

## Research Associate in *Design. Product / Packaging / Service*

REQ:220021

**As part of the University's ongoing commitment to redeployment, please note that this vacancy may be withdrawn at any stage of the recruitment process if a suitable redeployee is identified.**

The School of Design and Creative Arts (SDCA) is an internationally renowned school. The School has a strong, internationally recognised research community. We discover and develop new concepts and ideas in areas related to design, ergonomics and human factors. Annually we attract over £4 million in funding from external investors and businesses. This funding helps us undertake a number of research projects which aim to have a real impact on the world around us.

### Project Description

The Perpetual Plastic for Food to Go Project [PPFTG] is an innovative three-year multi-disciplinary project funded by the by the ISCF Smart Sustainable Plastic Packaging Challenge, Natural Environment Research Council [grant number NE/V01076X/1]. The aim of the PPFTG project is to reduce the environmental, societal, and economic impact of Food-to-go [FTG] packaging. The project runs from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023.

This research project brings together Loughborough University academics with expertise in sustainable design, sustainable manufacturing, and polymer chemistry with project partners that represent the interests of all industry stakeholders and stages within the FTG supply chain; from manufacturer through to retailer and recycler. Project partners include Marks and Spencer Group plc, Klöckner Pentaplast Group, MULTIVAC UK Ltd, and Hubbub Foundation UK.

Together, we are taking a combined design-led approach of investigating smart technologies, understanding and modelling of consumer behaviour, and comprehensive supply chain value assessment, towards the design of a novel FTG circular business model. The objective is to create a working prototype of the product-service system to be evaluated via live trials with consumer and industry stakeholders.

The Research Associate will report to the projects Principal Investigator, Dr Garrath T. Wilson at Loughborough University, and work alongside a team of Co-Investigators and Research Associates from across the School of Design and Creative Arts, the School of Mechanical, Electrical and Manufacturing Engineering, and the Department of Materials.

### Job Description

**Job Grade:** Specialist and Supporting Academic Grade 6

#### Job Purpose

*The Research Associate will be responsible for conducting research in the area of design within the context of UK FTG packaging; undertaking investigation and leading the delivery of project outcomes related to project objective 4 (the creation of a working prototype of a novel future FTG Circular Product-Service System concept assessed via consumer and industry stakeholder evaluation).*

#### Job Duties

- To execute a structured design methodology, involving stakeholder workshops, towards the creative co-design of novel Food-to-Go Circular Product-Service System concepts.

- To iteratively develop, prototype and evaluate selected concepts with consumer and industry stakeholders.
- To feed back to the PPFTG project team on progress, to make recommendations for next steps.
- To attend meetings and make presentations both within the project partners working group and to external stakeholders.
- To support the project team by enhancing relationships with existing collaborators.
- To write research papers suitable for publication in high quality academic journals.
- To attend and contribute to conferences.
- To contribute to project promotion and public engagement events.
- Contribute ideas for new research and enterprise directions.
- Maintain confidentiality at all times and ensure that intellectual property (IPR) agreements are not violated.
- To assist the SDCA academic staff in the project team with the supervision of undergraduate, MSc, and PhD project work.
- Where appropriate, to deliver teaching, tutorial, and laboratory sessions to students.
- Engage in training programmes in the University (or elsewhere) that are consistent with the needs and aspirations of the project and those of SDCA.
- Undertake other duties as may be reasonably requested and that are commensurate with the nature and grade of the post.

### **Points To Note**

The purpose of this job description is to indicate the general level of duties and responsibility of the post. The detailed duties may vary from time to time without changing the general character or level of responsibility entailed.

### **Special Conditions**

All staff have a statutory responsibility to take reasonable care of themselves, others and the environment and to prevent harm by their acts or omissions. All staff are therefore required to adhere to the University's Health, Safety and Environmental Policy & Procedures.

All staff should hold a duty and commitment to observing the University's Equality & Diversity policy and procedures at all times. Duties must be carried out in accordance with relevant Equality & Diversity legislation and University policies/procedures.

Successful completion of probation will be dependent on attendance at the University's mandatory courses which include Respecting Diversity and, where appropriate, Recruitment and Selection.

### **Organisational Responsibility**

Reports to the Principal Investigator, Dr Garrath T. Wilson.

## Person Specification

Your application will be reviewed with respect to meeting the essential and desirable criteria listed below.

Your application will be reviewed against the essential and desirable criteria listed below. Applicants are strongly advised to explicitly state and evidence how they meet each of the essential (and desirable) criteria in their application. Stages of assessment are as follows:

- 1 – Application
- 2 – Test/Assessment Centre/Presentation
- 3 – Interview

### Essential Criteria

Area	Criteria	Stage
Experience	Background in design	1,2,3
	Experience of executing and evaluating design research projects	1,2,3
	Authoring original work for academic journal papers, conference papers or technical reports	1
Skills and abilities	Ability to undertake the duties and responsibilities of the post	1,3
	Ability to analyse and synthesize qualitative datasets	1,3
	Capable of running creative co-design workshops with project partners, academics, and other stakeholders	1,2,3
	Ability to produce or manage the production of prototypes suitable for evaluation by stakeholders.	1,2,3
	Excellent written and oral communication skills	2,3
	Self-motivated with ability to meet deadlines	3
	Excellent interpersonal, and organisational skills	2,3
	Working knowledge of qualitative data analysis software, for example NVivo	1
	Ability to write project reports and make technical presentations to industrial and academic research groups	1
	Knowledge of relevant Health & Safety issues	3
Training	Demonstrate evidence of having undertaken further training	1
Qualifications	PhD (or near completion)	1
Other	Commitment to observing the University's Equal Opportunities policy at all times.	1,3

### Desirable Criteria

Area	Criteria	Stage
Experience	Experience in public engagement and STEM activities	1,2,3
	Experience of project management with multiple stakeholders	1,3
	Developing proposals for funding from external agencies	1
	Working in a high quality academic research environment	1
	Experience of teaching and / or supervision of students in relevant areas	1,3
Skills and abilities	Authoring original work, in the highest quality refereed academic journals	1

	A strong publication track record	1
	Knowledge of current EU and UK Government policy in the area of plastic waste	1,2,3
	Working knowledge of the Food to Go sector	1,2,3
Qualifications	PhD (or near completion) in Design or related field	1

## Conditions of Service

The position is full time and fixed term for up to 18 months. Salary will be on Specialist and Supporting Academic Grade 6, at a starting salary to be confirmed on offer of appointment. The appointment will be subject to the University's Terms and Conditions of Employment for staff grade 6 and above, details of which can be found [here](#).

The University is committed to enabling staff to maintain a healthy work-home balance and has a number of family-friendly policies which can be found [here](#).

The University offers a wide range of employee benefits which can be found [here](#).

We also offer an on-campus nursery with subsidised places, subsidised places at local holiday clubs and a childcare voucher scheme (further details are available at: <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/services/hr/az/childcare-information---page.html>)

In addition, the University is supportive, wherever possible, of flexible working arrangements. We also strive to create a culture that supports equality and celebrates diversity throughout the campus. The University holds a Bronze Athena SWAN award which recognises the importance of support for women at all stages of their academic career. For further information on Athena SWAN see <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/services/hr/athena-swan/>

## Applications

The closing date for receipt of applications is **7 February 2022**.