

JCU-Xstrata research fellow

Position statement (summary)

\$64000 to \$104000 p.a. + generous superannuation, salary-packaged car options, travel and research allowances. Based at JCU Townsville campus, with Mount Isa research work.

Xstrata Copper, in conjunction with James Cook University's Economic Geology Research Unit (EGRU), are starting an exciting new collaboration. The JCU-Xstrata Fellow will conduct collaborative research and training in minerals geoscience related to copper mining and exploration in the Mount Isa District. The position is ideally suited to a person with R&D experience in industry, academia or both, who is seeking a refreshing role in bringing together university-based research with production and exploration geology in one of the world's largest mining companies. Salary levels (Lecturer to Senior Lecturer, Associate Professor for outstanding individuals) will be based on experience and will correspond to degree of leadership and responsibility expectations. This is an initial 3 year contract with potential for permanence.

If you are looking for a unique opportunity to live on the coast, in the tropics, engaged in research in a renowned minerals geology program with a major mining company, then please contact nick.oliver@jcu.edu.au or terri.williamson@jcu.edu.au for further information, and/or see our EGRU website for full details of selection criteria and job specifications. Position closes May 11, 2007, for an intended mid-year start.

Position statement

Xstrata Copper, in conjunction with James Cook University's Economic Geology Research Unit (EGRU), are starting an exciting new collaboration through the appointment of a researcher to be involved with mining and exploration projects of interest to the discovery and extraction of copper resources in the Mt Isa district. The researcher would be based at JCU in Townsville in the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, but will spend much of their research time engaged with Xstrata and JCU geologists and students on-site in copper mining and exploration locations in northwestern Queensland. The position is ideally suited to a person with experience in industry, academia or both, who is seeking a refreshing role in bringing together university-based research with production and exploration geology in one of the world's largest mining companies. You will also have a role at JCU in delivery of parts of specific undergraduate and postgraduate courses of interest to the minerals industry.

EGRU is one of the premier economic geology research groups in the world, and a part of one of the largest Earth and Environmental Sciences Schools in Australia. With its tropical location, Townsville's modest size (150000 people), proximity to many tourist centres (especially the Great Barrier Reef and tropical rainforests), and the major mining districts of the outback, make it an attractive location both for lifestyle and professional development. Xstrata is a world leader in mining, with several major acquisitions giving it a truly global dimension. Xstrata's involvement with the Mount Isa community has

been very successful, and their commitment to this Xstrata Community Partnership Program is on the back of a long term relationship with JCU. Home to some of the world's biggest copper and lead-zinc deposits, the Mount Isa District continues to act as a magnet for working geologists and researchers.

The initial appointment will be for three years including a one year probation period; however if the collaboration is successful the position and role may become permanent. The successful candidate would be expected to lead research projects, manage and organize collaborative arrangements between Xstrata and JCU, supervise Honours and postgraduate students, and be responsible for communications between the two organizations on a routine basis. Expertise of the successful candidate could include, but is not restricted to, any specialization or combination of structural geology, geochemistry, economic geology, geostatistics, spatial/numerical modeling, geophysics, mineralogy, geochronology and petrology. An appreciation of the links in micro- to meso- to macro-scale mineral systems would be advantageous, as the research will establish key controls on the current and predicted location of copper and related resources in the Mt Isa District which currently hosts two world-class copper orebodies. Very highly developed communication skills will be necessary to meet the challenges of working in mine sites, exploration offices, the field, and the university laboratory and classroom environments.

Level: the successful candidate may be appointed in the range \$64407 to \$90372 per year equivalent to Lecturer or Senior Lecturer. Consideration will also be made for outstanding applicants wishing to apply as Associate Professor (\$94506 to \$103746), and an industry incentive loading may be negotiated above all of these levels via an Australian Workplace Agreement. Depending on the level of appointment, expectations of leadership and responsibility will vary. JCU offers generous superannuation (17%) on top of employee contributions of 7%, relocation allowance, and salary sacrifice schemes for leased cars. An allowance is also payable to cover the cost of travel and accommodation in Mount Isa. Funds have also been set aside as part of the collaboration to support research costs of projects undertaken by the employee, although other research funds would be sought by the candidate in conjunction with EGRU and Xstrata staff.

Key Selection Criteria (Level B – Lecturer)

- A PhD in geology or related fields, OR a demonstrated capacity to undertake applied research pertinent to minerals industry geoscience
- A previous history of engagement in industry-supported R&D or industry employment in mine and/or exploration geology or related fields
- A demonstrated capacity for hands-on data gathering and processing relative to research or industry projects
- Excellent communication and teamwork skills
- Previous experience in remote field and/or mine environments

Key Selection Criteria (Level C – Senior Lecturer)

- A PhD in geology or related fields, OR a demonstrated superior capacity to undertake applied research pertinent to minerals industry geoscience
- A previous successful history of engagement in industry-supported R&D or industry employment in mine and/or exploration geology or related fields
- A demonstrated capacity for superior hands-on data gathering and processing relative to research or industry projects
- Demonstrated excellence in communication and teamwork skills
- Previous experience in remote field and/or mine environments
- Previous leadership in applied research projects

Key Selection Criteria (Level D – Associate Professor)

- A PhD in geology or related fields, AND demonstrated outstanding capacity to undertake applied research pertinent to minerals industry geoscience
- A previous outstanding history of engagement in industry-supported R&D or industry employment in mine and/or exploration geology or related fields
- A demonstrated capacity for outstanding hands-on data gathering and processing relative to research or industry projects
- Outstanding communication and teamwork skills
- Previous experience in remote field and/or mine environments
- Outstanding leadership in the field

Desirable selection criteria – all levels

- Demonstrated capacity for timely job completion
- Demonstrated initiative in project generation or implementation
- Breadth of geological skills
- Experience in mineralized Precambrian terrains
- Demonstrated or potential capacity to contribute to practical skills training in university or on-site industry environments
- Able to provide practical examples of detailed observation leading to concept development.

For further information please contact the selection panel chair Professor Nick Oliver (nick.oliver@jcu.edu.au) and the human resources officer for the faculty of Science, Engineering and IT, Terri Williamson (terri.williamson@jcu.edu.au).

Applications close May 11th 2007 for intended commencement July 1st or thereabouts.