

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

for appointment as

Lecturer in Neurobiology
(Confirmation Path)

Department of Zoology | Te Tari Mātai Kararehe

The University of Otago | Te Whare Wānanga o Otāgo

The University of Otago, which was established in 1869, is situated within the urban area of Dunedin, a city of ~125,000 and regarded in New Zealand very much as a University town. Dunedin City is attractively situated within easy distance of mountain, lake, fiord and coastal sites. The University of Otago currently has nearly 20,000 equivalent full-time students, spread over a wide range of disciplines, and organised into four main Divisions.

For more information about the University of Otago www.otago.ac.nz/about

Divisional Structure

The Division of Sciences is one of the four teaching divisions in the University, the others being Health Sciences, Commerce, and Humanities. The Division of Sciences represents a broad range of disciplines in 14 Departments and a number of inter-departmental programmes.

For more information about the Division of Sciences
www.otago.ac.nz/sciences/about/index.html

For more information about Dunedin
<https://www.dunedinnz.com/visit/i-site#>

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/research Programmes, including Ecology, Genetics and Neuroscience.

Our staff have international reputations in their areas of expertise and make major contributions to answering fundamental questions in basic and applied research.

The Department of Zoology strongly supports the principle that research is an integral part of academic life and provides some research support. Contestable funds for research are available from the University of Otago Research Committee, and from grants or contracts from New Zealand's Marsden Fund for fundamental science, from the Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment (MBIE) Science and Innovation Research Funds, and from other 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
www.otago.ac.nz/zoology/index.html

Duties and Responsibilities

Applications are invited for the position of Lecturer in Neurobiology. We are seeking a person with a relevant doctorate and demonstrated potential to develop as an outstanding researcher and teacher in an aspect of neurobiology, especially (but not limited to) computational neuroscience and/or comparative & evolutionary neuroscience.

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 neurobiology with a focus on animals, especially non-mammalian species, are strongly encouraged; *Xenopus*, zebrafish and *Drosophila* are readily accessible, as are an array of non-model animal species in Dunedin's immediate environs. The ability to apply skills and expertise to other disciplines taught within the Department would be an advantage.

The Department of Zoology has a strong international reputation in whole-organism biology, with research strengths in areas including conservation biology, genetics, evolutionary parasitology, environmental physiology, wildlife management, neurobiology and statistical modelling, as well as in molecular, functional, population, community, freshwater and behavioural ecology. We have well-established links to the Departments of Botany and Marine Science, the cross-disciplinary Ecology Programme, the Genetics and Neuroscience Programmes, and other centres at the University of Otago, providing a collaborative environment and resources for innovative interdisciplinary research.

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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 ability to research and teach from a kaupapa Māori perspective would be an advantage.

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 Neuroscience, as appropriate to their area of specialization. The ability to communicate ideas clearly to varying student audiences and to 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.

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 1st July 2022.

Equal Employment Opportunities

The Department is committed to diversity in staffing and we encourage applications from women, Māori and other under-represented groups. Parental leave without pay of up to 52 weeks plus a two-week paid leave provision for partners is available. The primary caregiver can take up to twelve weeks of the parental leave entitlement as paid leave. The University operates childcare centres covering the period birth to five years. Job splitting and flexible working hours can be negotiated for periods of child rearing.