

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY | TE TARI MĀTAI KARAREHE
DIVISION OF SCIENCES | TE ROHE A AHIKAROA

Postdoctoral Fellow (Fixed-term)

The Role

Applications are invited for the position of Postdoctoral Fellow to work on a Marsden-funded project under the supervision of Prof. Robert Poulin. We are seeking a highly-motivated person with a relevant doctorate, demonstrated research excellence and the potential to develop as an outstanding researcher at the intersection of evolutionary biology, microbial ecology, parasitology and animal behaviour.

The project will investigate the role of parasite microbiomes in shaping host-parasite interactions. Parasites have their own microbes, which may assist them in exploiting their host, possibly even in usurping host behaviour for the parasites' benefit. The project will test the hypothesis that the parasite microbiota play key roles in modulating the extent to which the host phenotype is manipulated. Using three model systems consisting of native arthropods and their parasitic worms in which parasite-induced changes in host behaviour are known to occur, the research will use powerful tools including behavioural assays, metagenomic sequencing, metabolomic analyses and experimental alteration of parasite microbiota.

Our Department

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 modeling, 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, to the cross-disciplinary Ecology, Genetics and Neuroscience Programmes, and to other centres at the University of Otago, providing a collaborative environment and resources for innovative interdisciplinary research.

For more information about the Department of Zoology: www.otago.ac.nz/zoology

The University of Otago is one of New Zealand's largest and most research-intensive universities, currently in the top 1% in the QS World University Rankings. It is a leader across all fields of academic endeavor, regularly topping the New Zealand Tertiary Education Commission's performance indicators. Our campus is ranked as one of the top 15 most beautiful in the world. The University is located in the vibrant southern city of Dunedin, which is a gateway to the beautiful Otago region of New Zealand.

Your Skills and Experience

- A PhD in an appropriate field such as microbial ecology or parasitology.
- Demonstrated expertise in molecular procedures (sample collection, DNA extraction and library preparation) for next-generation sequencing.
- Ability to carry out bioinformatic analyses of high-throughput amplicon sequence data.
- Expertise in biological/statistical data analysis.

- Expertise in parasitology, laboratory behavioural studies, and/or metabolomics would be highly desirable, as would be the ability to perform integrative analysis of multi-omics datasets.
- A track record of first-authored papers in international peer-reviewed journals.
- Excellent people and communication skills.
- The ability to work both independently and collegially as part of a team.
- Willingness to train and co-supervise postgraduate students or interns.

Further Details

This is a three-year fixed-term position at the level of Postdoctoral Fellow. The position is available from early 2022. The start date will be negotiable with the successful candidate.

Specific enquiries may be directed to Professor Robert Poulin, Department of Zoology (robert.poulin@otago.ac.nz)

How to Apply

Candidates are requested to submit a cover letter, a CV, and the names and contact details of three referees (to be included in the cover letter). To submit your application please click the apply button below. Applications quoting reference number **2102181** will close on **10 December 2021**. For applicants who are not NZ Citizens or Permanent Residents, we recommend you check the NZ Immigration website for updates related to Covid19 restrictions on entry to New Zealand: <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/about-us/covid-19>

APPLY HERE:

<https://otago.taleo.net/careersection/2/jobdetail.ftl?job=2102181>