POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title:                    Research Officer - Hydrogeology
Organisation Unit:               Centre for Water in the Minerals Industry
Position Number:                 3041796
Type of Employment:              Full Time / Part Time, Fixed Term up to 2 years
Classification:                 Academic Research Level A or B. Level of appointment will be commensurate with qualifications, experience and academic achievements.

THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

The University of Queensland (UQ) contributes positively to society by engaging in the creation, preservation, transfer and application of knowledge. UQ helps shape the future by bringing together and developing leaders in their fields to inspire the next generation and to advance ideas that benefit the world. UQ strives for the personal and professional success of its students, staff and alumni. For more than a century, we have educated and worked with outstanding people to deliver knowledge leadership for a better world.

UQ ranks in the world’s top universities, as measured by several key independent ranking, including the Performance Ranking of Scientific Papers for World Universities (45), the US News Best Global Universities Rankings (52), QS World University Rankings (51), Academic Ranking of World Universities (55), and the Times Higher Education World University Rankings (60). UQ again topped the nation in the prestigious Nature Index; and secured a greater share of Australian Research Council grants in 2016 ($24.5 million) than any other university nationally.

UQ has an outstanding reputation for the quality of its teachers, its educational programs and employment outcomes for its students. Our students remain at the heart of what we do. The UQ experience –the UQ Advantage – is distinguished by a research enriched curriculum, international collaborations, industry engagement and opportunities that nurture and develop future leaders. UQ has a strong focus on teaching excellence, winning more national teaching excellence awards than any other in the country and attracting the majority of Queensland’s highest academic achievers, as well as top interstate and overseas students.

UQ is one of Australia’s Group of Eight, a charter member of edX and a founding member of Universitas 21, an international consortium of leading research-intensive universities.

Our 50,000-plus strong student community includes more than 13,000 postgraduate scholars and more than 12,000 international students from 144 countries, adding to its proud 230,000-plus alumni. The University has about 7,000 academic and professional staff and a $1.7 billion annual operating budget. Its major campuses are at St Lucia, Gatton and Herston, in addition to teaching and research sites around Queensland and Brisbane city. The University has six Faculties and four University-level Institutes. The Institutes, funded by government and industry grants, philanthropy and commercialisation activities, have built
scale and focus in research areas in neuroscience, biomolecular and biomedical sciences, sustainable minerals, bioengineering and nanotechnology, as well as social science research.

UQ has an outstanding track-record in commercialisation of our innovation with major technologies employed across the globe and integral to gross product sales of $11billion+ (see http://uniquest.com.au/our-track-record).

UQ has a rapidly growing record of attracting philanthropic support for its activities and will have further success in this area as an important strategic aim going forward.

Organisational Environment

One of the UQ's eight research institutes, the Sustainable Minerals Institute (SMI) consists of some 240 staff and postgraduate students covering the areas of mining and geology, mineral processing, environment and rehabilitation, social responsibility, safety and risk, water and unconventional gas. SMI is industry-focused and consequently works with many leading global resources companies and many small-medium enterprises and suppliers. SMI interacts strongly with governments and community. A priority for SMI is the development of talent and providing an environment for successful and rewarding careers. SMI was founded in 2001 and since its inception has established a reputation as a unique institution for integrated sustainable development research in the resource sector. SMI is a truly global institute with staff and students from around the world. SMI's people are also diverse in their discipline backgrounds, which range across disciplines including anthropology, geology, soil science, sociology, hydrology, environmental science, engineering and mine management.

The Institute recognises and values equity and diversity, and encourages applications from any individual who meets the requirements of this position irrespective of gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, religion, disability, age or other protected attributes. SMI strives to provide an inclusive working environment, and along with the University is committed to supporting staff with family and caring responsibilities by providing policies, programs and initiatives to help balance work and family responsibilities.


SMI comprises six major research Centres which are organised into pairs:

- SMI's Production Centres are the:
  - WH Bryan Mining and Geology Research Centre
  - Julius Kruttschnitt Mineral Research Centre

- SMI's People Centres are the:
  - Centre for Social Responsibility in Mining
  - Minerals Industry Safety and Health Centre

- SMI's Environment Centres are the:
  - Centre for Mined Land Rehabilitation
  - Centre for Water in the Minerals Industry

The position will be located in UQ's Centre for Water in the Minerals Industry (CWiMI) within the Sustainable Minerals Institute, and primarily associated with a project undertaken jointly by CWiMI and UQ’s Centre for Coal Seam Gas.

The Centre for Water in the Minerals Industry (CWiMI)

This position is placed in the Centre for Water in the Minerals Industry (CWiMI) within SMI. The successful applicant will primarily work very closely with the UQ Centre for Coal Seam
Gas (UQ-CCSG) to develop a publication and information materials regarding the geology and hydrogeology of the Surat Basin. The successful applicant may also contribute to other CWiMI and UQ-CCSG research projects as directed.

CWiMI conducts research towards achieving sustainable water management in the mining industry. We aim to develop key technologies for the measurement, monitoring and modelling of water in the context of mine operations, their surrounding environments and regional communities. Information about CWiMi may be accessed on the Centre web site at http://www.cwimi.uq.edu.au/.

This position is placed within the Regional Water and Land Resources Program. The Program conducts research and training on water and land management from site to regional scales, covering four areas of research:

- Mine site hydrology and landscapes. Regional water and land resources.
- Water accounting and reporting, and the socio-economic dimensions of water management. Regional planning tools.

Information for Prospective Staff

Information about life at UQ including staff benefits, relocation and UQ campuses is available at - http://www.uq.edu.au/current-staff/working-at-uq

The University of Queensland Enterprise Agreement outlines the position classification standards for Levels 1 to 10.

DUTY STATEMENT

Primary Purpose of Position

The Research Officer - Hydrogeology will play a key coordination role in a project that will bring together the latest scientific research regarding the structure and connectivity of aquifers in the Surat Basin (within the Great Artesian Basin). This project involves collaboration with a range of research institutions and government agencies to prepare a major publication (special edition journal or book), featuring the findings of key groundwater and geology research undertaken since 2006. In addition, the role will coordinate delivery of a multi-channel public communication strategy designed to communicate the new scientific understandings and concepts to the community. The successful candidate will also manage the project reporting requirements for the relevant funding bodies (UQ Centre for Coal Seam Gas and National Energy Resources Australia).

Duties

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

Project Management

- Develop the work program to deliver the “Resetting our understanding: A new evidence base to support planning and policy for projects affecting the Great Artesian Basin Aquifers” project
- Support the Steering Group and Editorial Panel to manage the project
- Coordinate researcher workshops as required
• Liaise and build positive working relationships with contributing authors from a range of institutions
• Effectively liaise with authors and external stakeholders (the media, industry, government and peak bodies) to identify essential findings and concepts for dissemination to specialist audiences and the broader community and develop a communication strategy and associated information materials.
• Provide strategic advice and support to the Steering Group and Editorial Panel to respond to issues as they arise
• Ensure effective liaison between UQ CCSG and the selected publisher regarding all publishing requirements and timelines
• Coordinate the launch of the main publications and the dissemination program.
• Contribute to proposal development, research and consultancy project delivery and research student supervision related to groundwater management in the mining and gas sectors.

**Scientific evaluation & communication**

• Critically compare existing publications and new material to identify key points of scientific difference
• Provide technical review of scientific contributions to the publication and coordinate the involvement of additional internal and external reviewers
• Provide recommendations to the Editorial Panel and technical feedback to contributing authors
• Provide high level editing support to contributing authors, ensuring that the standards of the selected publication are met
• Critically review the full range of new material and prepare articles that synthesise findings from multiple contributions
• Develop prototype conceptual models and other information materials for further development

**Other**

Ensure you are aware of and comply with legislation and University policy relevant to the duties undertaken, including but not exclusive to:

• the **University’s Code of Conduct**
• requirements of the Queensland occupational health and safety (OH&S) legislation and related **OH&S responsibilities and procedures** developed by the University or Institute/School
• the adoption of sustainable practices in all work activities and compliance with associated legislation and related University **sustainability responsibilities and procedures**
• requirements of the Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000, the National Code 2007 and associated legislation, and related **responsibilities and procedures** developed by the University

**Organisational Relationships**

This position reports to the Group Leader, Centre of Water in the Minerals Industry and works closely with UQ-CCSG Professorial Chair in Petroleum Hydrogeology.
SELECTION CRITERIA

Essential

- A Masters or PhD qualification in hydrogeology, hydrogeological science, water resource management or related discipline.
- Understanding of a broad range of hydrogeology subject areas, which may include groundwater modelling, recharge processes, hydrodynamic and inorganic geochemistry processes, regional and local scale processes; and the ability to develop knowledge of new topics.
- Sound understanding of structural geology and geological processes.
- Highly developed written communication skills, with the demonstrated ability to write for both academic and general audiences.
- Experience in developing innovative information materials to explain complex scientific processes and concepts.
- Demonstrated experience building strong relationships with key stakeholders in academia, industry, government and the community.
- Highly developed project management skills.

Desirable

- Experience in researching the hydrogeology of the Surat Basin
- Knowledge of the Queensland coal seam gas industry.

Qualification Verification

An appointment to this position is subject to the verification of the highest academic qualification from the conferring institution.

The University of Queensland values diversity and inclusion and actively encourages applications from those who bring diversity to the University. Please refer to the University’s Diversity and Inclusion webpage (http://www.uq.edu.au/equity) for further information and points of contact if you require additional support.

This role is a full-time position; however flexible working arrangements may be negotiated.

Accessibility requirements and/or adjustments can be directed to the contact person listed in the job advertisement.