

# Research Associate in Southern Ocean Spatial and Community Ecology

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<b>College/Division</b>	College of Sciences and Engineering
<b>School/Section</b>	Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies -Ecology and Biodiversity Centre
<b>Location</b>	Hobart (IMAS-Salamanca)
<b>Classification</b>	Level B
<b>Reporting line</b>	Reports to Prof Craig Johnson & Dr Nicole Hill

## Position Summary

The University of Tasmania is building a vision of a place-based University with a mission to enhance the intellectual, economic, social and culture future of Tasmania, and from Tasmania, contribute to the world in areas of distinctive advantage. The University recognises that achieving this vision is dependent on the people we employ as well as creating a people-centred University that is values-based, relational, diverse, and development-focused.

We are seeking to appoint a Research Associate in the Ecology and Biodiversity Centre at the [Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies](#).

IMAS is an internationally-recognised centre of excellence for marine and Antarctic research and education. Our vision is to develop environmental understanding and facilitate sustainable development for the benefit of industry, governments and communities in Tasmania, Australia and the world. IMAS has three core areas of research focus, in fisheries and aquaculture, ecology and biodiversity, and oceans and cryosphere; and collaborates across the major themes of climate change, ocean-Earth systems, and oceans and Antarctic governance.

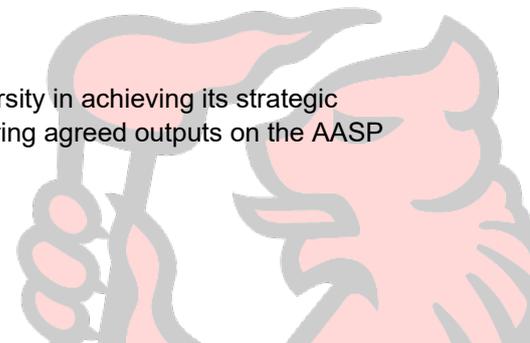
The appointee will conduct research on an Australian Antarctic Science Program (AASP) project that will map, predict and monitor ecological change in the Southern Ocean. The project aims to provide scientific information on the ecological impacts of climate change and other drivers on key components of the Southern Ocean ecosystem to facilitate evidence-based monitoring, management and policy decisions. It will use new statistical methods in ecology and combine them with existing, long-term ecological datasets to examine if, how and why key assemblages have changed in recent years and what they are likely to look like in the future. The project has a strong emphasis on ensuring that this knowledge is distilled in a format that can be used by a range of key stakeholders in national and international fora (e.g. CCAMLR).

The position is research focussed and the appointee will conduct sophisticated statistical analyses on complex ecological datasets, lead high quality research resulting in high quality publications, co-supervise postgraduate students, and liaise effectively with a range of science, government and policy stakeholders. The position is fixed term for 2.5 years full time. Equivalent part time (to a maximum project duration of 3 years) would be considered.

**We are an inclusive workplace committed to ‘working from the strength that diversity brings’ reflected in our Statement of Values. We are dedicated to attracting, retaining and developing our people and are committed to inclusive principles. We celebrate the range of diverse assets that gender identity, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, age and life course bring. Applications are encouraged from all sectors of the community. Tell us how we can make this job work for you.**

## What You'll Do

- Make an effective and sustained contribution to IMAS and the University in achieving its strategic objectives and fulfilling its operational responsibilities through delivering agreed outputs on the AASP



project *Mapping, predicting and monitoring ecological change in the Southern Ocean*.

- Undertake high-quality research of national and increasingly of international standing. Specifically; collate long-term ecological and environmental datasets; lead high-level statistical analyses to understand spatio-temporal changes in key assemblages and their drivers; make future predictions on the distribution of species and assemblages; conduct simulation studies to examine the efficacy of monitoring designs; manage data and make data products accessible using the FAIR principles.
- Publish research findings in high-quality journals, present research findings at relevant national and international conferences and forums, distil and present key findings into formats appropriate for a range of audiences and stakeholders, including policy and management end-users.
- Contribute to the successful supervision of research higher degree students.
- Contribute to the development and maintenance of productive and effective links inside the University and locally and nationally with the discipline, relevant interdisciplinary domains, profession, industry and/or wider community. This includes successful collaboration and liaison with IMAS, Australian and international scientists, and industry and government representatives.
- Undertake other duties as assigned by the supervisor.

### **What We're Looking For (success criteria)**

- A PhD in spatial ecology, distribution modelling, Southern Ocean ecology or other relevant field.
- A good record of, and continuing commitment to, research that has achieved national recognition and made worthwhile contributions to the field of spatial and/or Southern Ocean ecology demonstrated by a record of quality publications, presentations at conferences, and successful grant applications.
- A record of contributing to building and maintaining effective and productive links locally and nationally with the discipline, profession, industry and wider community.
- A creative and skilled individual with drive, initiative, and integrity.
- Demonstrated ability to both carry out independent research and work as part of a team.
- Demonstrated experience working with large ecological datasets.
- Demonstrated experience with high-level statistical analysis of complex biological and environmental data sets (e.g. hierarchical models, joint species distribution models, Bayesian models, simulation studies) and associated coding skills (preferably in R).
- Demonstrated ability to collaborate and liaise with staff, students and a wide range of stakeholders.
- Excellent written, oral and interpersonal skills.
- Demonstrated ability to meet project milestones and contribute to milestone reporting.

### **Other position requirements (delete those not applicable)**

- Current 'C' class driver's licence or manual vehicle licence
- Demonstrated knowledge of Antarctic and Southern Ocean ecosystems is an advantage.

### **University of Tasmania**

The University of Tasmania is an institution with an enduring commitment to our state and community, and a strong global outlook. We are committed to enhancing the intellectual, economic, social and cultural future of Tasmania. Our [Strategic Direction](#) strongly reflects the University community's voice that our University must



be place based but globally connected as well as regionally networked and designed to deliver quality access to higher education for the whole State.

We believe that from our unique position here in Tasmania we can impact the world through the contributions of our staff, students and graduates. We recognise that achieving this vision is dependent on the people we employ, as well as creating a university that is values-based, relational, diverse, and development-focused.

Check out more here:

<https://www.utas.edu.au/jobs>

<https://www.utas.edu.au/careers/our-people-values-and-behaviours>

*The intention of this position description is to highlight the most important aspects, rather than to limit the scope or accountabilities of this role. Duties above may be altered in accordance with the changing requirements of the position.*

