

Daily Notices circulated by the Government Information Office

Thursday, 2 April 2020

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On Behalf of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)

Latest New Zealand government border restrictions

On 30 March the New Zealand Cabinet agreed to extend the following border restrictions until the end of alert level 4, due to expire 31 March as follows:

Category 1A (Cannot travel to New Zealand) - All countries

Category 1B (Can travel to New Zealand but must self-isolate for 14 days) - People to whom Category 1A does not apply, except air and marine crew.

Category 2: Can travel to New Zealand and must self-isolate for 14 days if unwell - None.

Category 1A restrictions will continue not to apply to:

- New Zealand citizens and residence class visa holders (including the realm) (This exemption from these restrictions will not apply to a person whose residence class visa was granted off shore and the person is arriving in New Zealand for the first time)
- The partner, legal guardian or any dependent children travelling with a New Zealand citizen or residence class visa holder, Australian citizens and permanent residence class visa holders ordinarily resident in New Zealand, and
- People subject to regulation 25 of the Immigration (Visa, Entry Permission, and Related Matters) Regulations 2010, which includes air and marine crew

Category 1A restrictions will continue to not apply to diplomats accredited to New Zealand and currently resident in New Zealand.

Exceptions can continue to be sought in relation to Category 1A on a case-by-case basis, for:

- Humanitarian reasons;
- Essential health worker;
- Citizens of Samoa and Tonga for essential travel to New Zealand; and
- Partners or dependents of a temporary work or student visa holder, and who normally live in New Zealand
- Any other essential workers identified by the group of Ministers with Power to Act.

Those subject to Category 1A border restrictions, but who are eligible to travel to Australia as their final destination, are able to transit via New Zealand as long as that transit remains airside and does not allow entry into New Zealand.

On Behalf of Department of Commerce, Industry and Environment

Job Vacancy: Soil Scientist, Pacific Community (SPC). Closes 28Apr2020 (see attached).

The Pacific Community (SPC) invites applications for the position of Soil Scientist with the Land Resources Division (LRD) located at its regional office in Suva, Fiji.

The role – Soil Scientist is responsible to provide strategic and expert advice in relation to soil health and agronomy to LRD Pillars and to the Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs). The position holder will work closely with the Sustainable Agriculture Programme and the Research and Development Advisor and other LRD Pillars in ensuring soil health activities are integrated across programmes and take active part in consultation and mobilization of key stakeholders to implement programmes that will contribute to improved soil health and farming systems in the PICTs.

The key responsibilities of the role include:

- Scientific and technical advice on soil health – provide scientific and technical advice and formulation of research strategies and activities to address soil health and crop nutrition issues in countries
- Technical advice on agronomy – provide technical advice on the responses of crops to soil management practices such as fertilization, crop rotation, compost, organic, cover crops, and waste control
- Strategic and policy advice – ensuring research results are adopted and scaled through appropriate adoption pathways such as participatory research, advocacy, awareness and other relevant learning routes and information and knowledge platforms
- Resource mobilisation – working with LRD Teams and stakeholders in building strategic partnerships to support resource mobilisation and implementation of activities in countries
- People management – coordinate management of direct reporting staff in the team to achieve work plan deliverables

Key selection criteria

Qualifications

- A Master's degree in soil science or agronomy

Knowledge and experience

- At least 10 years of relevant work experience
- Knowledge of the agriculture soils in the Pacific region, particularly atolls
- Leadership and management experience, including performance management
- Knowledge of field plot designs and experimental procedures
- Research and analysis experience with in-depth knowledge in the agriculture sector

Essential skills

- Ability to analyse and interpret research results
- Ability to identify and diagnose field-plant-soil causal problems and appropriate symptoms
- Excellent coordination and negotiation skills
- Analytical and problem-solving skills
- Report writing, planning and organising
- Attention to detail and ability to meet deadlines without supervision
- Advocacy skills with demonstrated initiative and ability to think laterally to identify innovative solutions

Language skills

- Excellent English communication skills (oral and written) with a working knowledge of French being an advantage

Interpersonal skills and cultural awareness

- Interpersonal skills with ability to work in a multicultural, inclusive and equitable environment

Salary, terms and conditions:

Approximate Start Date – July 2020. Contract Duration – Three years

Remuneration – The Soil Scientist is a Band 11 position in SPC’s 2020 salary scale, with a starting salary range of 3,015–3,769 SDR (special drawing rights) per month, which currently converts to approximately FJD 8,986–11,233 (USD 4,161–5,202; EUR 3,709–4,636). An offer of appointment for an initial contract will normally be made in the lower half of this range, with due consideration given to experience and qualifications. Progression within the salary scale will be based on annual performance reviews. Remuneration of expatriate SPC staff members is not subject to income tax in Fiji; Fiji nationals employed by SPC in Fiji will be subject to income tax.

Benefits for international employees based in Fiji – SPC provides a housing allowance of FJD 1,353–3,025 per month. Establishment and relocation grant, removal expenses, airfares, home leave, medical and life insurance and education allowances are available for eligible employees and their recognised dependents. Employees are entitled to 25 days of annual leave and 30 days of sick leave per annum, and access to SPC’s Provident Fund (contributing 8% of salary, to which SPC adds a matching contribution).

Languages – SPC’s working languages are English and French.

Equal opportunity – SPC is an equal opportunity employer. Recruitment is based entirely on merit; in cases where two short-listed candidates are judged to be of equal rank by the selection committee, preference will be given to Pacific Island nationals.

Child protection – SPC is committed to child protection, irrespective of whether any specific area of work involves direct contact with children. SPC’s Child Protection Policy is written in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Police clearance – Successful candidates will be required to provide a police clearance certificate.

Application procedure:

Closing date: 28 April 2020

Applicants must apply online at <http://careers.spc.int/>

Hard copies of applications will not be accepted.

For your application to be considered, you must provide us with:

- an updated resume
- contact details for three professional referees
- a cover letter detailing your skills, experience and interest in this position
- responses to all screening questions

Please ensure your documents are in Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF format. Applicants should not attach copies of qualifications or letters of reference. These documents may be requested at a later stage. For international staff in Fiji, only one foreign national per family can be employed with an entity operating in Fiji at any one given time. The Pacific Community does not support dual spouse employment.

Please ensure that you respond to all the screening questions. If you do not respond to the screening questions, your application will be considered incomplete and will not be reviewed at shortlisting stage.

Screening Questions:

1. Soil health is a vital resource in sustaining agriculture production in small island countries with fragile natural resources. Evidence has shown that soil health is declining in most Pacific Island Countries. Please describe the key problems/challenges to soil health and what operational strategies would be required to improve soil health in the Pacific region?
2. Knowledge on agronomy is important to ensure that soil technologies researched and developed are relevant to the different farming systems in the Pacific region. Please explain how you would approach the introduction of various crops to a new environment where there was no prior information on soil fertility, crop growth performance history and adaptation records?
3. A holistic approach to soil management is necessary for sustainable agriculture production in the region. Please explain how you would go about operationalising a holistic approach to sustainable soil management practices and ensuring adoption of soil technologies? What would be your strategy to take improved soil management results to scale in the Pacific region?

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