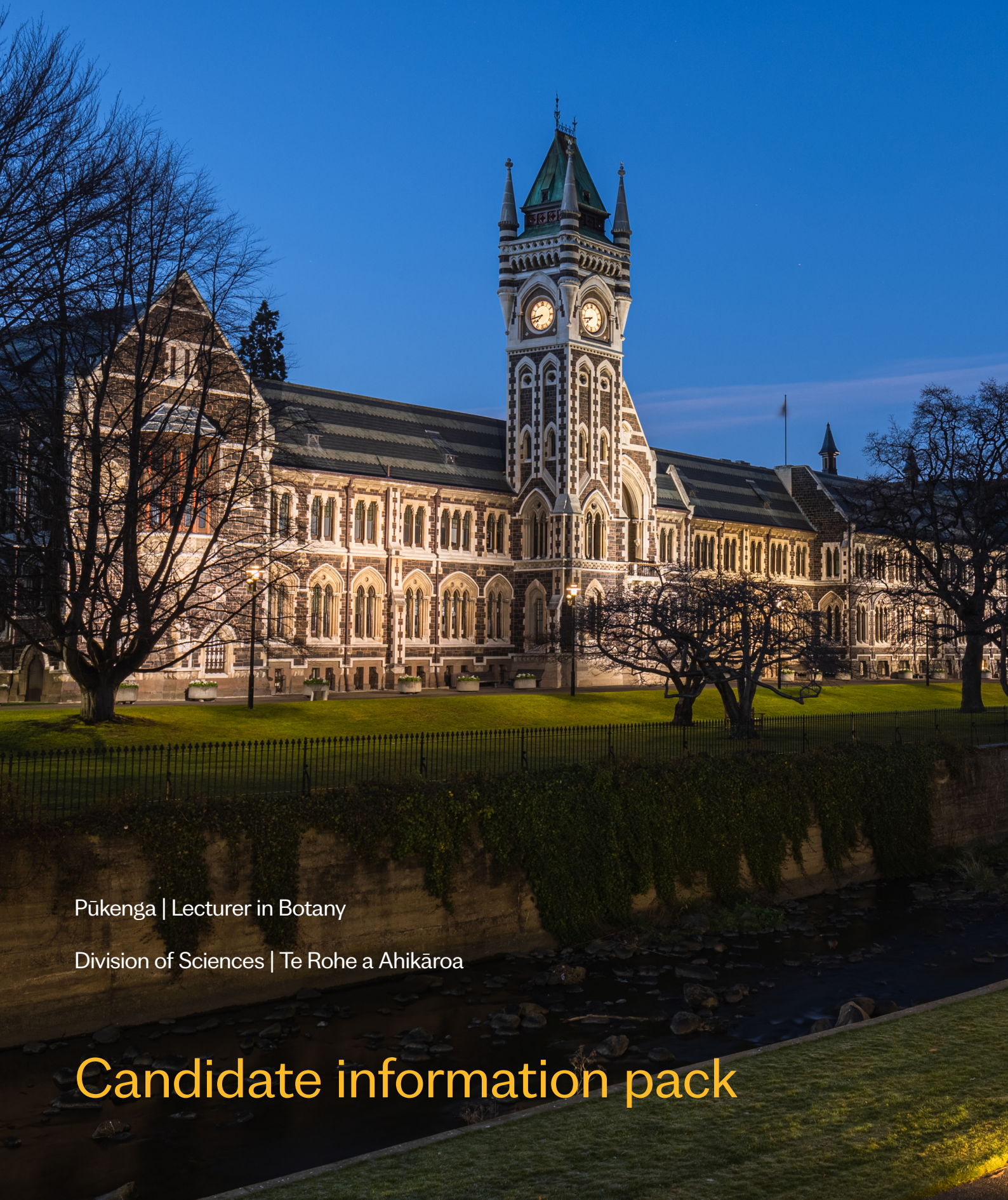




University
of Otago
ŌTĀKOU WHAKAIHU WAKA



Pūkenga | Lecturer in Botany

Division of Sciences | Te Rohe a Ahikāroa

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

Departmental Information

The University of Otago has the only Department of Botany in Aotearoa New Zealand. It also has a long history, being the first Department of Botany to be formed in this country, dating back to 1924.

Staff in the Department of Botany teach into a wide range of degree majors, including Botany, Ecology, Genetics, Plant Biotechnology, Food Science, Pharmacy, Agricultural Innovation, Marine Science and Oceanography.

The Department of Botany is a research-active Department, with research ranging from ecosystem science through to cell and molecular biology. These are interlinked through broad research themes including New Zealand flora* and evolution, ecosystem processes and services, environmental change and resilience, plant functional biology, physiological processes and plant-human interactions, including food (*'flora' defined broadly to include terrestrial and aquatic vascular and non-vascular plants, fungi, algae, cyanobacteria and plant viruses).

The Department of Botany has up-to-date equipment, greenhouses, laboratory and field work facilities. The Department is also home to the Otago Regional Herbarium which houses over 70,000 specimens of plants, lichens and fungi. We also have access to other university facilities, for example, the Otago Genomics Facility, and the Portobello Marine Laboratory and its associated research facilities, including a research vessel, which are based on Otago Harbour within the City and administered by the Department of Marine Science.

Locally, the Department of Botany enjoys close collaborative links with other departments in the Divisions of Sciences, Health Sciences, and Humanities of the University, as well as the Otago Museum, various Crown Research Institutes (Bioeconomy Science Institute, and Earth Science New Zealand), the New Zealand Department of Conservation, the Cawthron Institute, and the Dunedin Botanic Gardens.

The Department of Botany is committed to affording students the opportunity to engage with knowledge of plants from a Māori world view, and to strengthening its curriculum and research in relation to kaupapa Māori, mātauranga Māori, commitment to Te Tiriti o Wāitangi, the University of Otago Māori Strategic Framework and Pacific Strategic Framework.

For more information about the: [Department of Botany](#)

Duties and Responsibilities

Applications are invited for the position of Pūkenga (Lecturer) in Botany. We are seeking a person with a relevant doctorate and demonstrated potential to develop as an outstanding researcher and teacher in plant genetics, plant physiology, plant pathology or a similar field.

Applicants are encouraged to identify the manner in which they will complement existing strengths in the Department and develop new and innovative directions in research and teaching. Applications from candidates with a background in any aspect of biotechnology or virology are especially encouraged to apply. The ability to research and teach from a kaupapa Māori perspective would be an advantage.

The Department of Botany is committed to affording students the opportunity to engage with knowledge of plants from a Māori world view, and to strengthening its curriculum and research in relation to kaupapa Māori and mātauranga Māori, the University of Otago Māori Strategic Framework and Pacific Strategic Framework, and the Treaty of Waitangi.

The successful candidate will be responsible to the Head of Department and is expected to have a PhD or equivalent doctorate, a track record of publication relevant to discipline, enthusiasm for teaching (preferably with experience), and evidence of developing proposals for competitive research funding or new projects and initiatives.

The successful candidate will contribute to excellent and innovative teaching and examining of undergraduate and postgraduate degree courses chiefly in Botany, Genetics and Plant Biotechnology and with opportunities to teach into, Ecology and Agricultural Innovation as appropriate to their area of specialization. The ability to communicate ideas clearly to varying audiences of students and with colleagues, to assess content for relevance on a regular basis, and to have awareness of cultural differences among students is expected.

The successful candidate will engage actively in their own research, supervise the work of postgraduate students, and seek funding to help support their research group's activities.

Academic staff are expected to contribute various forms of service, including administrative tasks within the department that involve complexity and challenge as appropriate to the level of seniority, and to encourage and contribute to collegiality within the department and the wider university.

Your skills and experience

- A PhD with a research focus in plant genetics, plant physiology, plant pathology or a similar field.
- A strong track record (relative to opportunity) of publishing research in high quality scientific journals, and presenting research at national/international symposia.
- Demonstrated ability to work well with students and staff from differing academic and cultural backgrounds.
- Demonstrated ability and passion for delivering high-quality teaching that will support and enhance the Department's degree programme.
- Ability to establish, develop and maintain an independent and on-going research programme with funding success.
- Have effective communication and relationship management skills, with the ability to create a collegial, supportive, and motivating environment for staff and students.
- Be committed to and/or have established connections or track record of collaboration with international and/or national researchers.
- Ability and desire to participate in service within the department, the University and wider community.

In addition, one or more of the following is desirable:

- Proven commitment to cultural diversity and equity
- Familiarity with Māori or Pasifika concepts, values, ideas and practices as they relate to research and teaching in Botany and ecology.
- Interest, and preferably experience, in research and teaching from a Māori world view, kaupapa Māori and mātauranga Māori perspective.
- An ability to contribute to teaching and learning environments that support engagement of students and staff with te ao Māori, te reo Māori and mātauranga Māori.
- Established, or commitment to developing, relationships with national and local iwi and rūnaka.
- Commitment to upholding values, tikanga, kawa and traditions as guided by Ngāi Tahu, who hold mana whenua in the region.

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

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

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 Sciences Te Rohe a Ahikāroa

The Division of Sciences explores the natural, physical and mathematical world, from the microscopic to the global. Through research, teaching and applied practice, it advances knowledge, addresses challenges such as climate change, health inequalities, sustainability, and technological innovation, and equips students with the skills and knowledge for careers contributing to society in Aotearoa New Zealand and beyond.

Teaching and academic disciplines

The Division of Sciences delivers a wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes across the natural sciences, mathematics, physical sciences, life sciences, and applied sciences. Teaching and learning are strongly research-informed, providing students with hands-on experience in laboratories, field sites and high-performance facilities.

Undergraduate qualifications include the following:

- Bachelor of Science
- Bachelor of Arts and Science
- Bachelor of Commerce and Science
- Bachelor of Surveying
- Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) in Software Engineering

Otago's Bachelor of Science offers students 36 majors to choose from – more than any other university in New Zealand – making it the most flexible science degree in the country.

The postgraduate provision within the Division of Sciences spans honours, masters' and doctoral programmes across a broad range of academic disciplines.

Academic disciplines include:

- Botany
- Chemistry
- Computer Science and Software Engineering
- Food Science
- Geology
- Human Nutrition
- Marine Science
- Mathematics and Statistics
- Physical Education, Sport and Exercise Sciences
- Physics
- Psychology
- Science Communication

- Surveying, Land Planning and Development, and GIS
- Sustainable Energy
- Wildlife Management
- Zoology

Interdepartmental and interdisciplinary programmes include Data Science, Ecology, Environmental Science, Genetics, Geography, Neuroscience, and Plant Biotechnology.

The Division is home to unique programmes in New Zealand, including the National School of Surveying, New Zealand's only dedicated Sports Nutrition programme, the only energy-focused undergraduate degree, and the country's only professional Zoology and Botany programmes.

Campuses, leadership and structures

The Division of Sciences is primarily based on the University's Dunedin campus, with teaching and research also delivered through national and international partnerships, specialist laboratories and field stations.

It is led by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Sciences), with Heads of School and Departmental Chairs accountable for academic leadership, research performance, teaching quality and operational management, in alignment with divisional and University strategies.

Scale and people

The Division of Sciences is one of the University's largest academic divisions, enrolling approximately 7,000 equivalent full-time students (EFTS) across undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. Teaching and research are supported by hundreds of academic and professional staff, many of whom are internationally recognised researchers, bringing cutting-edge scientific knowledge and experience into the classroom, laboratories and field sites.



Research excellence and impact

The Division has a strong tradition of research that addresses local, national and global challenges. Staff undertake fundamental and applied research across diverse areas, including human and animal health, molecular and cellular biology, ecology, climate science, food science, neuroscience, physics, mathematics, computing and environmental science.

Research is interdisciplinary, collaborative and community-engaged, working with iwi, local communities, public agencies, industry and international partners. Major research programmes and centres of excellence include:

- Centre for Computational Culture and Heritage
- The Dodd-Walls Centre for Photonic and Quantum Technologies
- The Dunedin Multidisciplinary Health and Development Study (the Dunedin Study)
- National School of Surveying research initiatives
- Food Waste Innovation research
- Plant Biotechnology, Zoology, and Marine Science research laboratories and field stations

The Division is internationally recognised for research in areas such as computer science, sports science, environmental science, conservation, natural hazards and resilience, and marine and Antarctic studies, with outputs influencing policy, industry and public understanding.

Research infrastructure, resources and collections

The Division of Sciences provides access to exceptional research infrastructure, including:

- Modern laboratories and high-performance computing facilities
- World-class marine laboratories, research vessels and Antarctic field stations
- State-of-the-art laboratories for molecular biology, photonics and physics research
- Extensive reference collections in plant and animal sciences, geology and ecology

Teaching excellence and student experience

The Division is committed to providing a research-led, life-changing educational experience. Students benefit from:

- Flexible degree structures and interdisciplinary pathways
- Access to world-class laboratories, field sites and equipment
- Research-informed teaching and hands-on experiential learning
- International exchange and study abroad opportunities
- Industry and community engagement, work placements and internships
- Strong academic mentoring and postgraduate supervision

A science education at Otago develops critical thinking, analytical skills, problem solving and scientific literacy. Graduates pursue careers in research, education, public and private sectors, industry, environmental management, health sciences and emerging technologies, contributing meaningfully to society in Aotearoa New Zealand and worldwide.

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 addressing the person profile
- 3–4 referee contact details, including telephone number and email address

Confidential enquiries may be directed to:

Professor David Orlovich
Head of Department
david.orlovich@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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