

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

for appointment as

Lecturer in Food Science
(Confirmation Path)

DEPARTMENT OF FOOD SCIENCE

THE UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO

The University of Otago, founded in 1869, has a high reputation for excellence in research and teaching. The University currently has over 20,000 equivalent full-time students from New Zealand and more than 100 nations around the world who spread over a wide range of disciplines with particular strengths in medical, biological and physical sciences.

Situated on the South-Eastern coast of New Zealand's South Island, Dunedin possesses a unique combination of cultural riches, fine architecture, world-famous wildlife reserves and it is recognised for its spectacular scenery. Dunedin offers a good quality of life with moderate living costs. Explore further at <http://www.dunedinnz.com/>

THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD SCIENCE

The Department of Food Science evolved from a School of Home Science which was established in 1911. The Department of Food Science is within the Division of Sciences and maintains links with a number of Departments both within Sciences and in the other three academic Divisions. The relatively compact but attractive campus contributes to easy and close relationships between Departments.

The Department has strong links and collaboration with the city and its business community also with other Universities in New Zealand and abroad, and relevant Crown Research Institutes. The Department is also part of Riddet Institute Centre of Research Excellence (CoRE), one of ten currently funded by the New Zealand government (Tertiary Education Commission). The Department has a wide international network and collaboration.

Current staffing of Food Science consists of two professors, one associate professor, five lecturers and senior lecturers, one professional practice fellow, and nine support staff. The Department hosts the Product Development Research Centre (PDRC), a consultancy group which employs three full-time staff. Academic staff have the opportunity to contribute to commercial programmes run through the PDRC, as appropriate.

Research interests of current staff include: understanding how raw material properties, ingredient selection, formulation and processing impact on product functionality, stability and sensory qualities; the use of food processing technologies (such as thermal treatment, extrusion, drying, high pressure processing, pulsed electric fields) to optimise the recovery of bioactive compounds, understanding how flavour is developed, released and perceived in foods; determining the influence of personal values and ideologies on consumer behavior, development of psychophysical methods and cognitive psychology in sensory evaluations that better reflect consumer hedonic in natural eating contexts.

The Department has been successful in gaining funding from a wide range of governmental and commercial sources. The Department is currently part of the 6-year multimillion dollar MBIE funded “Food Industry Enabling Technology” FIET Project focussing on science and technology transfer to food industry applications.

Undergraduate teaching in the Food Science Department is in two related but distinct programmes: Food Science and Consumer Food Science. Internal reviews of the Consumer/Food Science undergraduate and taught postgraduate curricula were completed in 2013 and 2014 respectively and the last phase of the redesigned courses is being implemented in 2016. An ongoing programme of improvement and innovation in teaching will continue.

The Department currently has 138 effective full-time students. Seventeen postgraduate students are enrolled in 2016 to date for honours, diploma or masters, and another twenty-three for PhD degrees with numbers expected to continue growing during 2016.

Further details about the Department of Food Science, its staff, courses, facilities and research interests can be obtained from the web site: <http://www.otago.ac.nz/foodscience/>

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The objective of the Lecturer position is to contribute to the teaching, research and community service activities of the Department. The appointment will be a full-time permanent position subject to the satisfactory completion of the confirmation path objectives for new appointees. Confirmation path is equivalent to tenure track in the USA.

The appointee is expected to develop a new research area that is complementary to the existing research activities of the Department. The appointee will carry out activities to maintain and develop their scholarly, research and/or professional activities relevant to the Food Science or Consumer Food Science discipline, and may also be involved in commercial research activities. It is expected that the appointee will be an independent researcher who will publish and advance scholarship in their field of expertise, and may be involved in knowledge-transfer to industry and/or the community. The appointee will be expected to obtain research funding through grants or industry funding.

The appointee will teach across a range of courses from undergraduate to postgraduate level, with specific teaching duties to be allocated depending on the area of expertise. Teaching duties will include assessment and course co-ordination responsibilities. Lecturers may have significant course administration responsibilities including curriculum design.

The appointee will contribute to departmental planning and administration, departmental and Divisional science outreach and promotional activities, serve the academic discipline and contribute to the wider community.

A schedule of general expectations of a Lecturer (or Senior Lecturer) at Otago, along with further information about appointment conditions is available at: <http://www.otago.ac.nz/humanresources/training/academic-staff/academic-titles/otago069304.html>

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Candidates must have a PhD degree relevant to Food Science and Technology and have postdoctoral research or industry experience.

Applicants with research interests in any area of Food Science and Consumer Food Science will be welcomed, but ideally they will complement existing research areas in the Department and further expand our current research capacity. Applicants must be active researchers with a sound publication record, and have the potential for international distinction in research.

A demonstrated aptitude to deliver high quality teaching practice is required. A proven record of rapport with students, experience as a skilled classroom presenter, competence in the use of modern teaching technologies, and a track record in effective course design and development, are desirable.

The successful candidate will have strong potential to attract external funding and the ability to attract and supervise student researchers from Honours through to PhD level is critical.

Excellent interpersonal skills are required. The successful candidate will be expected to work co-operatively with other staff in co-ordinating research and teaching programmes, and have the ability to work successfully within a culturally diverse community.

CONDITIONS OF APPOINTMENT

While the position is advertised at Lecturer level, an appointment at Senior Lecturer level will be considered for a particularly well-qualified applicant.

This appointment is available from 1 July 2016 and is expected to commence during the 2016 academic year.

The University offers attractive employment conditions for academic staff, with generous Research and Study Leave provisions. Grants for travel to local and international conferences are provided from a fund administered by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the Division of Sciences. Professional development and teaching support for academic staff is available through the Higher Education Development Centre, <http://hedc.otago.ac.nz/hedc/teaching/>

The University and the Department of Food Science are supportive of a healthy work life balance. The University offers Parental Leave for new parents, and high-quality childcare is available on campus. A subsidised superannuation scheme is available to staff. Details of employee benefits are available at <http://www.otago.ac.nz/humanresources/hr/employment/benefits-and-discounts.php>