School of Design and Creative Arts

Research Assistant in Textile Biotechnology

Job Ref: REQ260845

School/Department summary:
The School of Design and Creative Art's mission is to provide creative, innovative solutions to problems faced by contemporary societies both locally and internationally, through the practical application of our expertise in design and creative arts. Furthermore, our staff and students work with a number of businesses around the world, using our expertise and knowledge to help realise a wide range of projects and ideas. Our lasting partnerships with industry are key to the vibrant culture within our School. We are proud to maintain strong links with existing partners and alumni and are committed to establishing and growing new relationships with businesses nationally and internationally.

Project Description:
Scaling-up bioprocesses for fibre separation of mixed textile waste for circularity project is funded by the UKRI Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) Follow on Funding grant and focuses on the development and scaling-up of enzyme-based biotechnology to recover valuable resources from mixed textile waste. The project team is led by Prof. Jinsong Shen (De Montfort University) working closely with project co-leads Dr Chetna Prajapati (School of Design and Creative Arts, Loughborough University) and Dr Edward Smith (De Montfort University). You will join the project team as a Research Assistant (based as Loughborough University) to support the development of project deliverables alongside a Research Fellow (based at De Montfort University).

Job Description

Job Family and Grade: Specialist and Supporting Academic Grade 5

Job Purpose
The purpose of this lab-based role is to assist the research team with progressing project objectives by conducting routine laboratory experiments and analysing data under guidance from the project team. The postholder will work closely with a Research Fellow based at De Montfort University and will play a vital role in delivering project outcomes.

Job Duties

- Assist with the delivery of research project outcomes by planning, organising, and undertaking laboratory experiments, ensuring that research activities are completed accurately, safely and within agreed timescales, while managing an established workload and prioritising tasks effectively.
- Apply in-depth knowledge of textile processing and relevant scientific methodologies to conduct experimental work, analyse results, and contribute towards achieving project objectives.
- Operate, maintain, and utilise specialist laboratory equipment, analytical instruments, and relevant IT systems for data collection, analysis, and reporting.
- Work independently on routine research activities, seeking advice from senior colleagues when required, and contribute to project success through the identification of priorities, potential risks, and resource requirements.

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- Gather, organise, analyse, and interpret experimental data, preparing technical reports, summaries, presentations, and other research outputs for review by the project team and external partners.
- Communicate effectively with the project team and external partners to share progress, relevant information, and support the successful delivery of research activities.
- Travel to attend project meetings (as required) and make presentations, ensuring that relevant information is communicated effectively to project team and partners.
- Maintain and develop networks with internal and external collaborators to support research activities, knowledge sharing, and future research opportunities.
- Work collaboratively as an active member of the research team while demonstrating initiative and independent action in undertaking assigned responsibilities and contributing to the wider objectives of the project.
- Assist in the preparation of research publications, conference papers, and other scholarly outputs that contribute to the dissemination and impact of research.
- Engage in training programmes in the University (or elsewhere) that are consistent with the needs and aspirations of the project.
- Always maintain confidentiality and ensure that intellectual property (IPR) agreements are not violated.

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 outlined in the document.

Organisational Responsibility

Reports to: Dr Chetna Prajapati, Senior Lecturer in Textiles

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Person Specification

Your application will be assessed based on the essential and desirable criteria listed below.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to explicitly demonstrate how they meet each essential (and desirable) criteria at the application stage. The criteria that you need to demonstrate in your application will be listed as Stage 1 in the table below.

Stages of assessment are as follows:

1 – Criteria measured at Application
2 – Criteria measured at Test/Assessment Centre/Presentation
3 – Criteria measured at Interview

Essential Criteria:

Area	Criteria	Stage
Experience	Knowledge and understanding of textiles fibres and materials.	1, 3
	Knowledge of textile wet processing methods, including colouration and finishing.	1, 3
	Some experience of planning and undertaking research at a postgraduate level in Textile Technology, Technical Textiles, Material Science, Chemistry, or other relevant subject.	1, 3
	Experience of planning, progressing and prioritising work.	1, 3
Skills and abilities	Skills in conducting lab work, data collection, problem solving, analysis and evaluation methods appropriate for material and product development.	1, 3
	Ability to communicate to academic and external partners (verbal and written), and work methodologically to complete tasks and project workflows.	1, 3
	Ability to work both independently and collaboratively as part of a research team.	1, 3
	Excellent written and oral communication skills	1, 3
	Self-motivated with the ability to meet deadlines	3
	Excellent interpersonal and organisational skills	3
	Ability to write project summaries, reports and present technical information.	1, 3
	Knowledge of relevant Health & Safety issues when working in a lab.	1
Training	Willingness to undertake appropriate training and to adopt new procedures as and when required.	3
Qualifications	A relevant undergraduate and postgraduate degree in Textile Technology, Technical Textiles, Material Science, Chemistry, or other relevant subject.	1
Other	Demonstrate an ability to behave in a way that adheres to equitable and inclusive working practices, while respecting diversity of thought and supporting freedom of speech and expression.	1,3

Desirable Criteria:

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Area	Criteria	Stage
Experience	Knowledge of textile processing with enzymes.	1, 3
	Experience in conducting textile testing, and material quality evaluation using established standards.	1, 3
	Authoring original work for academic journal papers, conference papers or technical reports.	1, 3
Qualifications	PhD (or near completion) in the related areas.	1

Conditions of Service

The appointment will be subject to the University's Terms and Conditions of Employment relevant to the job grade.

Shared University Responsibilities

As a member of the Loughborough community, you are expected to:

- Take reasonable care of yourself, others and the environment, and to prevent harm by your acts or omissions. All staff are therefore required to adhere to the University's Health, Safety and Environmental Sustainability Policies & Procedures.
- Support and contribute to the University's commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI), while carrying out all duties in a way that respects these principles and upholds the right to free expression. Further information about EDI at Loughborough and our strategic aims is available on our website

Our Purpose, Vision, and Values

Our purpose, Vision and Values underpin all that we do and shape how we work together at Loughborough.

We're proud to promote our values: **Adventurous**, **Collaborative**, **Creative**, **Authentic** and **Responsible**. Our people bring these values to life every day, and they are central to the positive and supportive culture that makes Loughborough unique.

If you join us, you'll be encouraged to bring these values to life in your own work and contribute to the positive, supportive culture that makes Loughborough unique.

Read more about our **vision and values**.

Our Accreditations

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We are proud to be a Race Equality Charter Member. The Charter aims to improve the representation, progression and success of all minority ethnic staff and students within higher education and address issues of racism within higher education institutions (HEIs).

We are proud to be a Disability Confident Employer and have adopted a proactive approach to employing disabled people and to creating a more diverse workforce. We ensure that our recruitment processes are inclusive and accessible. We guarantee to offer an interview to all applicants who have declared themselves with a disability, provided they meet the essential criteria for a role. We proactively anticipate and provide reasonable adjustments and support existing employees who acquire a disability or long-term condition to thrive in the workplace.

We are a real living wage employer, and our Living Wage Employer Mark shows our commitment to paying our staff according to the cost of living.

We are proud supporters of the City of Sanctuary movement and delighted to be recognised as a University of Sanctuary. This national network brings together, university staff, lecturers, academics and students, who together work to make Higher Education institutions place of safety, solidarity and empowerment for people seeking sanctuary.

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.

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