

**INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

for appointment as

Lecturer in Evolutionary Biology (Bioinformatics)  
(Confirmation Path)

**DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY  
TE TARI MĀTAI KARAREHE****DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION**

The Department of Zoology is friendly, progressive, very research-active, and distinctive internationally for its focus on whole-organism biology (being one of the few departments of zoology in universities throughout the world). Existing strengths within the Department include molecular ecology, biogeography and systematics, behavioural ecology, conservation and wildlife management, evolutionary biology, parasitology, developmental biology, neuroethology, environmental physiology, and freshwater ecology. Staff of the Department are committed to excellence in teaching. The Department offers BSc, BSc Honours, Postgraduate Diploma, Masters and PhD programmes across a wide range of biological disciplines. The Department also teaches into inter-Departmental Teaching Programmes, including Neuroscience, Genetics and Ecology.

Currently, the Department of Zoology has eight full Professors, four Emeritus Professors, six Associate Professors, three Senior Lecturers, two Lecturers, two Professional Practice Fellows, and eleven Postdoctoral Researchers and Research Fellows. Non-academic staff include 11 research and technical staff, three of whom are concerned primarily with laboratory teaching duties. The duties of technicians include management of a mechanical workshop, histology suite, and a range of teaching and research laboratories. Zoology has access to computer support and administrative services under the university's shared services operations.

The Department of Zoology strongly supports the principle that research is an integral part of academic life. Contestable university research funds are coordinated by the University of Otago Research Committee, and national contestable funding sources include New Zealand's Marsden Fund for fundamental science, the Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment (MBIE) Science and Innovation Research Funds, along with additional government agencies, private trusts, and non-governmental organisations. Members of staff are expected to apply for support of their own research and that of students working under their supervision.

The Department of Zoology is committed to affording students the opportunity to engage with knowledge of animals 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 the Treaty of Waitangi.

For more information about the Department of Zoology <https://www.otago.ac.nz/zoology/index.html>

**DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Applications are invited for the position of Lecturer in Evolutionary Biology (Bioinformatics).

We are seeking a person with a relevant doctorate, and demonstrated potential to develop as an outstanding researcher and teacher in evolutionary bioinformatics in the Department of Zoology. The position affords an exciting opportunity for an emerging scholar to research and teach in a vibrant and diverse Department. The successful candidate will develop a transformative and collaborative research programme, supporting the university's commitment to excellence in research.

The Department of Zoology has research strengths in areas including conservation biology, evolutionary genetics, and behavioural, community and molecular ecology. Applicants are encouraged to identify the manner in which they could develop collaborations with other departmental researchers, and develop new and innovative directions in research and teaching, with particular regard to advancing and incorporating bioinformatics and genomics in the study of Zoology.

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 in Zoology, and possibly also to additional programmes (e.g. Genetics). 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, collaborate widely with other departmental researchers, 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.

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

## **TREATY OF WAITANGI AND THE MĀORI STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK**

The Division of Sciences and the Department of Zoology are committed to their obligations under the Treaty of Waitangi and the University's Māori Strategic Framework.

## **EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

The University of Otago is committed to providing equality of opportunity irrespective of age, ethnic or national origin, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, religious or ethical belief or economic background. The School is a whanau-friendly work environment.

## **CONFIRMATION PATH**

This is a Confirmation Path position, please refer to the Confirmation Path Policy:

<https://www.otago.ac.nz/administration/policies/otago003122.html>

## **DATE OF APPOINTMENT**

One confirmation-path (tenure track) position at the level of Lecturer (equivalent to Assistant Professor in the North American system) will be offered. The successful candidate is expected to take up duties by the start of 1 July 2021.

## **CONTACT PERSON**

Specific enquiries may be directed to:

Professor Gerry Closs

Tel +64 3 479 7972 or +64 21 279 7972

Email [hod.zoology@otago.ac.nz](mailto:hod.zoology@otago.ac.nz)

## **THE DIVISION OF SCIENCES TE REOHE A AHIKAROA**

The Division of Sciences has research and teaching strengths in the fundamental and applied sciences, in human performance and health, and in environmental sciences. It offers several disciplines unique to Otago and hosts a number of nationally and internationally acclaimed research centres.

### **RESEARCH EXCELLENCE**

Research and science are inseparable – science marches forward because of research and, as it does, we understand more of the physical and biological subtleties of our existence.

Otago's Division of Sciences includes many departments and centres world-renowned for the quality – and impact – of their research. The Division is also the proud host of two national centres of research excellence (CoREs): the Dodd-Walls Centre for Photonic and Quantum Technologies; and Coastal People: Southern Skies. Continued success in securing major contestable and commercial funding, and international partnerships further strengthen our research capabilities.

Research centres and themes focus on brain health and disease; memory, cognition and emotion; human development across the life course; Māori physical education and health; indigenous science; the profitability and sustainability of New Zealand's primary industries; quantum science; polar environments; ocean acidification; catchment management; and energy with strong affiliations to research in other areas of the University. Applied research centres in several departments further strengthen and diversify the range of research within the Division.

### **TEACHING, FACILITIES AND SUPPORT**

The Division's outstanding research performance enriches a broad range of high-quality teaching programmes spanning the fundamental sciences, applied sciences, human performance, health, neuroscience and multidisciplinary curricula in the ecological and environmental sciences.

The pursuit of teaching and research excellence in a friendly supportive environment is a priority. This is complemented by superb laboratories and facilities for in situ fieldwork that meet and, in most cases, exceed the standards necessary to remain at the cutting edge of knowledge. Field teaching capitalises on Otago's terrestrial, marine, built, and wild environments.

The Division of Sciences also has a well-established Sciences Outreach programme, run by both staff and students. This includes Hands-On at Otago, the Otago University Advanced Schools Sciences Academy, and Science Wānanga for Māori secondary school students. Its departments, schools and research centres offer more than 150 outreach programmes to local, national and international communities each year. In collaboration with the Otago Museum, the Division also hosts an extensive interactive expo as part of the International Science Festival – a major event in Dunedin's biennial calendar – highlighting research from across the Sciences disciplines.

### **DIVISION OF SCIENCES DEPARTMENTS**

- Botany
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Food Science
- Geology

- Human Nutrition
- Marine Science
- Mathematics and Statistics
- Physics
- Psychology
- School of Physical Education, Sport and Exercise Sciences
- School of Surveying
- Zoology.

***The Division offers inter-departmental programmes in:***

- Applied Science
- Ecology
- Environmental Science
- Genetics
- Neuroscience
- Plant Biotechnology
- Science Communication
- Wildlife Management.

**THE UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO  
TE WHARE WĀNANGA O OTAGO**

**The University of Otago is New Zealand’s first university and one of its finest.**

It is a leader across all fields of academic endeavour – the humanities, sciences, health sciences and business – regularly topping the New Zealand Tertiary Education Commission’s education performance indicators.

Students can choose from more than 190 undergraduate and postgraduate programmes and are taught by leaders in their fields. The high calibre of teaching at Otago is reflected by an unparalleled record of success in the country’s Tertiary Teaching Excellence Awards.

Research excellence underpins all academic activity: around 3,500 of the University’s students study at the postgraduate level. Otago is the home of New Zealand’s first medical school and only schools of dentistry and surveying. Otago also is New Zealand’s only provider of Radiation Therapy and an undergraduate qualification in Neuroscience. The University has leadership roles in national Centres of Research Excellence and partnership roles in all of the country’s National Science Challenges. It also hosts 17 multidisciplinary research themes and 12 research centres, including two of the world’s most highly regarded health and development longitudinal studies.

The teaching year generally runs from February to November, broken into two 13-week semesters. A number of programmes are offered via Distance Learning and a Summer School is held for six weeks during January and February.

In addition to research and teaching excellence, the University is committed through its Strategic Direction to 2020 to local, national and international betterment; strong external engagement; sustainable capability; providing outstanding student experiences and campus environments. The main campus is located in Dunedin – internationally recognised as one of the most beautiful campuses in the world – with significant health sciences campuses in Christchurch and Wellington, as well as a presence in Invercargill and Auckland.

The University of Otago is also strategically committed to furthering the aspirations of Māori, and our Pacific neighbours, and has memoranda of understanding with a number of iwi, in particular Ngāi Tahu, the mana

whenua of the University's main area of operation.

With more than 80 per cent of students coming from outside Dunedin, the University offers a unique campus-based lifestyle, a special feature of which are the 15 residential colleges located close to the heart of all University activities.

Providing a world-class environment for students and staff is a priority and the University has embarked on a significant capital development programme in recent years. Otago was the first New Zealand university to achieve Fair Trade status and the recently established University Volunteer Centre is fostering a growing culture of volunteerism among staff and students.

The University of Otago includes four academic Divisions: Health Sciences, Humanities, Sciences, and Commerce. In 2017, the University had approximately 15,000 equivalent full-time students (EFTS) as undergraduates and 3,200 EFTS postgraduate students with the equivalent of over 4,250 full-time staff.

Further information about the University can be found on our website: [www.otago.ac.nz](http://www.otago.ac.nz)

## **LIVING IN DUNEDIN**

The University of Otago's southern roots are anchored in its formal relationship with mana whenua Ngāi Tahu and the legacy of the city's Scottish settlers who established a university here within just 21 years of founding the province from which the University takes its name.

Dunedin grew rich on the back of the 1860s Otago gold rush, a wealth that is reflected today in streetscapes of outstanding Victorian and Edwardian architecture. With a population of around 120,000, this is a small but sophisticated city, boasting many of the amenities and cultural richness usually only found in much larger urban centres, while still retaining its traditional friendliness and ease of getting around.

In Dunedin there are professional theatres, outstanding art galleries, museums and libraries. Dunedin is also recognised as a UNESCO City of Literature. For those who enjoy sports, Dunedin offers world-class sporting facilities – including New Zealand's only covered stadium. For those who enjoy the outdoors, Dunedin has beautiful beaches and internationally acclaimed wildlife sanctuaries. The world's only mainland Royal Albatross Colony is located on the headland at the entrance to Otago Harbour.

The heart of the city is lined with cafés and restaurants, and modern shopping complexes trade alongside interesting boutiques and a weekly farmers' market that provides an outlet for much of the area's first-rate produce. Housing is affordable, both to buy and rent. Thanks to the foresight of the early planners, there are many parks and green spaces, and outstanding views are commonplace from the city's hillside suburbs.

Dunedin is also the gateway to Central Otago: the resort towns of Wanaka and Queenstown – New Zealand's adventure capital – are just over three hours' drive away. Skiing, snowboarding, boating, mountain-biking and wine tasting are just a few of the many activities to be enjoyed.

However, it is education that is one of Dunedin's most defining features and its major industry. This is a true student city. In addition to the University of Otago, the city hosts a thriving polytechnic and excellent pre-school, primary and secondary education facilities. University students, staff and their families comprise more than one quarter of the population of urban Dunedin, enriching the intellectual, cultural and sporting life of the city.

And, while Dunedin is located in the south of New Zealand, it is very well connected. The region has two international airports with direct flights to Australia, and is New Zealand's first GigCity with one gigabit per

second broadband services. Sister city relationships are fostered with Edinburgh (Scotland), Otaru (Japan) and Shanghai (China).

More information about living in Dunedin is available at: <https://www.dunedinz.com/>