

Guidelines for SMI Visiting Indigenous Fellows

This document contains guidelines for Visiting Indigenous Fellowships at the Sustainable Minerals Institute (SMI), The University of Queensland.¹

The Visiting Indigenous Fellowship Scheme is an activity in the SMI's Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) and aims to facilitate Indigenous involvement in collaborative research with SMI staff and higher degree by research (HDR) students and, in the process, make the academy more accessible and supportive of Indigenous interests.

Research is understood broadly within the resource extraction field; extractive industries interaction with, and impact on, the environment and society.

This scheme reflects SMI's commitment to creating further opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and supporting their empowerment. The aim is to extend the Visiting Fellows capability, while also enabling alternative voices and expertise within SMI. In light of this, it is expected that each Visiting Fellow will present a seminar, with the appropriate support from their SMI collaborator.

Eligibility

It is not a requirement for the Visiting Fellow to have formal qualifications, as we recognise that expertise comes in many forms. The primary criteria is the mutual benefit of the visit.

Visiting Indigenous Fellowships can take one of two forms:

1. A SMI staff member or HDR student can develop a research proposal in collaboration with an Indigenous individual. These visits would usually be to the SMI campus from one week to two months.
2. A group may come together with SMI staff and HDR students for a workshop on a research topic of mutual interest. These would typically last a week or less and be located at the SMI, unless there were strategic reasons to host it elsewhere.

For both forms of Fellowship, the first step is for potential applicants to collaborate with a SMI staff member or HDR student to develop a proposal. However, given this opportunity for collaboration, it is expected that SMI staff will be alert to opportunities for Visiting Fellows and also reach out through their networks to potential collaborators. Whoever is listed as the SMI collaborator will have the primary responsibility to mentor and support the Visiting Fellow during their visit.

These Guidelines will be posted with other guidelines and materials that have been developed for the SMI RAP in the one location on the SMI website.

¹ Note that these Guidelines have been modelled off the CAEPR Visiting Indigenous Fellow Guidelines (ANU).

A Proposal should identify:

1. **The topic area** being researched and the idea being investigated, discussed or pursued. Some overview should be provided regarding the importance or significance of the topic area and idea.
2. A **proposed research output**, such as a seminar presentation, article or report either in writing or using other media. In the case of group workshops this output can be the workshop itself and the networking it enables, but other possible outputs may also be envisaged.
3. **The funds** being sought. These can cover travel to and from the UQ campus from a Visitor's home base and accommodation and living expenses while at the UQ campus. If the Visitor is not employed or cannot undertake the Fellowship as part of their current paid employment, consideration may also be given to providing a wage via casual employment for the duration of the Fellowship.
4. The **proposed timing** and duration for the Fellowship. The one week minimum timeframe is only feasible if the visitor lives in Qld and an airfare is not required. If an airfare is required a minimum of two weeks on campus is a reasonable expectation.

Fellowship Proposals should be accompanied by:

- for *an individual SMI Visitor*, a brief curriculum vitae, outlining the person's current and past experience and relevance to the proposed topic.
- for *group workshops*, a list of intended Indigenous attendees and their current affiliation with Indigenous community or other organisations of relevance to the proposed topic.

Proposals will be assessed on merit relative to funds sought and engagement achieved between SMI and Indigenous people/ communities.

Proposals can be developed and lodged at any time, a Visiting Indigenous Fellowships Committee will be convened to assess proposals as they come in.

Proposals and attachments should be emailed to s.holcombe@uq.edu.au with the subject line 'Visiting Indigenous Fellowship Proposal'.