POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title:                Postdoctoral Research Fellow – Energy Storage

Organisation Unit:            School of Chemical Engineering

Position Number:              NEW

Type of Employment:           Full-Time, Fixed Term for 2 years with possible extension (up to 2-3 years)

Classification:              Research Academic Level A

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

The School of Chemical Engineering is an international leader in the chemical engineering field and has an excellent international reputation, which has been built over four decades at the University.

With 35 academic staff, including 20 professors, the School provides quality programs and leadership in chemical engineering education, research and development, and expert consulting to support the process industries. The School conducts undergraduate teaching in the disciplines of chemical, biological, environmental and metallurgical engineering and teaches into postgraduate programs in growing fields including integrated water management and energy studies. The School’s project centered curriculum was recently chosen in a RAE & MIT study as one of six global exemplars in leading engineering education. UQ Chemical Engineering was ranked in the top 16 worldwide in the 2012 QS rankings for chemical engineering and was the top ranking school in Australia. It was also given the highest score for chemical engineering in Australia in the recent ERA study.

The School recognises and values equity and diversity, and encourages applications from any individual who meets the requirements of this position regardless of gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, religion, disability, age or other protected attributes. The School 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.

For more information about the School, please visit: www.uq.edu.au/chemeng

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
DUTY STATEMENT

Primary Purpose of Position

A postdoctoral research fellow is required for a two-year appointment with possible extension, to work on a five-year research project regarding sodium-ion capacitors. The successful candidate is expected to show creativity, independence, self-motivation, as well as leadership and management skills to ensure the success of the project he/she is associated with and to meet project milestones. The successful applicant will develop in-situ analytical tools for investigating charge storage mechanism and transport kinetics in nanopores and at electrode/electrolyte interface. The successful applicant will also be involved in supervising postgraduate and honour students who will be working closely with the research fellow. Experience on in-situ analysis techniques, electrochemistry, mass transfer in nanopores, and rechargeable batteries and electrical double-layer capacitors are strongly desirable.

Duties

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

Research
- Perform research on design and fabrication of in-situ XRD, and/or TEM, and/or NMR, and/or XPS characterisation techniques for characterising electrochemical energy storage cells.
- Perform research on investigating charge transport and storage mechanisms in nanopores and at electrode/electrolyte interfaces.
- Write and edit scientific works and publish high-quality reports and scholarly papers.
- Build links to academic colleagues with expertise in the project areas.
- Work with team members to supervise honours, masters and RHD students.
- Participate in lab management.
- Work with team members to write research proposals for funding.
- Identify IP arising from research and facilitate its protection through established University procedures.

Teaching and Learning
- Involvement in supervision of research students at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.
- Participation in class-room teaching if required.

Community Service
- Foster relations with industry, government departments, professional bodies and the wider community.
- Promote research outcomes at workshops, news papers, and meetings.

Administration
- Work with Project Leader in day-to-day management of the project and reporting requirements.
- Contribute, as required, to the processes that enable staff to manage research projects and meet project targets.
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 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
The position reports to Professor George Zhao (george.zhao@uq.edu.au), Director and Project Leader, Clean Energy and Water Research Program, School of Chemical Engineering.
SELECTION CRITERIA

**Essential**
- PhD in Physical Chemistry, or Physics, or Materials Science, or Chemical Engineering, or a related field.
- Experience on modern instrumental analysis tools.
- Skills in *in-situ* instrumental analysis methods for electrochemical cells.
- Knowledge on electrochemistry.
- Knowledge on interfacial science.
- Demonstrated skills and capability of writing scientific papers in English.
- Ability to work in a multi-disciplinary team, while taking the leading role in a specific project.
- Ability to work collaboratively with colleagues.
- Ability to actively participate in discussion and debate in English.
- Ability to work under pressure.

**Desirable**
- Knowledge of electric circuits.
- Skills in research management.
- Experience on student supervision.
- Demonstrated capability in bringing in research grants.

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.