

# Hazard and Risk Management Scientist



The purpose of this position is to undertake social science research and consultancy work on knowledge exchange about hazard and risk science to empower informed decision-making by our stakeholders and grow community resilience. The position will have a focus on using quantitative and/or qualitative social science research methods and be able to initiate and develop opportunities for research and consultancy in hazard and risk both in Aotearoa New Zealand and internationally.

Reports to:	Hazard and Risk Social Science Team Leader
Department:	Society and Infrastructure
Group:	Science
Employment Type:	Permanent
Location:	Auckland, Avalon, Wairakei, Dunedin
Direct reports:	Nil
Budget:	Nil
Career Path:	Research
Job Family:	Research
Career Step:	Scientist 2 (Step 7) to Senior Scientist 1 (Step 8)
Date:	11 November 2024

## Position priorities and responsibilities

- Design and carry out quantitative and/or qualitative social science research related to natural hazards and risks; research experience or interest in hazard and risk communication, early warnings, science advice, psychology, or human behaviour preferred.
- Support the development of products to effectively communicate science advice to stakeholders and communities across hazard perils such as earthquakes, volcanoes, tsunamis, landslides, and climate change.
- Engage with local and central government and community stakeholders about natural hazard and risk management across the four R's – reduction, readiness and response, and recovery.
- Develop proposals for research and consultancy projects.
- Collaborate with and/or lead interdisciplinary research project teams.
- Develop skills to manage research project delivery, teams, and budgets.

- Contribute to human participant research ethics review processes at GNS Science.
- Prepare and contribute to research papers and reports.
- Undertake commercial consultancy work in hazard and risk social science as required.
- Undertake projects for your manager as and when required.

## Responsibilities of all staff

---

- Comply with all GNS Science policies and procedures.
- Contribute to making GNS Science a healthy and safe place to work by complying with the responsibilities and accountabilities outlined in the Health and Safety Management System Framework.

The responsibilities of this position will change over time to respond to changing needs. The incumbent will need the flexibility to adapt and develop as the company and its environment evolves.

## Key working relationships

Internal:

- Research Programme and project leaders, Research Theme leaders.
- Communications Team
- Stakeholder Relations Team
- GeoNet programme
- Other staff working in hazard and risk science, social science and planning & policy

External:

- Other Crown Research Institutes
- Universities
- Local and regional councils
- Central government agencies (e.g. National Emergency Management Agency, Department of Conservation)
- Civil Defence and Emergency Management (CDEM) groups
- Iwi and Hapū

## Person specification

### Skills, knowledge and attributes

---

- Expertise in social science methods and theories (quantitative and/or qualitative)
- Understanding of local government systems and processes
- Knowledge of the National Resilience Strategy, CDEM framework and other legislation relating to natural hazard and risk management (e.g. Resource Management Act)
- Understanding of natural hazards and risks and the earth sciences
- Ability to work within and lead interdisciplinary teams.
- Appreciation of tikanga, mātauranga, and te ao Māori

## Experience

---

### Essential:

- 2-7 years' relevant social science research/industry experience.

### Desirable:

- Emergency management experience
- Research project management experience.

## Qualifications

---

### Essential:

- Postgraduate (MSc, postgraduate diploma) qualification in social sciences, e.g. human geography, communications, psychology, sociology, emergency management, hazards management.

### Desirable:

- PhD (social sciences, e.g. geography, emergency management, communications, psychology, sociology, hazards management); postgraduate qualifications in risk management and/or earth sciences.

## Other requirements

---

### Essential:

- Report and paper writing
- Facilitation
- Communication
- Oral presentation skills
- Computer skills
- Data analysis skills

### Desirable:

- Project management skills

## Performance dimensions

At a high level, GNS Science recognises six performance dimensions: three relate to technical capability, one relates to leadership (if applicable) and two relate to the *way* we work. Below are the general expectations that are the minimum standards expected of all staff. There are also expectations that specifically relate to the career step associated with the role; you can find these on GNS Online.

## Technical capabilities

---

### Scope, complexity and innovation

- Enduring commitment to maintaining and developing skills and knowledge in area of expertise.

- Both the ability and desire to apply appropriate rigour, principles and practices to deliver quality work in a cost-effective manner.
- Acts in a manner that conveys high personal and professional standards.
- Open to coaching and feedback – incorporates suggestions to find better ways of doing things (to improve own and GNS Science performance).

#### Contribution to GNS Science / profession

- Establishes and maintains effective and collaborative working relationships – with colleagues and external individuals and groups.
- Both the ability and commitment to work in a culturally responsive and inclusive manner; respecting and valuing the diverse perspectives of individuals and groups.
- Takes an interest in early career colleagues, graduates and students – provides coaching and/or mentoring as appropriate. Supports initiatives to promote science careers.
- Prevents harm to self and others by carrying out duties safely and responsibly.

#### Delivery of work

- The ability and commitment to deliver pieces of work and projects on time to required quality, cost and benefit parameters.
- The application of appropriate project management rigour, principles and practices to delivering quality projects in a cost-effective manner

### Behavioural expectations

---

#### Manaakitanga – we do the right thing

Champions a positive working culture. Works and interacts with colleagues, external partners, stakeholders and customers in a way that is consistent with our values:

- We are **CONNECTED** in our purpose; with each other, with partners and stakeholders and with our communities.
- We are **INSPIRED** by our work to explore, challenge, innovate and aim higher.
- We are **EMPOWERED** to be our best – valued for our differences, encouraged to contribute and enabled to grow and develop.

#### Bicultural commitment

- As a Crown Research Institute, GNS Science is committed to partnering with iwi/hapū and Māori communities and agencies to achieve their science aspirations.
- We do this in a way that is culturally appropriate (tikanga) and honours Māori and non-Māori worldviews (te ao).

These expectations are intended to support and guide the development of individual staff.