

## INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

for appointment as

**Jack Somerville Lecturer in Pastoral Theology  
(Confirmation Path, 0.4 FTE)**

### THE UNIVERSITY AND CITY

As New Zealand's first university, founded in 1869, Otago has earned an international reputation for the quality of its research and teaching. Staff are Otago's greatest asset, and the University's policy is to recruit academics and administrators of the highest international calibre. Otago has over 20,000 students enrolled and has a presence in each of the four main cities of New Zealand – Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin. The University offers a cultural focus for life in Dunedin and provides a campus experience unique in New Zealand. Dunedin City has a population of around 120,000 and is the main centre of Otago, a region celebrated for its spectacular scenery and outdoor recreational opportunities. The city boasts a beautiful coastline and is only three or four hours by car from the Southern Lakes District with its internationally renowned ski fields and national parks.

### THE DEPARTMENT

Theology has been taught at Otago for over seventy years. The current Jack Somerville Lecturer in Pastoral Theology will retire in July 2017, and so we are seeking an appointee who will enhance our teaching and research while complementing existing strengths in the Department.

Currently, the Department of Theology and Religion has twelve full-time academic positions, three part-time staff members and a number of associated teachers who contribute to the Department's teaching programme. The Theology programme offers the BTheol and BTheol (Hons) with endorsements in Biblical Studies, Christian Thought and History, and Pastoral Theology, as well as majors for the BA and BA (Hons) in Biblical Studies and in Christian Thought and History. As well as the research degrees (MTheol and PhD), there are other postgraduate qualifications in Theology including the Master of Ministry and Master of Chaplaincy. The Religion programme offers BA and BA (Hons) degrees in Religious Studies, as well as research degrees (MA and PhD), minors in Religious Studies and in Buddhist Studies, and one-year diplomas endorsed Religious Studies and in Buddhist Studies for graduates in other disciplines.

The Department of Theology and Religion is a part of the Division of Humanities and currently has around 550 individuals enrolled in its programmes, amounting to about 200 equivalent full-time students. The Department offers a range of Theology and Religion papers on the University's Distance Learning Network, and has over 50 postgraduate research students, mostly at PhD level.

In New Zealand, the Tertiary Education Commission periodically conducts a Performance-Based Research Fund assessment exercise to rate the quality of research in each tertiary institution. In the most recent evaluation for which results are available, in 2012, the Department was rated as the highest Department nationally in the subject area of Theology and Religion, and as the fourth-equal -highest-scoring Department at the University of Otago.

## **DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The appointee will have the following duties and responsibilities:

- To contribute to research-based knowledge, teaching and publication as appropriate to a University of international standing.
- To contribute high quality courses to the teaching programme. The current normal teaching load for this position is four Distance Taught papers (courses) and .3 of a Campus paper over a two-year cycle.
- To attract and supervise postgraduate research students.
- To contribute to the administration and development of academic programmes.

## **QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE**

- PhD awarded by time of appointment.
- Research expertise relevant to one or more of the areas of Pastoral Theology.
- Publication in learned journals or books or evidence of the capability for such publications in the near future.
- Evidence of ability as a University teacher. The department is aware that recent graduates may not have extensive teaching experience. However, some indication of aptitude and commitment to teaching undergraduates is desirable.
- Demonstrated ability and proven experience in Distance Teaching is desirable.
- The ability to complement existing research strengths in the Department will be an advantage.
- The ability to teach papers in the area of Chaplaincy will be an advantage.

## **DATE OF APPOINTMENT**

The appointee will ideally be expected to take up duties by 1 February 2018, or as soon as possible thereafter. Applicants are asked to indicate the date they would expect to be available to take up duties.

## **OFFER OF THE POSITION**

Should the University wish to offer you the position, a formal, written letter of offer will follow any verbal discussions that might be held with you. It is recommended that you do not resign from your current employment until you have received our written offer. The contents of this formal letter of offer and its attachments will constitute the entire agreement between the employee and the employer, and will supersede all previous representations, negotiations, commitments and communications, either written or oral, between the parties. Any agreements will only be binding on the employer where they have been formally offered by the Human Resources Division and accepted by the employee.