Announcement of Opportunity

RSO Affiliate Membership Application

# What is the RSO?

The Nuclear Waste Services Research Support Office (RSO) is a dedicated office that supports the delivery of independent evidence-based research to underpin implementation of a UK Geological Disposal Facility (GDF). A collaboration between Nuclear Waste Services, The University of Manchester, the University of Sheffield, and the wider UK academic community, our mission is to harness the UK’s vast array of academic research capabilities in geological disposal science and technology and to identify and develop research to support the safe geological disposal of the UK’s higher activity radioactive wastes. We identify and coordinate needs-driven research in geological disposal and our research programme includes wholly funded research, part funded research with UKRI and academic and industry partners, PhD studentships, and engagement in international projects.

In addition to supporting NWS to coordinate their academic research portfolio, we are growing a large community of GDF related researchers. Through coordinating workshops, webinars, training opportunities, and an annual conference we stimulate networking and improve communication between researchers and those tasked with managing the UK’s radioactive waste. The annual PhD funding call and support provided to early career researchers ensures the development of the next generation of scientists and engineers in this area and we now wish to extend this opportunity to “RSO affiliate members”.

# What is an RSO affiliate?

A researcher based at a UK university that is undertaking GDF relevant research and not already part of the RSO community (e.g. someone who isn’t financially supported by NWS but is doing GDF aligned research). RSO affiliates will be linked into the RSO and NWS research community to further support their research.

# Who is eligible?

Any UK based PhD student, PDRA or research fellow researching a topic directly relevant to the RSO’s mission of “underpinning academic research to support the delivery of a GDF.”

In the case where there is significant interest in the RSO affiliates scheme, we will limit the number of RSO affiliate memberships awarded to ~6 per year and will select the projects which align most closely with the RSO mission.

# How to apply?

If you would like to become an RSO affiliate, please completed the short form below and email it to [rso-gdf@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:rso-gdf@manchester.ac.uk).

Applications will be assessed by the RSO Core Team to ensure the research area is relevant to the GDF programme. Affiliate membership will be awarded to those undertaking relevant research until capacity is reached.

# What we can offer?

* Attendance at the RSO annual conference, including accommodation and travel
* Access to the RSO outreach training course
* Access to a vast network of researchers and technical expertise relevant to the UK’s GDF programme
* Access to NWS Subject Matter Experts, including opportunities for mentorship and direct programme engagement
* Access to samples, data or other resources where appropriate
* Access to subject relevant workshops and exchange events etc.

# What we would like in return?

We will expect you to present and share your research at our annual conference or regular webinar events, and prepare an annual update on your research in a newsletter item, blog post or similar. We also ask that you acknowledge your affiliation with the RSO where relevant in publications and outputs. We would expect the NWS SME to engage with research outputs related to geological disposal to provide contextual support for the research.

**Application form:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name |  |
| Institution |  |
| Career stage | PhD student / PDRA / Fellow |
| PI |  |
| Discipline area(s) |  |
| Project Title |  |
| Start / End dates |  |
| Funder |  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Research summary**  Please provide a short summary of why your research is relevant to the RSO and GDF programme (100 words) |
|  |
| **What support would you like the RSO or NWS to provide?**  We are able to offer mentoring and project support from NWS Subject Matter Experts. Please confirm below that you are interested in this and whether there is anything specific you would like information and input on? |
|  |

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| --- | --- |
| Are you interested in attending the RSO annual conference (Jan 11-13 2023) | Yes/No |
| Would you be willing to prepare an annual update on your research for a newsletter / blog? | Yes/No |
| Would you or your PI be willing to report outputs via ResearchFish? | Yes/No |
| Are you happy to acknowledge support from the RSO on publications / presentations? | Yes/No |

**Agreement declaration**

By signing below you agree that if awarded an RSO affiliate status:

* You will acknowledge any access to NWS samples, data, and/or expertise appropriately in relevant publications and presentations.
* If you are acknowledging the support of NWS, you will ensure that the NWS Subject Matter Expert has the opportunity to review and seek approval for the contextual content of the publication or presentation to ensure that this is in line with the current GDF position.

Signed by Applicant: ………………………………………..

Date: ……………………