



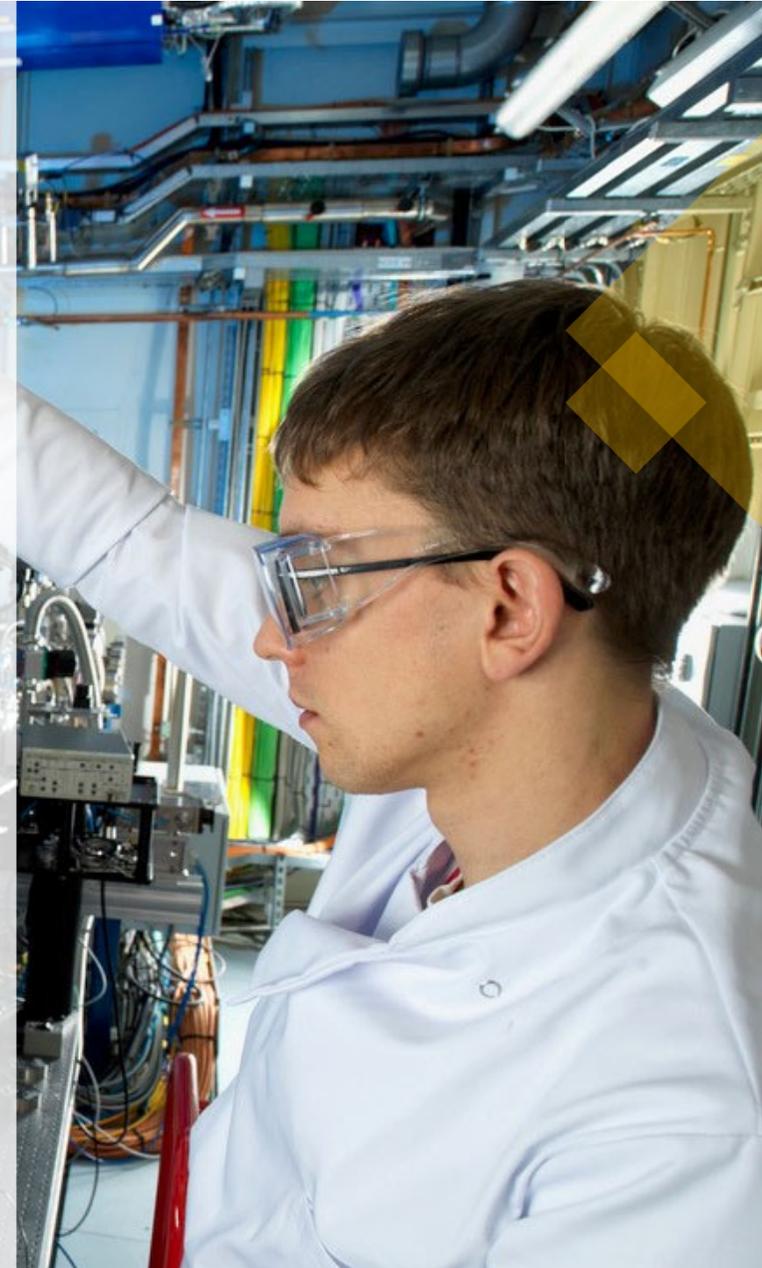
Radioactive Waste Management University Research Support Office

RWM RSO PhD Project Fund – 2021

Sam Shaw

RWM RSO Overall Aims

- Deliver world-leading research from the UK's academic research community that will underpin the safety case for a geological disposal facility;
- Support UK universities to access geodisposal research funding that will underpin our geological disposal programme;
- Develop the next generation of geodisposal research expertise to support the national programme.



RWM RSO PhD Project Fund

Aims

- Develop key skills required for RWM's research mission over the coming decades, and to help deliver the next generation of geodisposal experts
- Develop fundamental understanding of technologies and processes related to the geological disposal of radioactive waste
- Encourage collaboration and communication between RWM and the academic community.



Scheme overview

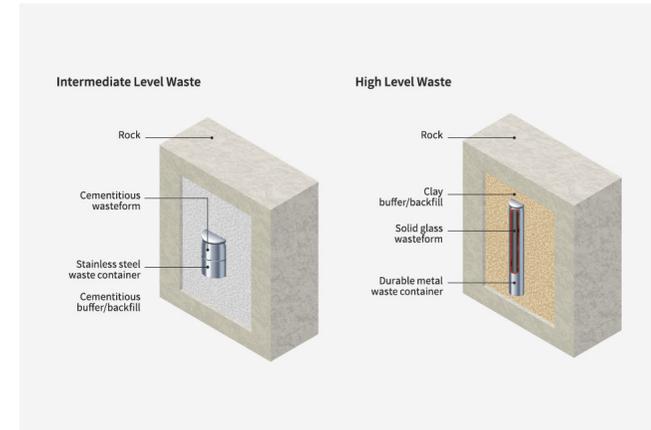
- Annual funding call for 5+ years and *ad hoc* calls for specific projects
- Expecting to fund 4-6 PhD studentship per year
- Fund 4 year PhD project starting September 2021
- Cost < £120,000 per project

Project Research Areas

- Exploring the long-term evolution of Glass and Ceramic wasteforms
- Non-human biota in safety assessments – protecting our wildlife
- Ventilation of a Geological Disposal Facility
- Radionuclide Retention in Aged Cement
- Social Histories of Geological Disposal
- Open topic

Project Specific topics

- Groundwater



Application process and timeline

- Launch Autumn – RSO website www.rso-gdf.ac.uk
- Application form/assessment criteria
 - Project Description
 - Alignment to RWM Research Strategy
 - Skills/capacity generation
 - Added value
- Applications from researchers who have not previously received funding from RWM are particularly encouraged.
- Announcement of funding early new year 2021

Finances

- Total cost of <£120,000.
- Co-funding – 50% funding from other source strongly encouraged, e.g.
 - UKRI CDT's or DTP's e.g.
 - Nuclear Energy - GREEN CDT - EPSRC
 - Centre for Doctoral Training in Nuclear Energy Futures - EPSRC
 - University funds

Student Cohort Activities

- Induction including starter pack
- Annual RSO meeting
- RWM supervisor for each project
- Training activities
 - Communication
 - Outreach

