

**OTAGO UNIVERSITY ADVANCED SCHOOL SCIENCES ACADEMY
(OUASSA): 1-3 SEPTEMBER 2026
PANEL MEMBERS, FRAMEWORK AND TERMS OF REFERENCE**



Submissions Close: Friday, 21 August 2026

As part of the University's quality assurance programme a Panel has been convened to review, evaluate and report to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) on matters pertaining to the Otago University Advanced School Sciences Academy (OUASSA).

Convenor: Emeritus Professor Lyall Hanton

Panel Members:

External: Richard Armond, Stratford High School
Internal: Dr Zabeen Lateef, Office of Strategy, Analytics and Reporting
Internal: Dr Neil Anderson, School of Physical Education, Sport and Exercise Sciences
Internal: Greg Heller, Schools' Liaison
Internal: Amanda Taia, Office of the DVC Pacific
Alumni: Sam Landers
Secretary: [Megan Wilson](#), Quality Advancement Unit

Terms of Reference can be found below.

Written Submissions

Interested parties are invited to make submissions to the Review Panel. The University wants its reviews to be based on all relevant information and accordingly assures you that submissions are treated in the strictest confidence. Submissions are confidentially disposed of on completion of the review process.

Such submissions should be sent to the [Review Secretary](#), by Friday, **21 August 2026** and marked "Confidential".

Oral submissions

Interested parties are invited to make oral submissions to the Review Panel. Please contact the [Review Secretary](#).

Background

The [Otago University Advanced School Sciences Academy](#) (OUASSA) targets potentially high achieving science students from rural/provincial, small and formerly lower decile schools all across New Zealand.

Unlike the University's larger Hands-on at Otago one-off science camp the Science Academy is a year-long programme with all our students being nominated by their school Heads of Science and identified by their teachers as potentially high-achievers. Students attend two science camps one in January and one in July and in between camps work on a Science Communication project that they present to a public audience at the end of the July Camp.

The main goals of Science Academy are:

- To enhance students' ability to excel in their final year NCEA science.
- Expose them to leading research conducted by Otago University Scientists.
- Introduce and enhance their lab and field research skills through engaging 2-day projects and short 3 hours electives in a wide range of sciences.

- Introducing and instilling in them some basic skills in communicating science to a public audience.
- Prepare and prepare them for the transition for Tertiary learning.
- Impress on them the wide range of career options in science and its relevance to 21st Century society.

In addition, Science Academy runs a 4-day Teacher Professional Development programme in parallel with our January camp with goal of enhancing teacher's ability and enthusiasm for science by putting them in touch with leading researchers and teaching resources produced by various departments and programme within the Division of Sciences.

2026 will be the 16th year with over 90% of Science Academy students going on to some form of tertiary education and about half of each cohort coming to Otago University.

Terms of Reference

1. In relation to Science Academy student programme

- Review the goals of the student programme and assess how well they are being achieved.
- Consider how well the goals of the student programme align with the strategic frameworks of Vision 2040, Pae Tata, Te Aka Matua 2030, Pacific Strategic Framework 2030 and Tī Kōuka – Sustainability Strategic Framework.
- Evaluate the benefits of participation for students.
- Consider the benefits of participation for university staff and senior science Student support staff.

2. In relation to the Teacher Professional Development Programme

- Review the goals of the Teacher Professional Development Programme and assess how well they are being achieved.
- Consider the benefits of participation for university staff, departments and teachers.
- Assess how the programme responds to needs of teachers who are teaching students from different cultural background such as Māori & Pacific.

3. In relation to the Science Academy on-line support

- Review the goals of the Science Academy on-line programme and assess how well they contribute to the overall goals of the Science Academy.
- Assess the resourcing of the Science Academy with regards to the provision of support for engaging students in their Science Communication Projects between Jan-July camps and NCEA External Exams support following July camp.

4. In relation to the general running of the Science Academy Programme

- Consider the alignment of the Programme with Vision 2040 and Pae Tata.
- Review how the programme is currently funded and consider how best to pursue sources of long-term funding for the Science Academy.
- Consider and evaluate Science Academy's processes for internal evaluation and feedback to students, teachers, and the wider community.