**BP – University of Adelaide GeoEnergy Research, Education and Outreach Project funding**

**The funding opportunity**

The University of Adelaide and BP have signed an AUS$10 million agreement that will support GeoEnergy research, educational and outreach activities into the geological storage of hydrogen and carbon dioxide over five years. Under the collaboration with BP, funding opportunities will become available to University of Adelaide academic staff, to support research, education and outreach projects (2024 – 2028).

Research funding will support projects relevant to the storage of hydrogen underground, on focus areas including multiphase flow behaviour, geomechanics, well technology, and geochemistry. It is expected that whilst a large portion of the research focus will be on porous formations, there is also opportunity for studies focused on hydrogen storage in caverns, mines and shafts. Whilst these aforementioned research focus areas are most likely to be prioritised, research proposals on all topics relevant to the storage of hydrogen underground are invited.

Translation of this research into higher education learning materials will be funded in future funding rounds.

The collaboration will also fund education and outreach projects aimed at primary and secondary school students, either focused on the geological storage of hydrogen and carbon dioxide, or on aiming to inspire younger students to learn more about the geology, environment and resources of South Australia.

Academic staff from all Disciplines are welcome to apply.

There are three categories of funding available in this first funding round (announced July 2024)

* + **Education and Outreach Projects.** Maximum funding available for each application is $10,000, to be spent over a period up to 1 year from the date of notification for successful projects.
  + **Research Projects**, maximum funding available for each application is AUD $50,000 to be spent over a maximum period of 2 years from the date of notification for successful projects.
  + **PhD Research Projects (top up scholarships and research funds)**
    - Top-up scholarships will be valued at $15,000 per year, for up to 3.5 years duration.
    - Research funds available per PhD project: up to $10,000 per annum, for a maximum of 3 years
    - These can be applied for in whole (i.e. for a full PhD duration, for projects yet to be advertised and currently without applicants), or in part (i.e. if an existing PhD candidate has capacity to undertake a funded Research Project as a component of their thesis, with no conflict of interest from other industry sponsorship or IP arrangements).
    - These will be evaluated on the basis of projects, rather than people; submissions must be led by the academic supervisor(s).
    - If prospective student candidates for successful projects miss out on award of an RTP or other University scholarship, supervisors can apply for a full scholarship award to be considered, which will be evaluated on the strategic ranking of the project by the BP-UoA Technical Committee, and on the basis of the candidate’s track record relative to opportunity.

**Application process:**

* Applications are now openuntil **23.59h on Sunday 18th August 2024.**
* Please complete the Application Form, in the pages below, including the signed declaration by the lead investigator and Head of School.
* Application forms to be submitted via email to geoenergy@adelaide.edu.au
* A pre-selection process will be conducted by the University of Adelaide; only applications with an overall score of 70 or higher (out 100) will progress to assessment by the industry partner. The UoA internal score card is provided below.
* Award of funding will be determined by a BP-UoA Technical Committee, which will consider the internal ranking of proposals undertaken by both parties and is accountable for the ranking and approval of submitted research project proposals.
* Final outcomes to be communicated by October.

**About the funding**

* Interdisciplinary projects are permitted and encouraged but will not be given preference over single discipline applications.
* Projects with collaborators at other Universities are permitted but will not be given preference over proposals run solely by University of Adelaide staff.
* The proposed duration of projects won’t impact their likelihood of success.
* There will be future funding rounds for research, education and outreach projects under this collaboration. If proposal submissions in this round have been designed to test research with the potential to form a basis for future more substantial projects, a brief outline of this can be included in the proposal. Such submissions will not be given preference over stand-alone submissions.
* The PI must be a staff member in either a teaching and research, research only or teaching only role at the University of Adelaide. The eligibility of honorary, adjunct or sessional staff will be at the discretion of the review panel and will be managed on a case-by-case basis.
* Multiple application forms can be submitted by the same lead investigator or academic teams, as long as the proposed projects have a distinctly different focus.
* Research Project funding applications may include requests for funding associated with: basic research costs (i.e. staff and equipment), research data collection and analysis, travel costs.
* Submission of written reports on project activities, expenditure and deliverables will be required. It is the responsibility of applicants to ensure University policy and procedures are followed, for example in relation to HSW, code of conduct, intellectual property, insurance etc.
* Expected outcomes of research projects are peer reviewed publications and conference presentations.
* For successful Research Projects, the academic lead will work with the University to prepare a Research Project Plan to be agreed between the University and BP, which shall address Intellectual Property rights, confidentiality of background IP (if applicable), research data and publication of results. Either Party has the option to nominate that a Research Project Plan be incorporated into a formal Research Project Agreement signed between parties involved, prior to the application of funding to that project.
* Variations to projects must be approved.

For further information, please contact Professor Kathryn Amos, geoenergy@adelaide.edu.au

**Score Card for University of Adelaide ranking of submissions for Research Projects, and PhD Research Projects.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Outstanding  (90-100) | Excellent  (80-90) | Very Good  (70-80) | Good  (60-70) | Uncompetative  (<60) |
| Project quality and innovation (30%) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Impact on advancing knowledge important for underground hydrogen storage (30%) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Investigator’s capability and feasibility of proposed approach (20%) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Justification of requested budget (20%) |  |  |  |  |  |

**Score Card for University of Adelaide ranking of submissions for Education and Outreach Projects.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Outstanding  (90-100) | Excellent  (80-90) | Very Good  (70-80) | Good  (60-70) | Uncompetitive  (<60) |
| Likely impact on education (for tertiary level projects) or engagement (for primary and secondary school outreach) (40%) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Breadth of application (e.g. for use in which specific course/program/activity etc) (20%) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Investigator’s capability and feasibility of proposed approach (20%) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Justification of requested budget (20%) |  |  |  |  |  |

**Application Form**

**Select category of funding being applied for:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Research Project** |  |
| **PhD Research Project** |  |
| **Education and Outreach Project** |  |

1. **Project details**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Title of Project** |  |
| **Project start date and duration** |  |

2. **Lead Investigator**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Title** |  |
| **Name** |  |
| **Position** |  |
| **Discipline, School, Faculty** |  |
| **Email address** |  |

3. **Co-Investigators**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name | Position | Organisation | Contribution / Role in the project |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

4. Project description

Please note that responses will be assessed based on the quality of the response and you do not need to reach the word limit for each question.

Give a description of your project and its objectives, followed by the scientific/technical significance of the project. Please give details of the research methodology, innovation, and relevance to industry. You may use graphics or tables where appropriate.

*Maximum 600 words.*

**5. Knowledge Transfer**

Outline project output, and the ways in which this will be made available. For research projects, describe knowledge transfer to the industry sponsor and to the broader industry-government-academic community. For education and outreach projects, describe any relevant project output not already described.

*Maximum 400 words.*

**6. IP and Confidentiality**

Please include any relevant considerations as related to IP and Confidentiality.

**7. Funding Amount**

Provide a summary of your requested budget. Expected date of expense can be specific if appropriate, or generalised (eg Month 1, 2, 3… Q1, Q2, Q3…). You may use the table below or insert your own preferred format.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Expected date of expense** | **Description** | **Amount Requested (AUD)** |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Total:** |

**For any expenses not justified within the above Project Description, include justification for these here:**

**8. For projects requesting funding to support PhD research, please summarise any existing funding for active research projects within which this would be nested, and/or existing scholarship or top-up scholarship awards:**

**9. For projects that have been designed to test research with the potential to form a basis for future more substantial projects, a brief outline of this can be included below.**

*Maximum 400 words.*

**10. Supporting Documents**

All applications must include a short CV (two pages maximum) for all applicants.

**Signed declaration on next page**

**11. Declaration of Project Leader and Head of School**

I certify that:

* All information provided in this application is true and complete. All parties identified in the proposal have agreed to its submission.
* I will conduct activities under the grant in compliance with the relevant institutional policies/procedures.
* I have confirmed the eligibility of all participants and attest that all participants will be employed or will remain students of the administering university for the duration of the proposed project.
* The proposed program of work and use of funds requested is distinct from other extant funded project(s)
* If awarded, I will be responsible for spending all funds in accordance with the stated aims of the project and will comply with all conditions of funding set out in the Terms and Conditions.
* I certify that the project proposal, if successful, can be carried out in my School/University under the circumstances set out in the proposal.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Name of Project Leader |  | Name of Head of School |
|  |  |  |
| Signature of Project Leader |  | Signature of Head of School |
| Date: |  | Date: |