



Job Description

Post:	Research Associate (Governance of Shale Gas), ID 54669
Department:	UCL Australia
Salary:	\$64,978 to \$79,917 pa, plus 17% superannuation
Term:	(Initial funding is for 24 months)
Grade:	Grade 7
Reporting to:	Professor Stefaan Simons, Director, International Energy Policy Institute (IEPI) and Visiting Professor Christine Trenorden, UCL School of Energy and Resources, Australia.
Role:	Research
Responsible for:	Undertaking academically rigorous research in: investigating a new governance approach to the licensing of, the exploration for, and production of shale and unconventional gas to facilitate the greater social acceptance of the industry and these activities in Australia.
Location:	UCL Australia, Adelaide.

(A) Main duties and responsibilities

The Research Associate will work as part of a dynamic and growing interdisciplinary team specialising in energy policy research. Specifically, the task is to investigate the dimensions of the public concern in relation to shale and unconventional gas and explore and recommend new governance models/policy approaches for the social licensing of the exploration for and development of shale gas in Australia.

Specifically, the successful applicant will be required to carry out research to:

1. Develop an understanding of the economic dimensions of community concerns;
2. Identify improved approaches to engagement between the community and resource developers in the strategic planning process for the development of the resources;
3. Assess where the responsibility for the collection and assessment of baseline data and knowledge should lie;
4. Suggest simpler, but more effective models of risk sharing;
5. Explore internationally for governance models and develop best practice research initiatives that consider:
 - a. regulatory licence frameworks that optimise commercial, regulatory, environmental, community and social outcomes; and

- b. how stakeholders could better 'share' the application, development and operation of licensed operations.

This project may be supported by a number of parallel projects of PhD and MSc students for which the successful applicant will be expected to provide support and co-supervision. There will also be opportunities for the successful applicant to take part in and conduct lectures within the academic programmes of UCL Australia.

As the project proceeds, the job description may be reviewed and amended in consultation with the investigators.

(B) Person Specification

Knowledge

Essential: A broad knowledge of Australian energy (oil and gas exploration and production), water and environmental (and climate change) policies and regulatory frameworks. Knowledge of the spectrum of forms of regulation and methods of monitoring and evaluation.

An understanding of the principle of post-representative or monitory democracy.

An understanding of the following concepts and their significance to civil society: social licence to operate, community engagement and human ecology.

Knowledge of approaches to community engagement and participatory governance.

Knowledge of methodologies used for the economic evaluation of eg; the impacts on the industry of the forced deferral of projects.

Desirable: Broad knowledge of the background to and impacts of the shale gas revolution in the USA (policy, regulatory, community).

A broad understanding of the merits (technical, environmental, and financial) and benefits to Australia of unconventional sources of oil and gas.

Qualifications

Essential: A PhD degree in law, governance, social science or other related discipline.

Skills

Essential: Ability to ascertain and comprehend the relevant law.

Ability to conduct high quality research to challenging deadlines.

Ability to think creatively and integrate knowledge from different disciplines.

Ability to present results clearly and accurately, both verbally and in writing.

Ability to use his or her own initiative.

Ability to communicate with project partners and other stakeholders in government, industry and professional bodies.

Excellent interpersonal, oral and written communication skills.

Desirable: Experience with supervising student research projects.

Personal qualities

Essential: Commitment to high quality academic research

Commitment to UCL's policy for equal opportunities

Desirable: Commitment to knowledge transfer and making a difference to energy security and global carbon emissions via research and education.

(C) Application procedure

To apply please submit:

- a personal covering letter detailing why you are the best person for our job and an attached statement demonstrating how you meet each of the criteria for the position;
- a brief CV which summaries your academic record; and an appendix to this CV which provides a detailed background of your publishing record and other academic achievements;
- The names, telephone numbers and email addresses of three referees and their relationship to you.

You must provide sufficient information in your application to enable the selection panel to make an informed assessment of your suitability for this role at short-listing.

Enquiries, in the first instance, should be submitted by email to Professor Stefaan Simons, stefaan.simons@ucl.ac.uk.

Applications should be submitted by email to Michaela Mocikova, m.mocikova@ucl.ac.uk.

Closing date for applications: midnight, Sunday 1 December 2013, GMT (note Adelaide time [ACDST] GMT +10.5 hours)