

Global Science Medal Distinguished Professor Philip Hulme FRSNZ

Distinguished Professor of Plant Biosecurity Philip Hulme, a Lincoln University staff member since 2007, is an internationally acclaimed scientist in the field of biosecurity.

Professor Hulme's primary research focus is predicting risks from alien plant invasions. It involves examining traits that underpin the success of invasive species, clarifying the main routes by which these species are introduced to a region, assessing their rates of spread, gauging the vulnerability of habitats to invasion, quantifying impacts, and predicting the potential effects of climate change on their distribution.

For a country like New Zealand, rich in agricultural and horticultural activity, indeed dependent on it economically, not to mention the passion of Kiwis for home gardening, landscape plantings, and botanical collections, it is highly important work, reaching into the heart of day-to-day life.

It is also an area of activity with immense significance globally. No border anywhere is impermeable and the quest for answers demands the highest standard of scientific rigour, honesty, integrity and discipline. The courage to defend unpopular and inconvenient findings and recommendations is another essential requirement.

Professor Hulme possesses all of these attributes.

His work, international in scope and pioneering in character, has identified and clarified fundamental principles underpinning biological invasions as the starting point for the development of strategies to prevent, control or mitigate their impact.

Professor Hulme is recognised worldwide for his scholarship and the contributions he has made to the international body of knowledge about plant biosecurity.

Through his publication record, he is the only New Zealand-based environmental scientist recognised as a Highly Cited Researcher in each of the past 10 years. He is listed among the World's Most Influential Scientific Minds, a ranking that identifies the top 0.1 percent of researchers globally.

Professor Hulme is determined that Lincoln University should be at the heart of innovative biosecurity research in New Zealand and internationally. This was one of his motivations in establishing the Centre for One-Biosecurity Research, Analysis, and Synthesis (COBRAS), an accelerated approach to scientific discovery based on synthesis, data access and collaboration to foster a global community of researchers and stakeholders eager to solve some of the toughest biosecurity challenges.

Professor Hulme maintains strong collaborative links with European colleagues and provides scientific advice to many European bodies and an important United Nations intergovernmental agency.

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Professor Grant Edwards Vice-Chancellor



Bruce Gemmell Chancellor