



GENETICS OTAGO IMPACT CLUSTER (GOIC) Biotechnology/Advanced Technology 2026

Expression of Interest

Do you want to build collaborations, strengthen grant success, and explore commercialisation pathways in biotechnology?

Genetics Otago (GO) is a longstanding network of more than 400 scientists across multiple campuses, with expertise spanning fundamental science through to emerging technologies and policy. As a Research Centre, our overarching goal is to build innovative genetic researchers capable of addressing the opportunities and challenges facing New Zealand and beyond.

A key objective arising from our most recent Research Centre funding success is the establishment of a new initiative to support mid-career researchers in expanding their networks and broadening their research and funding opportunities. These Genetics Otago Impact Clusters (GOICs) align with the New Zealand Government's science and research priorities.

The 2026 GOIC focus is **Biotechnology/Advanced Technologies**

A selected cohort of researchers will participate in in-person workshops and receive mentorship to upskill, build connections, align their genetics research to the new [Research Pillars](#)* and accelerate their research through access to internal and external expertise, with a focus on networking, partnerships, and funding and activity-based skill development. We welcome applications from GO members who are between 3 and 15 years post PhD and are working in a biotechnology driven research capacity.

* <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/science-and-technology/science-and-innovation/refocusing-the-science-innovation-and-technology-system/a-new-funding-strategy-for-the-science-system>

* <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/dmsdocument/31887-report-to-the-prime-minister-prioritisation-in-new-zealand-science-innovation-and-technology-system>

Application Guidelines

Applications will close at **5:00 pm on Monday 11th May** and should be submitted via email to go@otago.ac.nz.

To apply, submit:

1. A short CV in standard or narrative format and,
2. A word document with responses to the following:
 - Personal Information (*Full name, current position, department or institution, years since terminal degree, email address*)
 - Research Background (max 200 words) *Your current research and its relevance to biotechnology/advanced technologies*
 - Why Should We Select You? (max 200 words) *How participation will enhance your research, collaborations, or career development*
 - How Will This Benefit You? (max 200 words) *Your goals if selected*

Selection Process and Reporting

Selection of candidates will be based on the quality of the application and appropriate fit to the opportunities provided, as decided by the Genetics Otago Advisory Board and Executive.

Successful candidates will be required to submit a one-page report detailing what they learnt, how the experience has been or will be taken forward into their career, recommendations for improving the programme for future cohorts and any successes during the year. You may also be asked to participate in reasonable promotional activities to support future GOIC activities.

