



SCIENCE
SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT

PhD position in Functional Response of Ecosystems to Plastic Pollution.

A PhD position addressing the effects of plastic pollution on microbial communities and the functional biogeochemical processes they drive is available in the [School of Environment](#) at the University of Auckland, New Zealand. We are looking for a student interested in merging molecular and biogeochemical techniques to understand how plastic pollutants influence energy and nutrient processing across terrestrial, freshwater and estuarine systems. The position is associated with a large interdisciplinary project, funded by the New Zealand MBIE Endeavour Fund, which addresses the environmental effects of plastics across terrestrial, freshwater and marine systems. The project team includes researchers from multiple NZ Universities and Crown Research Institutes with a wide range of expertise in disciplines including polymer and environmental chemistry, ecology, molecular microbiology and social science.

The successful candidate will have demonstrated experience in or potential for research using molecular techniques to characterize microbial communities and laboratory and field techniques to measure biogeochemical processes. Candidates should have a willingness and demonstrated ability to conduct laboratory and field work. The position can begin immediately and includes funds covering a stipend, university fees and operating costs. Domestic and international students are encouraged to apply and applicants must meet the University of Auckland's criteria for [entry into the PhD programme](#).

To apply, please send a cover letter stating your interests and experience relevant to the project, a CV, and the names and contact information for three references to: Dr. Kevin Simon (k.simon@auckland.ac.nz) and Dr. Gavin Lear (g.lear@auckland.ac.nz).