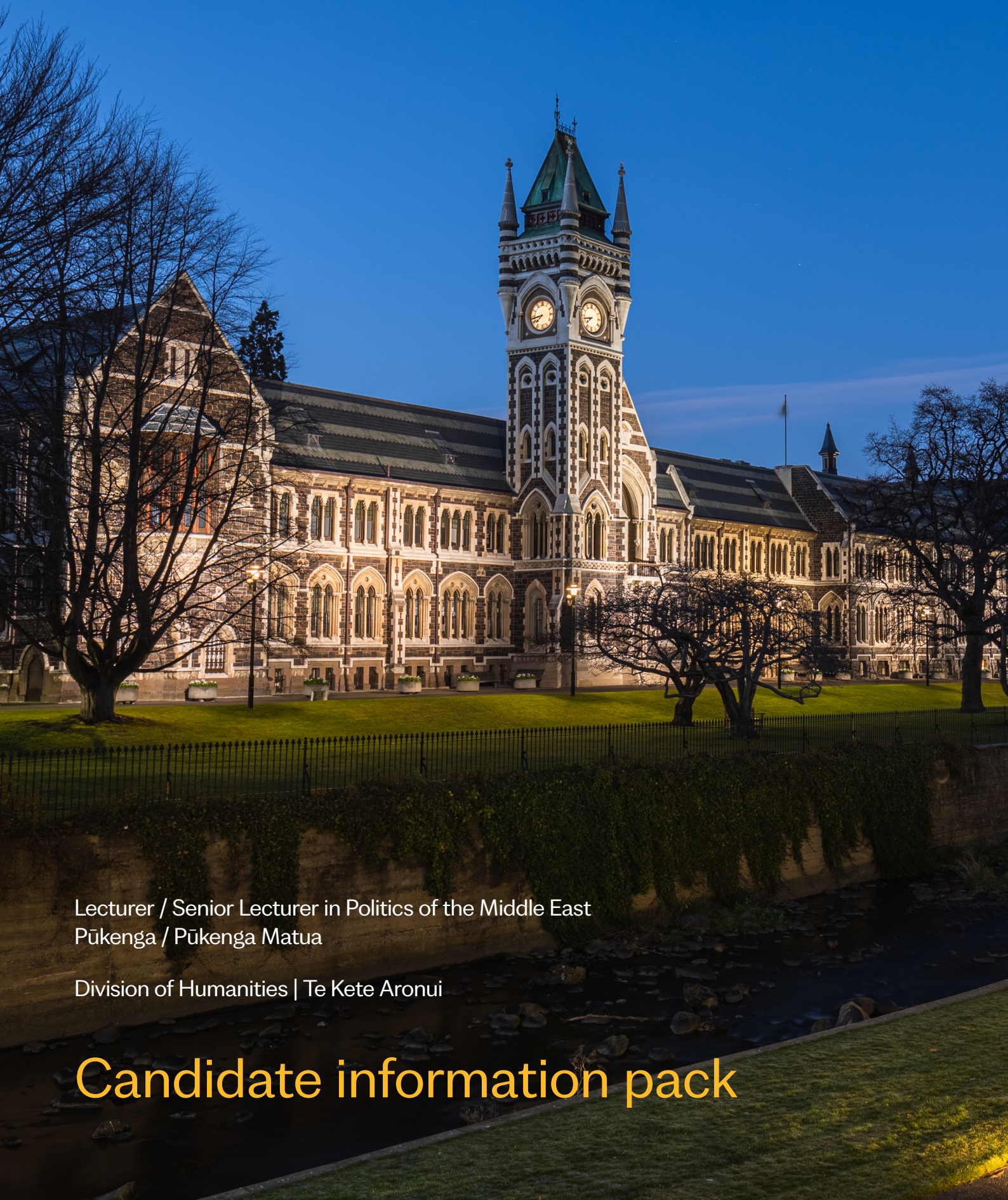




University
of Otago
ŌTĀKOU WHAKAIHU WAKA



Lecturer / Senior Lecturer in Politics of the Middle East
Pūkenga / Pūkenga Matua

Division of Humanities | Te Kete Aronui

Candidate information pack



E kā mana, e kā reo, e kā mauka whakahī, e kā awaawa,
e kā pātaka o kā taoka tuku iho, tēnā koutou.

Nāia te reo rāhiri o Tahu Potiki e karaka atu ana ki a koutou katoa.

To all authorities, to all languages, to all mountains
that stand with pride, to all rivers, and the guardians
of treasures everlasting, welcome.

This is the admirable and proud voice of Tahu Potiki
that welcomes you all.





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. We are committed to working closely with iwi and Māori organisations, and mātauranga 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 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

About the role Mō te tūnga

The Politics Programme | Tōrakapū

The Politics Programme was established in 1967 and has a well-established record of teaching and research. We offer a range of research-informed undergraduate and postgraduate courses in comparative politics/area studies, Aotearoa New Zealand politics, international relations, and political theory. Students can take Politics as a major or a minor in the Bachelor of Arts, the Bachelor of Arts and Commerce, the Bachelor of Arts and Science, and the Bachelor of Sustainability and within PPE (Philosophy, Politics and Economics). At postgraduate level, Politics offers a thriving Master's programme, the Master of Politics, and contributes to the Master of International Studies. We have a strong record of working in both teaching and research with scholars and programmes in the Division of Humanities and from across the university.

We are strongly committed to sharing our knowledge and expertise with our postgraduate students and wider community. Politics convenes a seminar series that showcases our vibrant research culture by hosting international, national, and local guest speakers, and we organise regular panel discussions on topical issues. In 2025 our Programme hosted the biennial conference of the New Zealand Political Studies Association | Te Kāhui Tātai Tōrangapū o Aotearoa. Staff regularly contribute interviews and analysis pieces to the media and give talks to community groups such as the University of the Third Age. We also have a strong student-led students' association, POLSA, which organises mentoring, social activities, and politics-related events. We value the diversity of our students and attract a significant number of international and exchange students. We attract postgraduate students of a very high calibre from overseas and staff maintain strong collaborations with international colleagues.

The Politics Programme has a long-standing commitment to teaching and researching Politics of the Middle East, having for over twenty-five years offered a range of courses at undergraduate and postgraduate levels and supervised a significant number of research students in this area. The Programme was instrumental in establishing MEISA (Middle East and Islamic Studies Aotearoa), an interdisciplinary academic network that promotes research on the Middle East and Islamic worlds from a New Zealand perspective.

For further information about the Politics Programme, see:

<http://www.otago.ac.nz/politics>

The Role

Applications are invited for a Lecturer/Senior Lecturer position (Politics of the Middle East) in the Politics Programme. The position offers an academic career in a well-established programme with a proud teaching and research record. We are looking for a candidate with a demonstrated record of producing engaging, innovative teaching and research. Our ideal candidate will contribute to existing courses and develop new courses in Politics of the Middle East and Comparative Politics. This is a full time, permanent position based in Dunedin.

The successful candidate will teach lower-level undergraduate courses on Politics of the Middle East and Comparative Politics, develop a 3rd year course in their area of research expertise, and either contribute to existing courses at Master's level or develop their own course in their area of research expertise. They will be expected to supervise research at Master's and PhD levels; to develop and maintain a strong research profile, including showing a willingness to seek external research funds; and to undertake administrative roles and community/professional service activities that contribute to the overall effectiveness and standing of the Programme.

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

otago.ac.nz/humanresources/training/academic-staff/academic-titles

Person Specifications

The successful candidate is expected to have a PhD in Politics or related discipline and to be able to demonstrate a record of high-quality research, teaching, and service.

The successful candidate will also demonstrate:

- A commitment to being a productive collaborator with a track record of working collegially.
- An excellent research profile along with a commitment to and/or established connections with international and/or national researchers.
- A record of delivering high-quality tertiary-level teaching.
- Ability in teaching Politics of the Middle East and Comparative Politics.
- A working knowledge of at least one Middle Eastern language.
- A commitment to deliver their own specialist courses to our programme.
- A commitment to contribute to team-taught courses.
- A commitment to undertake media and community outreach and engagement.
- Experience working with students and staff from differing academic and cultural backgrounds.

Early career staff have a managed workload programme to enable them to develop their research activities through the first two years or so of their appointment. There will also be opportunities to complete a number of professional development courses related to the Treaty of Waitangi, te reo Māori, te ao Māori, and engaging with the University's Māori and Pacific Strategic Frameworks.

Equal Employment Opportunities

The University of Otago is strongly committed to diversity in staffing and we encourage applications from 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 Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka.

otago.ac.nz/maori/maori-strategic-framework

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.

otago.ac.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0014/211217/the-university-of-otago-pacific-strategic-framework-2022-2030-088124.pdf



Division of Humanities Te Kete Aronui

The Division of Humanities explores how humans understand, shape and engage with their worlds – past, present and future. Through teaching, research, creative practice and community engagement, the Division advances knowledge of culture, society, language, belief and identity, fostering critical thinking, ethical leadership and social responsibility in Aotearoa New Zealand, the Pacific and worldwide.

Teaching and academic disciplines

The Division of Humanities encompasses a wide range of disciplines across the arts, social sciences, education, law, theology, and creative and performing arts. Teaching and learning are strongly research-informed and grounded in professional and creative practice, encouraging students to think critically, communicate effectively and engage thoughtfully with complex human challenges.

Undergraduate offerings include degrees and diplomas in:

- Arts
- Music
- Performing Arts
- Theology

As well as professional and applied programmes in:

- Law
- Education and Teaching
- Social Work
- Planning
- Ministry

The Bachelor of Arts is one of Aotearoa New Zealand's most flexible degrees, offering more than 40 major subjects and extensive opportunities for interdisciplinary study. Many students undertake double degrees, including combined programmes such as the Bachelor of Arts and Science and the Bachelor of Arts and Commerce.

The Division also offers a diverse range of postgraduate qualifications, including honours, taught masters' degrees, professional degrees and doctoral programmes. These attract high-calibre students from across Aotearoa New Zealand and around the world, contributing to a vibrant postgraduate culture.

Academic disciplines include:

- Archaeology
- Classics
- Education and Teaching
- English and Creative Writing
- Geography
- History
- Irish and Scottish Studies
- Languages and Cultures
- Law
- Linguistics
- Māori, Pacific and Indigenous Studies
- Media, Film and Communication
- Music, Theatre, Performing Arts and Dance
- Peace and Conflict Studies
- Philosophy
- Politics and International Relations
- Religion and Theology
- Social Anthropology
- Social and Community Work
- Sociology, Gender Studies and Criminology



Campuses, leadership and structures

The Division of Humanities is primarily based on the University's Dunedin campus, with teaching and research also delivered through the College of Education, specialist centres and networks, and extensive national and international partnerships.

The Division is led by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Humanities), with Heads of School responsible for academic leadership, teaching quality, research performance, and operational management, in alignment with divisional and University strategies.

The Division comprises the following academic units:

- School of Arts
- School of Social Sciences
- School of Geography
- College of Education
- Faculty of Law
- School of Performing Arts
- Te Tumu – School of Māori, Pacific and Indigenous Studies

Scale and people

The Division of Humanities enrolls approximately 5,000 equivalent full-time students (EFTS) across undergraduate and postgraduate programmes.

Teaching and research are supported by several hundred academic and professional staff, including internationally recognised scholars, educators, creative practitioners and professional experts. Staff bring cutting-edge research, creative practice and professional knowledge into teaching, providing students with a rich, intellectually stimulating and supportive learning environment.

Research excellence and impact

The Division of Humanities maintains a strong tradition of research in Aotearoa New Zealand, the Pacific, and across the globe. Its research contributes to understanding individuals and communities, fostering deeper insight into human experience, and humanity's place in a rapidly changing world.

Staff undertake both theoretical and field-based research across a wide range of areas, including social and cultural history, migration and mobility, environmental change, indigenous knowledge systems, education, governance, law, religion and creative practice. Examples of recent research include studies of climate change adaptation and migration in the Pacific, wānanga immersion programmes for Māori language and culture, cultural transformation in the performing arts, and the social histories of communities formed during the Otago gold rush.

Research in the Division is inclusive, interdisciplinary and highly collaborative, engaging iwi, Pacific communities, public agencies, cultural institutions and international partners. Divisional researchers are consistent recipients of competitive external funding and contribute actively to public scholarship, policy development and cultural life.



Recent international rankings and national research quality evaluations confirm the Division's research excellence, with Otago ranked among the global leaders in disciplines including Archaeology, Anthropology, Development Studies, Religious Studies and Theology, Education, English, Geography, History, Philosophy, Social Policy and related fields.

Research infrastructure, resources and collections

Humanities researchers benefit from access to exceptional research infrastructure and collections, including:

- Hocken Collections – one of Aotearoa New Zealand's foremost research libraries, housing rare books, manuscripts, photographs, maps and archives of national and international significance.
- Digital Humanities Hub – a specialist facility supporting digital research methods and the study of digital technologies, culture and communication.
- Archaeological laboratories – including extensive reference collections equipped with Geographic Information System (GIS) facilities.
- Performing Arts Centre – state-of-the-art performance, rehearsal and recording spaces supporting creative research and teaching.

Each year, the Division also hosts the Otago Arts Fellows, whose residencies enrich the cultural, intellectual and creative life of the University and the wider community.

Research centres, themes and networks

The Division hosts a wide range of internationally recognised research centres, interdisciplinary themes and scholarly networks, including:

- Centre for Research on Colonial Culture
- Centre for Sustainability Research
- Performance of the Real (Research Theme)
- Global Migrations (Research Theme)
- Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Public Policy

- Centre for Irish and Scottish Studies
- Children's Issues Centre
- Centre for the Book
- Centre for Theology and Public Issues
- Civil Justice Centre
- Critical Disability Studies Research Network
- Middle East and Islamic Studies Aotearoa (MEISA)
- National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies
- NZ Law Foundation Centre for Law and Policy in Emerging Technologies
- Otago Centre for Law and Society
- Social Justice and Child Protection Aotearoa (SJCP)
- Southern Pacific Archaeological Research (SPAR)
- Centre for Pacific Thought
- Centre for Medical Humanities
- Centre for Computational Culture and Heritage (with Sciences)
- Centre for Menstrual Cycle Research (with Health Sciences)

Teaching excellence and student experience

The Division of Humanities is committed to providing a life-changing educational experience. Teaching emphasises critical inquiry, creativity, communication, ethical reasoning and global citizenship.

Students benefit from:

- Highly flexible degree structures and interdisciplinary study pathways
- Research-informed teaching and creative practice
- International exchange and study abroad opportunities
- Work-integrated learning and research internships
- Strong academic mentoring and postgraduate supervision

A Humanities education develops essential lifelong learning skills valued by employers, including critical thinking, communication, analytical reasoning, adaptability, creativity, teamwork and ethical judgement. Graduates pursue successful careers across education, law, public service, policy, business, media, diplomacy, research, social services and the creative industries, contributing meaningfully to society in Aotearoa New Zealand and beyond.

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, including:

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





Living in Dunedin Te noho ki Ōtepoti

Dunedin is a city with deep roots, strong character and a remarkable sense of place. The University of Otago's southern identity is grounded in its enduring partnership with mana whenua Ngāi Tahu, and in the legacy of the Scottish settlers who founded the University just 21 years after the province of Otago was established.

Ōtepoti is the Māori name for the upper harbour area where Dunedin developed. The wider city boundary also encompasses the papatipu rūnanga at Ōtākou, at the tip of the Otago Peninsula, and Puketeraki in Karitāne to the north. The region is rich with Māori history and the stories of Ngāi Tahu whānui, who have lived in and cared for this place for generations.

A small city with a big heart

Home to around 130,000 people, Dunedin offers the best of both worlds: the cultural depth and amenities of a larger city, paired with the friendliness, safety and ease of a smaller one. Commutes are short, neighbourhoods are distinct and welcoming, and it is easy to feel part of the community.

The city's prosperity during the 1860s Otago gold rush left a lasting legacy of striking Victorian and Edwardian architecture, giving Dunedin a distinctive and elegant streetscape that continues to define its character.

Culture, creativity and ideas

Dunedin has a thriving cultural life. It boasts a strong performing arts scene, nationally significant museums and galleries, excellent libraries, and a lively calendar of festivals and events. The city's creative and literary heritage is internationally recognised through its designation as a UNESCO City of Literature.

Outdoors at your doorstep

For sport and recreation, Dunedin offers outstanding facilities, including one of New Zealand's only covered stadiums. The natural environment is never far away: sweeping beaches, coastal walks, forest reserves and internationally renowned wildlife sanctuaries are all close to the city.

The Otago Peninsula is home to the world's only mainland royal albatross colony, as well as rare penguins, seals and sea lions, making wildlife encounters a part of everyday life for many residents.

Food, markets and green spaces

The compact city centre is lined with cafés, restaurants and bars, alongside boutique shopping and modern retail precincts. A popular weekly farmers' market showcases the region's high-quality local produce and reflects Dunedin's strong food culture.

Early urban planning ensured the city is rich in parks, gardens and green spaces, while hillside suburbs offer expansive views across the harbour, ocean and surrounding landscapes.

Gateway to the South

Dunedin is also the gateway to Central Otago. The alpine resort towns of Wānaka and Queenstown are just over three hours' drive away, opening up easy access to skiing, snowboarding, boating, mountain biking, hiking and some of New Zealand's finest vineyards and wineries.

A true education city

Education is central to Dunedin's identity and economy. In addition to the University of Otago, the city is home to a thriving polytechnic and a wide range of high-quality early childhood, primary and secondary schools. Students, staff and their families make up more than a quarter of Dunedin's urban population, contributing significantly to the city's intellectual, cultural and sporting life.

Well connected, locally and globally

Although located in the south of New Zealand, Dunedin is well connected. The region is served by two international airports with direct flights to Australia, and the city is New Zealand's first GigCity, offering ultra-fast broadband services that support modern work, research and business.

Dunedin also maintains sister city relationships with Edinburgh (Scotland), Otaru (Japan) and Shanghai (China), reflecting its strong international connections.

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



Credit: DunedinNZ

Application process Tono

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 outlining how you fit the role.
- Names and addresses of at least three referees.

Confidential enquiries may be directed to:

Associate Professor James Headley
Head of the Politics Programme
james.headley@otago.ac.nz

Referees

The University may contact all 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.

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 February 2027.





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