AAPG FOUNDATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS · 2027 GRANT CYCLE

# AEGIS

## Advanced Energy Geoscience Innovation and Support

The AAPG Foundation invites U.S. university faculty to propose applied energy geoscience research projects that train the next generation of geoscientists. AEGIS grants fund research of interest to industry and support graduate students through to the completion of their degrees.

| AT A GLANCE | |
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| **Award** | Up to $100,000 per project, paid over two years |
| **Project length** | 24 months (up to 36 months for projects supporting Ph.D. students) |
| **Who may apply** | Faculty and researchers at accredited U.S. institutions who are eligible to serve as Principal Investigator |
| **Must include** | A full-time graduate student stipend in each budget year |
| **Indirect costs** | Capped at 10% of modified total direct costs |
| **Deadline** | **Friday, December 11, 2026** |

## 1. Why AEGIS

The role of geoscience and geoscientists in the energy sector remains important, but it is changing as the industry adapts and evolves. Uncertainty about the future job market, driven by industry consolidation, combined with declining public interest in the earth sciences, has resulted in lower funding and falling enrollments in the applied geoscience graduate programs that have traditionally trained students for energy geoscience careers.

This reality creates challenges for both academia and the energy industry. Universities are struggling to attract and fund enough students to sustain applied geoscience degree programs. The energy industry needs to secure a next-generation workforce trained to work with and integrate outcrop, well log, and seismic data to properly characterize and develop energy, mineral, and water resources, as well as subsurface storage potential.

> *"Growing workforce and skills gaps threaten the capacity of government and industry to meet future needs in critical minerals, energy resource, and subsurface storage assessment, underscoring the need for stronger university-to-workforce training pathways."*
>
> — National Petroleum Council, *American Resources for a Secure Future* (2026)

The AAPG Foundation, established in 1967, is a 501(c)(3) public charity with a strong interest in addressing these challenges. Its vision is to support a strong and vibrant community of energy geoscientists focused on

serving the world's current and future needs for petroleum, energy minerals, and related environmental geoscience.

## 2. Purpose and Objectives

AEGIS advances energy and related geoscience research to support a new generation of geoscientists by:

- **Funding research** that focuses on applied geoscience issues of interest to industry; and
- **Supporting graduate students** in their M.Sc. or Ph.D. research, leading to the successful completion of their degrees.

By engaging both industry and academia through AEGIS, the AAPG Foundation aims to:

- Identify and support applied geoscience research and technology development at U.S. universities that advances understanding of issues of interest to industry.
- Enhance industry–academic interaction and cooperation, giving graduate students practical experience and research opportunities that lead them to applied geoscience careers in industry, academia, and government.
- Support and highlight existing government and university research efforts to accelerate technology transfer.
- Foster a culture of innovation in applied energy geoscience.

AEGIS is about more than funding research and giving students relevant experience. It is about identifying and supporting graduate students, faculty, and industry professionals who are inspired by our profession and its ability to benefit humanity by ensuring affordable and reliable energy.

## 3. Program Focus

AEGIS focuses on innovation and on advancing the understanding of subsurface geoscience systems. Enhancing oil and gas production has been the Foundation's historical focus and remains an important priority. The Foundation's Trustees recognize that a better understanding of subsurface systems has much broader applications across energy geoscience, and they support this expansion.

### Suggested project topics include:

- Resource exploration
- Advanced reservoir characterization
- Enhanced oil recovery
- Geomechanics of fracture stimulation
- Sustainable development
- Environmental topics related to oil and gas production (e.g., produced water disposal)

We encourage you to be creative and to describe how your research connects to applied energy geoscience.

## 4. Eligibility

- Open to faculty and researchers at accredited U.S. institutions of higher learning who are eligible under their institution's policies to serve as Principal Investigator on extramural research.
- Faculty who received AEGIS grants in 2026 are not eligible for 2027 awards. Other faculty at universities that received 2026 AEGIS grants are eligible to apply.
- The project plan must include funding for graduate students.

- Cross-disciplinary projects are encouraged but should be fundamentally geoscience-based.
- Projects should generally run 24 months. Projects that support Ph.D. students may run up to 36 months.

### Budget rules

- **Faculty salary:** limited to two months (0.167 FTE) per budget year.
- **Graduate student:** each budget year must include a full-time graduate student stipend. The budget may also include that student's tuition and fee remission and benefits, as defined by the university.
- **Indirect costs:** the maximum F&A/indirect cost rate is 10% of modified total direct costs, as defined by the university's federal rate agreement.

## 5. Proposal Checklist

Organize your proposal in the following order.

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| **A** | **Contact information**<br>– Principal Investigator<br>– Grant officer or and other institutional endorsing official<br>– Co-Principal Investigator (if applicable) |
| **B** | **Title of proposed research** |
| **C** | **Abstract**<br>– 250 words or fewer |
| **D** | **Energy geoscience relevance statement**<br>– Up to 100 words describing how the proposal advances understanding of subsurface systems and its application to energy geoscience |
| **E** | **Demographic information**<br>– For the PI and Co-PI, including ORCID iD if available |
| **F** | **Budget by year, with justification**<br>– Faculty salary and graduate student stipends (see Budget Rules below)<br>– All related fringe benefits<br>– Travel (itemize each trip and describe its purpose)<br>– Laboratory and analysis fees<br>– Indirect costs (as allowable) |
| **G** | **Education and experience of PI (and Co-PI, if applicable)**<br>– All academic degrees, with when and where each was received<br>– Ph.D. thesis title and supervisor<br>– Postdoctoral appointment(s) and supervisor(s), if applicable<br>– Current and previous positions, in reverse chronological order<br>– Significant honors and awards<br>– Other pertinent biographical information<br>– Publications: all research publications and presentations, with titles, co-authors, and literature references |
| **H** | **Current and pending research support**<br>– Active research grants or other current financial support for research<br>– Any other pending grant applications |

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| I | **Collaboration**<br>– If other scientists will collaborate on the research, identify them and briefly describe the nature of each collaboration |
| J | **Technical proposal**<br>– Maximum 2,000 words describing the proposed research, plus any figures, tables, and references cited<br>– The word limit applies to the narrative text only |

## 6. Key Dates

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| **Friday, December 11, 2026** | **Proposal submission deadline** |
| **Wednesday, December 23, 2026** | Proposal scoring and ranking completed |
| **Wednesday, January 6, 2027** | Award notifications |
| **July 2027** | First-year funding transferred |
| **August 1, 2027** | Project start date |
| **July 2028** | Second-year funding transferred |

## 7. Awards

AEGIS grants are up to $100,000 each, paid over two years, whether the project period is 24 months or 36 months (for Ph.D. students). The AAPG Foundation expects to select and announce awards by January 6, 2027, and to transfer first-year funding in July 2027 and second-year funding in July 2028.

## 8. Deliverables

- **Progress reports.** Each awardee will submit regular progress reports, as outlined in the grant agreement, summarizing activities funded by the AEGIS grant since the last report, any preliminary findings, the student's progress toward the degree, and plans for the next phase.
- **Thesis or dissertation.** When the student successfully completes the degree, the faculty advisor will deliver to the AAPG Foundation a digital copy of the thesis or dissertation and a summary of the student's academic achievements.
- **Presentations and publications.** Faculty and/or students are expected to present the results of their supported research at scientific meetings and in publications, particularly at meetings convened wholly or in part by AAPG and its U.S. Sections, or to submit them to the *AAPG Bulletin* for publication (acceptance is at the sole discretion of the AAPG Editor).

### Ready to apply?

Register on Submittable and begin your application at **aapgfoundation.submittable.com**. Applications are due **Friday, December 11, 2026**.

**QUESTIONS?**

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