

**UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO**  
**Te Whare Wananga o Otago**

Dunedin, New Zealand

**PhD position in microbiome research**  
**DEPARTMENT of MICROBIOLOGY and IMMUNOLOGY**

Qualified candidates are invited to apply to pursue a PhD project in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at the University of Otago in Dunedin, New Zealand. This research project will be part of a fully funded collaboration aimed at understanding the interactions between the microbial communities of soil, water, plants, and animals, and how they drive sustainable pastoral productivity. The goal of this project is to investigate the connections and interactions between these agricultural microbiomes and to develop innovative microbiome-informed technologies to drive greater agricultural productivity and reduced environmental impacts. The PhD student will initially benchmark the available tools for microbiome and metagenomic data analysis using publically available datasets, and will lead the analysis of data from field experiments generated in this project.

The successful candidate will be hosted by the Morales lab (<https://micro.otago.ac.nz/our-people/our-people/sergio-morales/>), and will be co-supervised by Xochitl Morgan (<https://micro.otago.ac.nz/our-people/our-people/xochitl-morgan/>) and Paul Gardner (<http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/spark/Researcher.aspx?researcherid=4439878>). The PhD student will join a dynamic team of researchers across multiple universities and research institutes across New Zealand, with regional and international collaborations. The deadline for applications is July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017.

**Requirements**

Candidates should have a degree which includes a graded thesis component demonstrating his/her research ability. Published, peer-reviewed papers are desirable but not essential. All applicants will be required to apply for an Otago scholarship to cover tuition and stipends (not controlled by PI see here for details: <http://www.otago.ac.nz/study/scholarships/otago001308.html>, <http://www.otago.ac.nz/study/scholarships/database/index.html>). Candidates should be willing to work in multidisciplinary research teams, show leadership and independence, and must have strong English written and oral skills. Experience in generation and analysis of next-generation sequencing data, strong computer skills and/or proficiency in R or Python are ideal.

**Appointment:**

The position will begin August 2017 at the earliest.

Specific enquiries may be directed to:

Dr. Sergio E. Morales  
Department of Microbiology & Immunology  
University of Otago  
Phone: +64 3 479 3140  
Email: [sergio.morales@otago.ac.nz](mailto:sergio.morales@otago.ac.nz)

**APPLICATION INFORMATION**

With each application you must include: CV, a personal statement, transcripts, a copy of honours or masters thesis along with their application and two potential references (including contact details).



*Equal opportunity in employment is  
University policy.*

*E tautoko ana Te Whare Wananga o  
Otago i te kaupapa  
whakaorite whiwhinga mahi.*

