

Oxford Geoengineering Programme

Seedcorn Funding 2011

1st CALL FOR PROPOSALS

About the Oxford Geoengineering Programme

The Oxford Geoengineering Programme (OGP) is a recent initiative of the Oxford Martin School, addressing questions related to geoengineering – the deliberate, large-scale intervention in the Earth's natural systems in order to limit climate change – which has become an increasing focal point for public debate. This emerging field raises a wide range of questions across many disciplines, including engineering, physical and biological sciences, ethics, politics, economics, law and governance. The OGP aims to conduct research to assess which, if any, of the proposed techniques could be employed without creating countervailing social or environmental side-effects.

For more information on the Programme visit our website at:

<http://www.oxfordmartin.ox.ac.uk/institutes/geoengineering/>

About the Oxford Martin School

The Oxford Martin School was founded in June 2005 and is a unique collaborative research effort. The focus of the School is on stimulating Oxford's research by giving the University's scholars the resources and space to think imaginatively about the problems and the opportunities that the future will bring. The work must meet the best Oxford scholarly standards, must be original and additional to work done elsewhere, and is expected to have a global impact. The Oxford Martin School has been designed to initiate new and collaborative research and encourage members of the University to take up new areas and new styles of thinking.

About the call

The present call invites interested parties to submit an application for funding of projects that support research in geoengineering in the broadest sense at the University of Oxford. The research can involve any of the disciplines mentioned above, and interdisciplinary proposals will be particularly welcome.

Who can apply

The call is open to all members of the University of Oxford, including students. Funding cannot be provided to those outside the University of Oxford. The Programme encourages collaborative projects.

Funding

The programme has a total of £60,000 to be used in 2011 as seed money for short-term research projects (typically less than 1 year). The Programme is looking to fund a small number of projects of any value up to £20,000 each. In addition it is looking to fund a small number of proposals submitted by students, with a maximum value of £1000.

Research outputs

Proposed projects must generate a definable product, clearly identified with the Programme, such as:

- a publication in a peer-reviewed journal;
- a working paper;
- a dissemination event;
- a completed student project;
- a conference, seminar or workshop

Proposals that generate a research proposal to an outside funding body will be viewed more favourably.

Proposal contents

Proposals should be a maximum of 1,000 words – excluding items (v), (vi) and (vii) below. The proposal should contain the following information in the order specified:

- (i) Title page: research title and name and affiliation of the Principal Investigator
- (ii) Project description, including methodological aspects of the project
- (iii) Relevance and impact summary
- (iv) Project management information – timelines and deliverables
- (v) Budget request, presented in standard University of Oxford grant format (Resolve 3). (The default position is that funding will be at 100% FEC, but if certain departments would prefer to budget with a greater allocation for staff time and a lesser allocation for overheads that is acceptable.)
- (vi) Research team information
- (vii) A one-page CV for each participating researcher

Please present items (i), (ii), (iii), (iv), (vi) and (vii) as a Word document and item (v) as an Excel spreadsheet.

Student applicants are not required to present item (v) in the Resolve format, but should instead present a brief budget in a format of their own choice in an Excel spreadsheet. Proposals submitted by students must be accompanied by a letter of support from their supervisor or tutor.

Evaluation criteria

A successful proposal should:

- a) Fit with the goals of the OGP
- b) Demonstrate its potential contribution to high scientific, social, economic and/or environmental impact
- c) Demonstrate high methodological rigour
- d) Demonstrate appropriate project management

Deadline for submission

The deadline for submission of proposals is 09:00 GMT on Monday 14 February 2011. Proposals should be sent by email to the Oxford Geoengineering Programme at geoengineering@oxfordmartin.ox.ac.uk . Applications received after the deadline will not be considered for funding.

Evaluation panel

Proposals will be evaluated by the Co-Directors of the Oxford Geoengineering Programme, who are:

Professor Richard Darton (Department of Engineering Sciences)
Professor Gideon Henderson (Department of Earth Sciences)
Professor Steve Rayner (Institute for Science, Innovation and Society)
Professor Julian Savulescu (Institute for Science and Ethics)

Decision notification

Applicants will be informed of funding decisions by 15 March 2011