



New Positions in Environmental, Antarctic and Southern Ocean Studies

Antarctic Geopolitics: Academic Levels B, C or D

Environmental Communication: Academic Levels C or D

Environmental History: Academic Levels B, C or D

DECEMBER 2023

UNIVERSITY of
TASMANIA 

Message from the Vice Chancellor

Welcome to the University of Tasmania.

Two things shape our University in powerful ways – people and place.

I welcome your interest in these three roles for the Antarctic and Southern Ocean Humanities and Social Sciences program in Environmental Communications, Environmental History, and Antarctic Geopolitics. These are key academic positions in research, teaching and engagement at the University of Tasmania.

We are not just a University of Tasmania, we are a University for Tasmania and from Tasmania to the world. We are a University strongly committed to tackling global challenges by creating a model for change or directly working on the critical issues of our time.

Our place is special and unique in many ways: a place surrounded by great oceans that reach to the Antarctic, we live beneath a distinctive sky, with special soils and unique geology, with remarkable flora and fauna.

Here, the environment shapes society and is a rich source of inspiration. The environmental significance of the island is recognised globally with approximately one-third classified as World Heritage Wilderness.

We know that the traditional owners of this land are amongst the most resourceful people in human history. We listen to them and learn from them. Their unique living knowledges can help shape the future.

The traditional owners profoundly remind us that for all that there is to celebrate about this island, there is also history with tragedy here. As a University, we do not shy away from this.

We are a University committed to transforming the grave wrongs of the past. If this is a mission that you too wish to embrace, we offer you the opportunity to make a real difference to Tasmania and the world in one of these roles.

If you join us you will come to a place where the value of community, of connections and care for others, are qualities cherished across the island.

You will come to a place that sits at the gateway to the Antarctic and where the swells of the great Southern Ocean reach our shores. A place where the ice-breaking ships depart from on their voyages to the South Polar continent and where you will find the highest concentration of marine scientists and scholars in associated areas in the southern hemisphere.

Being in a place like this brings a sharp focus to the wicked challenges these special places are facing, including environmental and climate challenges. It calls attention to the unprecedented changes that are occurring and indeed to their consequences. As a university, it is our task to choose how we respond.

We do that grounded in our local context ever mindful of that global picture where the world faces wicked and pressing challenges of both a current and future nature and where much is at stake for humanity and indeed the planet.

As we explore that choice, we are asking ourselves what it would mean and indeed require of us to be a lighthouse for the world in creating a sustainable, inclusive and stable future.

It is clear to us that both the scale and complexity of the challenges we face calls for a bold approach where we find whole new ways of going about tackling them. It is at the very core of our mission to find that path and make a positive difference in the areas that matter most.

The Antarctic and Southern Ocean Humanities and Social Sciences program and these roles within it have a critical role to play in this effort.

This program will bring a much-needed focus to geopolitics in the Southern Ocean and Antarctic region, to the histories of our southern environments and to our work in environmental and Antarctic communications. We know these humanities and social science perspectives are as crucial as the scientific research being done.

These roles come at a time when the need could hardly be greater.

I hope the information in this document helps you understand how you, as one of the potential three new academics in the Antarctic and Southern Ocean Humanities and Social Sciences program, could make a deeply impactful contribution to our University and to Tasmania. Again, I welcome your interest and encourage you to consider this opportunity.



**Professor Rufus Black,
Vice-Chancellor**

Message from the Executive Dean and Pro Vice-Chancellor College of Arts, Law and Education (CALE)

The College of Arts, Law and Education seeks to enhance the intellectual, economic, social, and cultural future of Tasmania and, from Tasmania, contribute to the world with distinctive teaching programs and research that is deeply engaged with our place. We are focused on increasing opportunities for Tasmanians and shifting entrenched disadvantage and barriers to access to higher education through excellence and innovation in learning and teaching.

The College encompasses five schools: Creative Arts and Media, Education, Humanities, Law, and Social Sciences. It is a provider of world-class research and teaching, offering more than 50 undergraduate and postgraduate programs, with teaching both online and in person at the University's Tasmanian campuses in Hobart, Launceston and Burnie. In all three locations a major capital works investment is delivering world class teaching, research and engagement facilities.

Our recent focus has been on the review and revision of courses, developing academic leadership and upskilling academic staff to ensure they are well supported. The College's Heads of School and Associate Deans are leading exciting changes based on areas of strength and distinctive course offerings. A driving question for us in learning and teaching is "Are we ready for the future?". Current initiatives include a transformative global mobility program, an expansion of Work Integrated Learning opportunities and an award-winning initiative in Indigenising the curriculum.

In 2023, the College taught just under 10,500 students, and although the majority are Tasmanian there are growing numbers of interstate and international students. Fostering connection through learning is the foundation of our pedagogical model, which includes flexible modes of delivery including face-to-face and online learning. We provide learning experiences that promote social and intellectual connection and equip students across diverse cohorts with the knowledge, skills and values that will enable them to live meaningful lives of their choice.

We welcome our students into a community where they feel connected, included, represented, intellectually engaged and supported to make transformational contributions to society through their endeavours. We offer distinctive and sustainable courses and lead research that has a strong connection to our place, its history, Aboriginal knowledge and culture, its social foundations, and its evolving identity but are also informed by global developments. College staff also contribute to cross-disciplinary teaching and research programs in climate change, sustainability and educational attainment.

The College has a history of high performance in discovery and applied research, in excellence in publications and success in external grant income. It is investing in research priority areas with significant financial support (more than \$6 million) from the University that has been matched by the College and Schools. One priority is human interactions in the Antarctic and Southern Oceans, to compliment University scientific strengths in region, including through the Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) and in partnership with multiple stakeholders including the Australian Antarctic Division.

We are now recruiting outstanding, energetic and innovative academic scholars and for the three positions in Environmental History, Environmental Communications and Antarctic Geopolitics. The successful applicants will play a critical role in establishing and leading research and teaching in these areas, working within the College of Arts Law and Education as well as across the University. These new positions will collaborate with a dedicated and high achieving team within the College and the University. We look forward to hearing how you can contribute to our mission.



Message from Professor Kate Darian-Smith,
Executive Dean and Pro Vice-Chancellor,
College of Arts, Law and Education

Position Summary

Position in Environmental, Antarctic and Southern Ocean Studies
in the [College of Arts, Law and Education](#)

Antarctic Geopolitics, School of Social Sciences

One appointment at Academic Level B, Level C or Level D

To apply please click [here](#) or for further information on this position, contact:
Professor Elle Leane. E: Elizabeth.Leane@utas.edu.au T: 61 3 6226 2894

Environmental Communication, School of Creative Arts and Media

One appointment at Academic Level C or Level D

To apply please click [here](#) or for further information on this position, contact:
Professor Alana Mann. E: Alana.Mann@utas.edu.au T: 61 408 234 393

Environmental History, School of Humanities

One appointment at Academic Level B, Level C or Level D

To apply please click [here](#) or for further information on this position, contact:
Professor Emmett Stinson E: Emmett.Stinson@utas.edu.au T: 61 3 6226 1763

The Opportunity

The Antarctic and Southern Ocean region is vital to our planet's future and many of the problems facing it cannot be addressed purely through science. Researchers are increasingly recognizing that global challenges such as the climate crisis require collaborations between the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (HASS) and Science and Technology (STEM) disciplines. Moreover, a number of pressing issues in the Antarctic and Southern Ocean, such as the growing and diversifying Antarctic tourist industry, are primarily sociocultural. For these reasons, the College of Arts, Law and Education is currently investing significantly in humanities and social science research and teaching capability related to the Antarctic and Southern Ocean, building on existing strengths in law, humanities, creative arts and tourism studies.

This investment is part of a larger initiative across the university to purposefully integrate humanities and social science research with scientific approaches to address the challenges facing the region. The University has a long history of high-profile Antarctic and Southern Ocean research, focused primarily in its Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS). Our current work is complementing this strength by building expertise across all of the Colleges in the University, to complement, extend and work together with IMAS research groups.

These new roles will also contribute to University and College research and teaching strengths in environmental policy and practice, sustainability and climate change and to School and discipline programs and engagement.



The University of Tasmania

In 1890, the University was founded with a very important purpose. Through academic excellence, we seek to make our home and the world a better place. Working together with the communities we are a part of on this island, we are achieving the extraordinary.

The character of our island home shapes the way we do this. Isolation and a small population have always required us to work harder. The finite qualities of islands remind us that ecologically and socially we need to be a sustainable place; we must work with ecosystems, not against them, and the definition of a community provided by our island's watery boundaries reminds us that we must work together.

Solving unique problems in unique ways is a part of who we are here on this island. Here, success takes a quiet determination and adaptability.

In turn, this makes us broader-minded, and multi-skilled thinkers who are creative and independent problem solvers. The qualities we find in this place and in our people sees our institution generate powerful and unique ideas for and from Tasmania.

Our unique setting and the challenges we face here mean that we go beyond creating places of learning. We strive to stimulate economic growth, lift literacy, improve health outcomes for Tasmania and nurture our environment as it nurtures us.

We welcome enquiring minds, from near and far, to join us in our pursuit of the extraordinary.



Qualifications and Licences

Current drivers licence preferred.

Other requirements

To be eligible for this position, you are required to hold Australian or New Zealand Citizenship, permanent residence or a valid visa that enables you to fulfil the requirements of this role.

Workplace health and safety

- All staff will assist the University to create and maintain a safe and healthy work environment by working safely, adhering to instructions, and using the equipment provided in accordance with safe operating procedures. Where appropriate, staff will initiate and participate in worksite inspections, accident reporting and investigations and develop safe work procedures.
- All supervising staff are required to implement and maintain the University's WHS Management System in areas under their control, ensuring compliance with legislative requirements and established Policies, Procedures and Guidelines and, provide the appropriate information, instruction, training and supervision
- Staff will inform their supervisor of any unsafe working practices or hazardous working conditions.

Statement of values

We subscribe to the fundamental values of honesty, integrity, responsibility, trust and trustworthiness, respect and self-respect, and fairness and justice. We bring these values to life by our individual and collective commitment to:



Creating and serving shared purpose



Nurturing a vital and sustainable community



Focusing on opportunity



Working from the strength diversity brings



Collaborating in ways that help us be the best we can be



The Tasmanian Lifestyle

Tasmania offers a living experience unlike any other. Here, you can go from the world's wildest art festivals to world heritage wilderness – all within a day. Our campuses put you in the heart of our bustling cities and amongst a creative, diverse and welcoming community.

These positions are based in Hobart, a city that offers excellent opportunities for employment, with quality schools and childcare, a range of housing options and lifestyle choices. Tasmania's world-famous food and wine provide an abundance of fresh seafood, family-run wineries and distilleries, and culinary experiences celebrating farm-fresh produce. The island is known for its extraordinary creativity, including numerous festivals and MONA, as well as its access to adventure and nature-based activities.

Tasmania is 42 degrees south of the equator. Its dramatic coastlines, rugged mountains, spectacular wilderness, sparkling highland lakes and beautiful beaches make Tasmania one of the best places in the world to live and work.

Tasmania is currently undergoing a renaissance, with burgeoning tourism, cultural and culinary pursuits making the island one of the most popular places to visit in the country.

Tasmania's lively cultural scene and its year-round festivals draws visitors from afar. Indeed, Tasmania has more poets, musicians, writers, and artists per head of population than any other state in Australia.

Tasmanians breathe the world's cleanest air, drink pure water and grow mouth-watering produce from rich, fertile soils. They are also outstandingly resourceful and generous, applying their creativity and design skills to artistic endeavours, scientific research, and the production of a unique array of goods and services which they are eager to share with others across the island, Australia and the world.





Learn more

Visit our website to read more, and discover your exciting future.

utas.edu.au

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