University of Otago to provide national leadership in the area of Irish Studies.

The recent economic rejuvenation of Ireland, based upon a close relationship with the European Community, adds a dimension that is of particular relevance to New Zealand, and which has attracted the attention of the New Zealand government.

Issues that are fundamental to Irish Studies have a significance beyond the academic world; they raise problems of social exclusion and poverty, community relations, integration and social citizenship, political independence and devolution, race and interculturalism, national identity and the significance to home and host nations of waves of emigration and immigration. Irish Studies at the University of Otago is able to focus academic attention on a range of issues that have implications for and relevance to the future development of New Zealand's society and its economy.

## Te Whare Wānanga o Otago The University of Otago

The University of Otago is New Zealand's oldest university and one of its finest. It is a leader across all fields of academic endeavour – the humanities, sciences, health sciences and business – regularly topping the New Zealand Tertiary Education Commission's education performance indicators.

Students can choose from more than 200 undergraduate and postgraduate programmes and are taught by leaders in their fields. The high calibre of teaching at Otago is reflected by an unparalleled record of success in the country's Tertiary Teaching Excellence Awards.

Research excellence underpins all academic activity: around 3,500 of the University's students study at postgraduate level. Otago is the home of New Zealand's first medical school and only schools of dentistry and surveying. Otago also is New Zealand's only provider of a Radiation Therapy programme and an undergraduate qualification in Neuroscience. The University has leadership roles in national Centres of Research Excellence and partnership roles in the country's National Science Challenges. It also hosts multidisciplinary research themes and research centres, including two of the world's most highly regarded health and development longitudinal studies.

The teaching year generally runs from February to November, broken into two 13-week semesters. A number of programmes are offered via distance learning and a Summer School is held for six weeks during January and February.

In addition to research and teaching excellence, the University is committed through its Strategic Direction to local, national and international betterment; strong external engagement; sustainable capability; and providing outstanding student experiences and campus environments.

The main campus is located in Dunedin – internationally recognised as one of the most beautiful campuses in the world – with significant health sciences campuses in Christchurch and Wellington, as well as a presence in Invercargill and Auckland.

The University of Otago is also strategically committed to furthering the aspirations of Māori, and our Pacific neighbours, and has memoranda of understanding with a number of iwi (tribes), in particular Ngāi Tahu, the mana whenua (the local tribal authority) of the University's main area of operation.

With more than 85 per cent of students coming from outside Dunedin, the University offers a unique campus-based lifestyle, a special feature of which are the 15 residential colleges located close to the heart of all University activities.





Providing a world-class environment for students and staff is a priority and the University has embarked on a significant capital development programme in recent years. Otago was the first New Zealand university to achieve Fair Trade status and our Social Impact Studio fosters a culture of volunteerism among staff and students.

The University of Otago is committed to see sustainability embedded as part of its core ethos. Its Sustainability Strategic Framework clarifies its commitment to enable a consistent, productive focus on sustainability, and to better communicate its efforts at all levels of the organisation. The framework articulates twenty-two strategies and a wide range of activities, within six interdependent themes.

The University is recognised as a Rainbow Tick certified employer. This accreditation shows that it has met a standard of inclusivity with respect to staff sexual orientation and gender identity, and that it is committed to continuous improvement.

The University of Otago includes four academic Divisions: Health Sciences, Humanities, Sciences and Commerce. In 2023, the University had approximately 18,960 equivalent full-time undergraduate students and more than 4,000 equivalent full-time staff.

The University has recently completed a major refresh of its strategic direction, releasing Vision 2040 as its long-horizon aspirational plan, and Pae Tata, its medium-horizon plan to 2030.

Further information is available from the University's website <u>otago.ac.nz</u> as well as a number of other publications including:

The Annual Report otago.ac.nz/annualreport

He Kitenga Research Highlights otago.ac.nz/hekitenga

Otago Magazine otago.ac.nz/otagomagazine

University of Otago InBrief otago.ac.nz/inbrief

Vision 2040 otago.ac.nz/otago0241079

Pae Tata otago.ac.nz/otago0245908

## Te Kete Aronui Division of Humanities

Te Kete Aronui is made up of seven academic schools: School of Arts, School of Social Sciences, School of Geography, College of Education, Faculty of Law, School of Performing Arts, and Te Tumu – School of Māori, Pacific and Indigenous Studies. Humanities is the University of Otago's second largest division with 4,986 student EFTs (2023).

In the Humanities, we are interested in how human beings relate to their diverse and dynamic environments in the past, present and future. We explore how we interact with one another and interpret our experiences, how social and political institutions function, how human societies evolve, and how different cultures relate to one another.

As a Division, we are particularly focused on championing and advancing the humanities; embedding mātauranga Māori in our teaching and research; and engaging with our responsibilities and opportunities as a University in the Pacific. Our strategic plan is available on our website. <a href="https://www.otago.ac.nz/humanities/otago839427.pdf">https://www.otago.ac.nz/humanities/otago839427.pdf</a>

Our academic staff are researchers, performers and professional experts of the highest international standing: our staff frequently win prestigious awards, external research funding and many distinctions. Our research-active scholars offer students cutting-edge knowledge generated in their research and through their professional practice.

Humanities undergraduate offerings include degrees and diplomas in Arts, Music, Performing Arts and Theology, plus professional programmes in Law, Ministry, Planning, Social Work and Teaching.

Our BA degree is exceptionally flexible with over 40 subject options; and many of our students undertake double degrees. We also offer specific interdivisional combined degrees such as the Bachelor of Arts and Science (BASc) and Bachelor of Arts and Commerce (BACom).

Humanities also offers a diverse range of postgraduate programmes built on the undergraduate offerings, which are highly competitive, attracting students from New Zealand and world-wide, including the Master of Peace and Conflict Studies, Master of Indigenous Studies, Master of Politics, Master of International Studies, Master of Teaching and Learning, Master of International Development and Planning, Master of Planning, Master of Chaplaincy, and the Master of Archaeological Practice amongst others.

#### Research

We have strong researchers. Recent QS World University Rankings placed Archaeology in the top 50 in the world in its field. A further four Humanities fields came within the top 51-100: Theology, Divinity and Religious Studies, Performing Arts, Anthropology and Development Studies. Five came within the top 101-150: English Language and Literature, Education, History, Geography and Philosophy. Three came within the top 151-200: Law, Politics and International Studies, and Sociology. The New Zealand Government's most recent Performance Based Research Fund (PBRF) quality evaluation confirmed the research strengths of the Division of Humanities at Otago. The following subject areas were ranked either first or second for the highest percentage of A-rated staff in the country: Anthropology and Archaeology; Education; History and Art History; Classics; Philosophy; Sociology, Gender and Social Work; and Theology and Religious Studies.

Reflecting this strong tradition of research excellence, the Division of Humanities has a number of established research groupings in areas of particular strength, as well as several specialised research centres.

In addition to Centre for Irish and Scottish Studies, these include the Centre for Sustainability, Te Ao o Rongomaraeroa, Centre for Research on Colonial Culture, Centre for Law and Policy in Emerging Technologies, Otago Centre for Law and Society, Children's Issues Centre, Centre for Theology and Public Issues, the Centre for the Book, Centre for Research on Evolution, Belief and Behaviour, and the Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Public Policy.

Staff in the Division of Humanities are regular recipients of Marsden Funding, and other externally funded research projects. One recent example is the multimillion-dollar grant from the John Templeton Foundation to Dr John Shaver of the Religion Programme for a global research project examining how religion affects family size and child health.

Further information about research clusters and centres can be accessed on the website:

otago.ac.nz/humanities/research/research-centres



#### **Teaching**

All teaching is research-informed. Annual student surveys attest to a high degree of student satisfaction with the quality of Otago Humanities courses and teaching.

Te Kete Aronui's teaching excellence has been regularly recognised in university and national teaching awards, including awarding the Prime Minister's Supreme Award for tertiary teaching excellence to Associate Professor Karyn Paringatai (Te Tumu – School of Māori, Pacific and Indigenous Studies) in 2014 and to Professor Jacinta Ruru (Faculty of Law) in 2016. New Zealand National Tertiary Teaching Excellence Awards have been won by Professor Ruth Fitzgerald (Social Anthropology), Associate Professor Selene Mize (Law), Haruko Stuart (Languages and Cultures), Professor Tim Cooper (Theology and Head of School of Arts), Professor Patrick Vakaoti (Te Tumu) and Associate Professor Anna High (Law). Professor Michelle Thompson-Fawcett (School of Geography) was awarded the Kaupapa Māori National Tertiary Teaching Excellence Award in 2018.

Recent recipients of the student selected OUSA Supervisor of the Year award include Dr Susan Wardell (Social Anthropology) and Professor Angela Wanhalla (History).

Teaching in Te Kete Aronui is distinctive in the flexibility of its degree combinations – with many students undertaking interdisciplinary double degrees – and in its emphasis on internationalisation. As part of their Otago degree, students have many opportunities to study abroad under exchange agreements with a wide range of highly regarded partner universities overseas.

An increasing number of students are gaining experience in workplaces and making connections with employers through the internship papers offered in the Division.

## Pūkete tūnga/tangata Position/person profile

#### Key responsibilities

The expectations for the holder of this Chair position include:

- Lead Irish Studies at Otago through their own work and also by drawing upon existing strengths across a range of academic units in the Division of Humanities
- Teach at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.
- Foster postgraduate research at Masters and PhD level.
- Pursue original research in the area of their speciality.
- Assist with the development of academic and institutional relationships with universities in Ireland and other countries where Irish Studies are taught.
- Contribute to the development of the Division of Humanities and the wider University.

For a full description of the expectations for Professor or Associate Professors, refer to the Academic Titles Guidelines on the University's website at <a href="https://www.otago.ac.nz/humanresources/training/academic-staff/">https://www.otago.ac.nz/humanresources/training/academic-staff/</a> academic-titles/index.html.

#### Equal employment opportunities

The University of Otago is strongly committed to diversity in staffing and we encourage applications from women and other under-represented groups who are suitably qualified. Parental leave without pay of up to 52 weeks including paid parental leave of up to twelve weeks' salary may be granted. The Otago University Childcare Centre operates childcare facilities covering the period from birth to five years.

#### Māori partnerships and the Māori Strategic Framework

While the University has a special partnership with Ngāi Tahu, as mana whenua within its takiwā (tribal area) of Te Wai Pounamu, it also has Tiriti-based partnerships with a number of other iwi: Ngāti Whātua, Ngāti Porou Hauora (Ngāti Porou), Ngāti Toa, Te Atiawa and Tipu Ora Charitable Trust (Te Arawa).

The University's commitment to iwi aspirations and Māori development is articulated in its Māori Strategic Framework, which is a platform for the collective commitment to excellence in educational outcomes for all who come to Te Whare Wānanga o Ōtākou.

https://www.otago.ac.nz/maori/otago667421.pdf

#### Pacific Strategic Framework

The University is strongly committed to Pacific student achievement and meeting the needs of Pacific Peoples. Its Pacific Strategic Framework signals its intentions to support Pacific students to succeed in their tertiary education journey. There are skilled staff members, both within the academic divisions and the service divisions, who are dedicated to supporting Pacific students through university study.

https://www.otago.ac.nz/pacific-at-otago/about/otago088124.pdf

#### **Person Specifications**

To be considered for appointment to this position, candidates will have:

- A PhD in an area within Irish studies. This
  can include but is not limited to Irish history,
  literature, politics, creative writing, and theology.
- A distinguished record of research publication in Irish Studies.
- Experience of teaching Irish Studies in a university setting.
- Experience of supervising postgraduate research theses.
- Evidence of international standing in the applicant's field of particular expertise within Irish Studies.
- Commitment to upholding values, tikanga, kawa and traditions as guided by Ngāi Tahu, as mana whenua in the region and broad knowledge of the cultural traditions of other iwi/hapū.

While the University has a strong preference for making an appointment at the level of Professor, it is open to making an appointment to the level of Associate Professor if that rank is appropriate for the most suitable candidate.

## Te noho ki Ōtepoti Living in Dunedin

The University of Otago's southern roots are anchored in its formal relationship with mana whenua Ngāi Tahu and the legacy of the city's Scottish settlers who established a university here within just 21 years of founding the province from which the University takes its name.

Ōtepoti is the Māori name for upper harbour area where Dunedin city was developed. The modern city boundary also includes the papatipu runanga at Ōtākou (at the end of the Otago Peninsula) and Puketeraki (in Karitane, to the north). Indeed, the wider area is rich with Māori history and stories of Ngāi Tahu whaunui, the mana whenua that settled here long before Europeans visited these shores.

Dunedin grew rich on the back of the 1860s Otago gold rush, a wealth that is reflected today in streetscapes of outstanding Victorian and Edwardian



architecture. With a population of around 130,000, this is a small but sophisticated city, boasting many of the amenities and cultural richness usually only found in much larger urban centres, while still retaining its traditional friendliness and ease of getting around.

In Dunedin there is a strong performing arts sector,, outstanding art galleries, museums and libraries. Dunedin is also recognised as a UNESCO City of Literature.

For those who enjoy sports, Dunedin offers worldclass sporting facilities – including New Zealand's only covered stadium. For those who enjoy the outdoors, Dunedin has beautiful beaches and internationally acclaimed wildlife sanctuaries. The world's only mainland royal albatross colony is located on the headland above Otago Harbour. The heart of the city is lined with cafes and restaurants, and modern shopping complexes trade alongside interesting boutiques and a weekly farmers' market that provides an outlet for much of the area's first-rate produce.

Thanks to the foresight of the early planners, there are many parks and green spaces, and outstanding views are commonplace from the city's hillside suburbs.

Dunedin is also the gateway to Central Otago: the resort towns of Wanaka and Queenstown – New Zealand's adventure capital – are just over three hours' drive away. Skiing, snowboarding, boating, mountain-biking and wine tasting are just a few of the many activities to be enjoyed.

However, it is education that is one of Dunedin's most defining features and its major industry. This is a true student city. In addition to the University of Otago, the city hosts a thriving polytechnic and excellent pre-school, primary and secondary education facilities.

University students, staff and their families comprise more than one quarter of the population of urban Dunedin, enriching the intellectual, cultural and sporting life of the city.

And, while Dunedin is located in the south of New Zealand, it is very well connected. The region has two international airports with direct flights to Australia, and Dunedin is New Zealand's first GigCity with one gigabit per second broadband services. Sister city relationships are fostered with Edinburgh (Scotland), Otaru (Japan) and Shanghai (China).

More information about living in Dunedin is available at dunedinnz.com





# Te tukanga tono Application process

#### Submitting an application

The University seeks written documents from candidates wishing to apply for the role. Candidates are required to provide:

- > A CV, including employment history.
- > A letter of application addressing the Person Profile.
- > 3-4 referee contact details, including telephone number and email address.

#### Confidential enquiries may be directed to:

Farai Madambi Senior Recruitment Consultant farai.madambi@otago.ac.nz

#### Referees

The University may contact all three or four referees listed in the application. The candidate should also state their relationship with each referee. Referees will only be contacted after prior consultation with the candidate. It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure that their referees are willing to provide reports when contacted.

The University reserves the right to seek reports on the suitability of candidates from experts in the field, other than those nominated by the candidate. Should an applicant not wish a specific person or persons to be contacted, please advise the recruitment team at the time of application.

#### Date of appointment

Applicants are asked to indicate the date they would expect to be available to take up the appointment. The appointment is available in 2025.







