

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Lecturer in Soil Science

Reports to: Dean of Science

Division: STEM

Tenure: 3 years

Location: Hamilton

Date: January 2026

Vision

Ko te tangata

A research-intensive university providing a globally connected, innovative and inclusive student experience in an environment characterised by a commitment to diversity, respect for Indigenous knowledge, and high levels of community engagement.

Values

Ko te mana o Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato ka herea ki tō tātou:

- Tū ngātahi me te Māori
- Mahi pono
- Whakanui i ngā huarahi hou
- Whakarewa i te hiringa i te mahara

The University of Waikato places a high value on:

- Partnership with Māori
- Acting with integrity
- Celebrating diversity
- Promoting creativity

1. GENERAL

Te Wānanga Pūtaiao the Division of STEM comprises the Schools of Engineering, Computing and Mathematical Sciences, and Science. The Division also has several research units, including the Environmental Research Institute and commercial/equipment units which embody staff and research activities.

Te Aka Mātuatua - School of Science provides teaching and research in several academic programmes including: Biomedical Science, Chemistry, Earth Sciences, Ecology and Biodiversity, Environmental Sciences, Marine Sciences and Molecular and Cellular Biology. The School offers a range of qualifications at undergraduate and postgraduate levels which are delivered on both the University of Waikato Hamilton campus and the Tauranga campus.

2. POSITION PURPOSE

To contribute to the teaching, postgraduate supervision and administration requirements of the School, maintain and develop original scholarship and research, and undertake professional/community/iwi service activities relevant to the discipline.

3. FUNCTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

Internal:

Earth and Environmental Science Academic Team Leaders
Other School staff
Dean of the School
Technical Manager
Pro Vice Chancellor, STEM
Other Division Staff, STEM
Other University staff
Students
Relevant Research Institutes and Centres

External:

Local industry partners
Public Research Organisations

4. KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Having regard to the aims, objectives and long-term strategic goals of the School, Division and University, the primary objectives required of a Lecturer include the following:

Teaching and Learning

- Prepare and deliver research-informed lectures and/or seminars and, as appropriate, conduct and/or co-ordinate tutorials, practical classes, demonstrations, or workshops.
- Responsible for paper co-ordination and delivery. This includes: administration; initiating and developing material; appraisal, review and evaluation of programmes and papers; development of the curriculum; developing and delivering on-line papers, where appropriate; and updating teaching resources and materials.
- Organise, train and supervise the work of sessional assistants.
- Carry out marking and assessment activities including the setting of examinations.
- Be readily available to advise and meet with students including maintaining regular office hours.
- Supervise honours, graduate and postgraduate students.

Research

- Maintain an active research programme and conduct quality research and contribute to knowledge development through scholarship and publication. This will include involvement in research projects and attendance and presentation at academic conferences, and contributions to external research funding for specific projects.

- Build and maintain national, and preferably international, research collaborations which enhance the profile and reputation of the University.
- Contribute to applications for external research funding and knowledge transfer and commercialisation activities.

Service and Administration

- Participate in professional and/or community/iwi and/or outreach activities relevant to the School.
- Carry out broad administrative functions including active and constructive participation at Team and/or School meetings and undertake administration, planning and/or committee work where appropriate.

Other

- Participate in the maintenance of a safe and healthy work environment for self and others including students. Comply with and undertake responsibilities set out in the University's Health and Safety Policy.
- Any other duties that are consistent with the position held, other than in exceptional circumstances such as rehabilitation after injury or sickness.

NOTE: Staff have an annual professional goal setting interview with their manager. New staff normally attend such an interview approximately three months after taking up their appointment.

5. PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

The Lecturer will be performing satisfactorily when:

- Teaching and associated duties are fulfilled to a high level as defined by School norms and expectations including paper appraisal and teaching evaluation.
- Student learning, at all levels, is appropriately facilitated in accordance with School, Division and University goals and objectives.
- Privacy of student information is maintained within University guidelines.
- Contributions made to curriculum refreshment demonstrate initiative and a willingness to support School goals and objectives.
- Personal and/or team research and scholarship activities yield demonstrable outcomes normally evidenced by continued publications in books and refereed journals, presentation or publication of conference papers, as appropriate.
- Research collaborations are developed.
- External research funding proposals are developed.
- Regular contributions are made to appropriate professional and/or community/iwi groups and/or in a public service or University or national representation capacity.
- Regular contributions are made to the School administration, as appropriate, relative to workload norms and expectations.
- Safe and healthy work practices are followed. University policies and procedures, relevant work standards and statutory obligations are complied with.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Essential

A PhD in a relevant discipline, including (but not limited to):

- soil carbon sequestration
- agricultural greenhouse gas emissions
- sustainable agriculture and soil health
- soil restoration
- advanced technology soil mapping

SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE and EXPERIENCE

Essential

- Up to date knowledge of soil science.
- Proven teaching skills at tertiary level.
- Marking and assessment skills with high levels of accuracy.
- Organisational and administrative skills.
- Demonstrated ability to master existing and new techniques, theories, models and approaches in the relevant discipline.
- A proven ability to communicate effectively with students and staff.
- Developing track record of high quality research publications.
- Basic te reo Māori, or willingness to learn.

Preferred

- Demonstrated success in undergraduate teaching including the ability to lecture to large numbers and conduct small group seminars and tutorials effectively.
- Demonstrated commitment to using innovative teaching methods and materials.
- Understanding of the value of Mātauranga Māori in scientific research.
- Demonstrated track record of high quality research publications or equivalent at international level.
- Demonstrated experience in engaging with iwi on issues relevant to research discipline.
- Demonstrated success in attracting external research funding.
- An interest and willingness to contribute to School and University administration matters.
- Ability to apply information and communication technologies to achieve desired outcomes and maintain and update those skills.
- Time management skills.

PERSONAL QUALITIES

- Self-motivation and a pro-active approach including a demonstrated commitment to innovation.
- Demonstrated capacity to work effectively as a member of a team.
- Proven ability to maintain a professional approach while under pressure.
- Ability to relate effectively and sensitively to students and staff from a variety of backgrounds and cultures.

- Commitment to a culture of openness, flexibility and cooperation to achieve excellence in academic programmes, research and service.
- A commitment to equal opportunity and to the University's partnership with Māori as intended by the Treaty of Waitangi.