



University  
of Otago

ŌTĀKOU WHAKAIHU WAKA

## 2026 CANDIDATE INFORMATION PACK

Lecturer/Senior Lecturer - Data Science/AI Governance and Leadership

University of Otago | Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka

Queenstown Campus

---

## Welcome from the Vice-Chancellor

Tēnā koe



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

I am privileged to be the Vice-Chancellor of this outstanding University that is committed to research and teaching excellence, and to serving our communities here in Aotearoa New Zealand and across the world.

A core foundation for the University is our commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and to moving towards being a Te Tiriti led university. We have a mana-to-mana agreement with Kā Rūnaka Ōtākou that guides this journey. We are committed to working closely with iwi and Māori organisations across Aotearoa, and mātauranga Māori has become an integral part of teaching and research across the institution.

Our cultural location in the southern Pacific has also become an important component of our institutional identity, and we have developed deep and enduring links with Pacific communities, both within New Zealand and across the wider Pacific region. The University is strongly committed to 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.

Founded in 1869 by Scottish settlers with a 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 has earned an international reputation for academic excellence. Otago is consistently ranked among New Zealand's leading universities internationally and has been awarded five stars plus – the highest rating possible – by the QS Stars international quality evaluation system, in recognition not only of our teaching and research, but also of 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 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, and I welcome your application.

**Hon Grant Robertson**  
**Te Tumu Whakarae**  
**Vice-Chancellor**

---

# About the role

## Mō te tūnga

### Responsibilities

The successful candidate will contribute to teaching, research, and service at our emerging Queenstown campus. Teaching will largely be focused at postgraduate levels, and on building an active research programme. The area of specialisation will be in data science and AI governance as well as related areas and will involve significant curriculum development. There is genuine scope to play a leading role in developing the data science and AI offering at the campus and to engage with the region's distinctive mix of industry, government, and community organisations.

This is an opportunity to join the University at a genuinely formative moment. The Queenstown campus is building its academic identity, and this role will contribute directly to this, shaping how the field is taught, defining research priorities, and helping to establish the University's presence in an area of growing national significance. We are looking for someone excited by the opportunity to help shape a new academic environment and build meaningful connections across disciplines, industry, and community.

While this position is advertised at Lecturer and Senior Lecturer level, the University reserves the right to appoint at Associate Professor or Professor level if an exceptional candidate is identified. To be considered at a higher level, a candidate will have need to have demonstrated leadership experience that will help drive the University's ambition for Queenstown.

### Research

- Develop and sustain an active research programme in data science governance, AI ethics and policy, algorithmic accountability, data privacy, or closely related areas.
- Publish research outcomes in high-quality peer-reviewed journals, conference proceedings, and other appropriate scholarly venues. Actively seek external research funding from national and international funding bodies appropriate to career stage.
- Supervise and mentor postgraduate research students at honours, masters, and doctoral levels. Contribute to the research culture of the Department and the Queenstown campus, including participation in seminars and collaborative research activities.

- Engage in knowledge-transfer activities that connect research to industry, government, and the wider community.

### Teaching

- Teach undergraduate and postgraduate courses in data science governance, AI ethics, data privacy, responsible AI, and related areas, as assigned in consultation with the Head of Department.
- Prepare course plans, outlines, and teaching materials; facilitate learning through lectures, tutorials, seminars, and workshops.
- Develop and review course content and curricula to reflect contemporary developments in the field, including integration of bicultural and sustainability perspectives.
- Develop assessment materials and methods aligned with learning outcomes; provide timely and constructive feedback to students.
- Foster an inclusive learning environment that supports the success and wellbeing of all students, including Māori and Pacific students.

### Service and Engagement

- Contribute to the effective administration of the Department and the Queenstown campus through participation in committees, working groups, and other activities as required.
- Engage with industry, government, and community organisations to ensure the relevance and impact of the University's teaching and research in the region.
- Participate in relevant professional and disciplinary networks at national and international levels.
- Contribute to the University's commitments to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and to equity, diversity, and inclusion across all aspects of academic work, including alignment with the Māori Strategic Framework and Pacific Strategic Framework.
- Share knowledge with the community outside the University and contribute to the development of policy, practice, and professional standards.

## Personal specifications

The successful candidate will have:

- A completed PhD in data science, artificial intelligence, computer science, information systems, law, public policy, or a closely related discipline.
- An established or emerging research record in data science, statistics, machine learning, artificial intelligence, or related fields, ideally with expertise in areas such as data governance, AI ethics and policy, algorithmic accountability, data privacy, or other societal, regulatory, or organisational dimensions of data and AI, and may include practical applications of these in the development of digital technologies.
- Demonstrated ability or clear potential to teach effectively at undergraduate and postgraduate level.
- Commitment to rigour, ethics, and cultural safety in research and teaching, and to collegial and respectful engagement with students and colleagues.
- Commitment to the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and to the University's Māori and Pacific strategic frameworks.

For appointment at Senior Lecturer, Associate Professor, or Professor level, candidates will have a well-established research and teaching record commensurate with that level, including an outstanding track record of research funding and postgraduate supervision.

For a full description of the expectations for a Lecturer, Senior Lecturer, Associate Professor and Professor refer to the Academic Titles Guidelines:

<https://www.otago.ac.nz/humanresources/training/academic-staff/academic-titles/index.html>

## 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 from early 2027.

## 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.

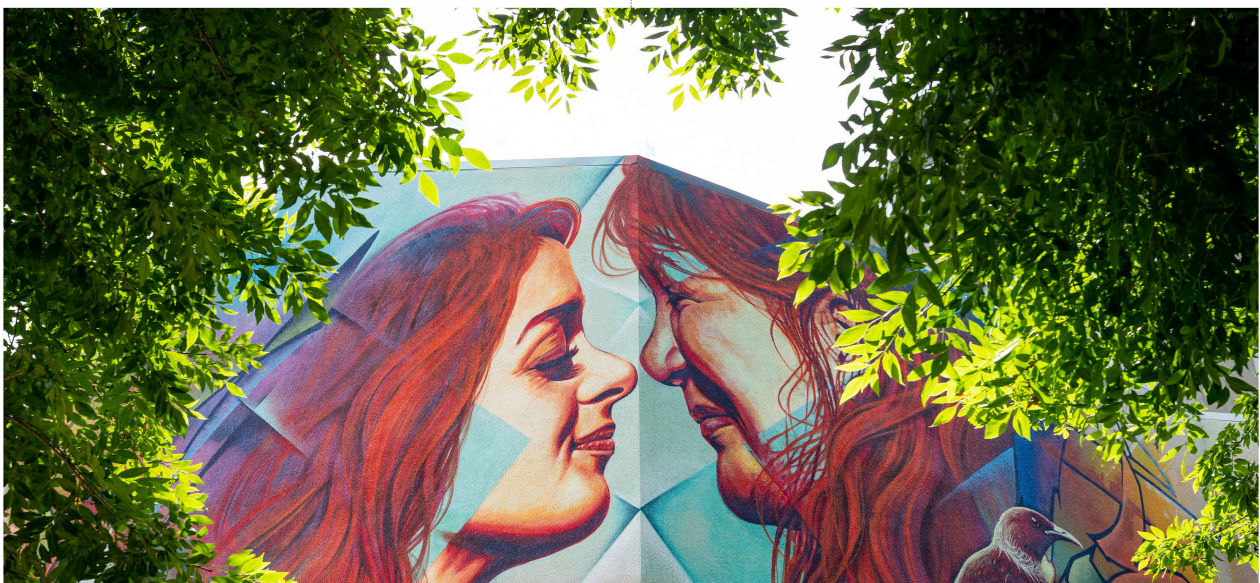
## Māori partnerships and the Māori Strategic Framework

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 Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka.

## 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



---

# The University of Otago

## Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka

Founded in 1869, the University of Otago is New Zealand's first university and remains one of its most highly regarded. Today, Otago is a vibrant, research-intensive institution with a strong sense of purpose, known for academic excellence, intellectual curiosity and a deeply collegial culture.

We are proud of the breadth and quality of our work across the Health Sciences, Humanities, Sciences and Business. Otago consistently performs at the highest level across national education and research benchmarks, including the Tertiary Education Commission's performance indicators, and has an exceptional record in the national Tertiary Teaching Excellence Awards.

### Teaching and learning at Otago

Otago offers more than 300 undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, taught by academics who are leaders in their fields and deeply committed to student success. Teaching is research-informed, student-centred and supported by strong professional services and modern learning environments.

Around 5,000 of our students are enrolled at postgraduate level, reflecting the central role that research and advanced scholarship play in the life of the University. The academic year generally runs from February to November, across two 13-week semesters, with additional flexibility through Summer School and a growing range of distance and blended learning options.

### Research excellence with real-world impact

Research underpins everything we do. Otago is home to New Zealand's first medical school and the country's only schools

of dentistry and surveying. We are also the sole national provider of Radiation Therapy and an undergraduate degree in Neuroscience.

Our researchers hold leadership roles in national Centres of Research Excellence and partner across all National Science Challenges. Otago hosts a wide range of multidisciplinary research centres and themes, including two of the world's most respected longitudinal health and development studies. We foster a research environment that supports researchers at all career stages, with programmes and groups dedicated to early and mid-career development, strong interdisciplinary collaboration, and a commitment to academic freedom and scholarly exchange.





## Our campuses and community

The University of Otago's main campus is located in Dunedin, with teaching, research and student life closely integrated in a compact, campus-based setting. The layout encourages

connection across disciplines and contributes to a strong sense of academic community.

Otago also has major Health Sciences campuses in Christchurch and Wellington, along with a presence in Invercargill and Auckland. This national footprint supports clinical education, research partnerships and engagement across Aotearoa New Zealand.

With more than 85 per cent of students coming from outside Dunedin, Otago has a distinctive residential campus culture. Fifteen colleges are located close to the academic heart of the University, playing an important role in student support, pastoral care and community life, and contributing to the University's strong sense of belonging.

## Our values: partnership, inclusion and sustainability

The University of Otago is deeply committed to its role in Aotearoa New Zealand and beyond. We actively support the aspirations of Māori and Pacific peoples and have memoranda of understanding with a number of iwi, particularly Ngāi Tahu, the mana whenua of our Dunedin campus. Te Tiriti o Waitangi underpins our approach to partnership and engagement.

We are proud to be a Rainbow Tick certified employer and are committed to creating an inclusive, respectful workplace where people can bring their whole selves to work. Equity, diversity and wellbeing are embedded in our leadership expectations and people practices.

Sustainability is a core part of Otago's identity. Our Sustainability Strategic Framework sets out a clear, practical roadmap across six interconnected themes, guiding decision-making and everyday action. Otago was the first university

in New Zealand to achieve Fair Trade status, and our Social Impact Studio is fostering a strong culture of volunteering and community engagement among staff and students.

## A place to lead, grow and belong

Otago is a place where senior leaders can make a meaningful difference. We value thoughtful leadership, collaboration across disciplines, and engagement beyond the University. Significant investment in campus development, research infrastructure and digital capability reflects our long-term commitment to excellence.

We support staff and their families through relocation assistance, professional development opportunities, flexible working arrangements where possible, and a strong sense of community. Many of our staff choose Otago not only for their careers, but for the quality of life it offers.

## Learn more

Further information about the University of Otago can be found at [otago.ac.nz](https://otago.ac.nz), including:

Annual Report – [otago.ac.nz/annualreport](https://otago.ac.nz/annualreport)

He Kitenga: Research Highlights – [otago.ac.nz/hekitenga](https://otago.ac.nz/hekitenga)

Otago Magazine – [otago.ac.nz/otagomagazine](https://otago.ac.nz/otagomagazine)

University of Otago InBrief – [otago.ac.nz/inbrief](https://otago.ac.nz/inbrief)

---

# Queenstown and the Lakes District

## Our Vision | Tō Tātou Moemoeā

Set against the dramatic landscape of Lake Wakatipu and the Southern Alps, Queenstown has long been recognised as one of New Zealand’s most iconic destinations. Internationally known as the “Adventure Capital of the World,” it has built a global reputation on tourism, hospitality, and outdoor experiences. However, in recent years, the Queenstown-Lakes District has entered a new phase of growth and transformation.

Rapid population expansion, strong economic performance, and increasing global connectivity are driving a shift toward a more diversified, knowledge-led economy. While tourism remains a cornerstone, the region is actively cultivating sectors such as technology, entrepreneurship, and professional services—seeking to balance lifestyle appeal with innovation and resilience.

This evolution is creating both opportunity and demand: for new skills, new industries, and new forms of education that are embedded in the region itself.

### University of Otago’s Queenstown/Lakes District Project

The University of Otago’s Queenstown/Lakes District project sits squarely within this transformation—an ambitious, long-term initiative to establish a meaningful and permanent presence in the region.

The University is planning to extend its presence into Queenstown with a clear focus on technology and business, underpinned by an entrepreneurial mindset. Rather than replicating its Dunedin campus, Otago is building a distinct model centred on partnership, innovation, and industry alignment—supporting Queenstown’s emergence as a hub for innovation and advanced technologies.

### Master of Digital Technology (MDigiTech)

Central to this vision is the development of future-focused postgraduate study. The Master of Digital Technology (MDigiTech) is the first in a planned series of Masters-level qualifications that will focus on the leadership, application, and governance of advanced technologies, positioning graduates to operate at the forefront of rapidly evolving sectors.

Alongside this, from early 2027 the Business School will deliver its Bachelor of Entrepreneurship (BEntr) in Queenstown, in partnership with Queenstown Resort College (QRC). This will enable students to complete an Otago degree entirely in the district for the first time, with a structure that allows them to remain in employment or internships while studying. The undergraduate pathway builds on a growing suite of Queenstown-based executive education programmes, including those introduced this year, creating a connected pipeline from emerging entrepreneurs through to experienced leaders.

Together, these initiatives form a coherent and expanding portfolio—spanning undergraduate, postgraduate, and executive education—firmly embedded in the region and aligned to its evolving economic direction.



---

# Application Process

## Tono

"Queenstown gives us a unique opportunity to do something genuinely different bringing together industry, entrepreneurship and technology in ways that are grounded in the region but connected to the world. Our focus is on building something purposeful and sustainable that adds real value, both for Otago and for the Lakes District." Professor Richard Barker, Queenstown Establishment Director

### The Opportunity Ahead

For the University of Otago, the Queenstown initiative represents an opportunity to expand its reach and reimagine how and where learning happens. For Queenstown, it brings access to world-class research, talent development, and innovation capability—key ingredients in building a sustainable, high-value economy.

As the district continues to evolve, the partnership between region and university is expected to deepen—creating pathways for students, supporting local enterprise, and strengthening Queenstown's reputation as a place not only to visit, but to learn, work, and innovate.

### Submitting an Application

The University seeks written documents from candidates wishing to apply for the role.

Candidates are therefore 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.

### Referees

The University may contact all referees listed in the application. The candidate should 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.



Confidential enquiries may be directed to:

Professor Richard Barker,

Establishment Director of the University of Otago  
Queenstown/Lakes District Project

E: [richard.barker@otago.ac.nz](mailto:richard.barker@otago.ac.nz)

### Closing Date

Applications quoting reference number 2600859 will close on Sunday, 19 July 2026.



University  
of Otago  
ŌTĀKOU WHAKAIHU WAKA

---

0800 80 80 98  
otago.ac.nz  
university@otago.ac.nz  
New Zealand