

Job position: Research Associate

Location: Ananas Anam (Somerset House WC2 1LA London, or from home)

Due date for applications: November 2nd

Interview: November 5th or 6th, 2020

Start Date: November 2020

Duration: 9 months 0.5 FTE

Salary:

9 months 0.5 FTE basis salary: £11,250 (equivalent annual gross salary: £30,000)

Submit your CV and cover letter to Careers@ananas-anam.com

Background:

Ananas Anam, the company behind Piñatex (an innovative natural material made from pineapple leaf fibre), under the program “The Sustainable Innovation Fund: round 1” developed by Innovate UK, has been granted together with the centre of circular design at UAL to develop the project named “Sustainable alternatives for COVID-19 PPE: biodegradable wipes and reusable mask made of pineapple leaf fibre”.

Innovate UK, as part of UK Research and Innovation, is investing up to £10 million to fund single and collaborative research and development projects as part of the Sustainable Innovation Fund. The aim of this competition is to help all sectors of the UK rebuild after the effects of COVID-19.

This post is an exciting opportunity for a Post Graduate Researcher with demonstrable industry and research experience to work as the Research Associate, facilitating a novel collaborative project, between Ananas Anam and Centre for Circular Design (UAL).

The successful candidate will work with the Project Lead at Ananas Anam and research experts in the Centre for Circular Design at the Chelsea School of Art, University of the Arts London.

You will be employed by Ananas Anam with its office based in The Somerset House London (if permitted under COVID-19 guidance), combined with working from home.

The main objectives of the project are to provide Food grade standard pineapple leaf fibres to be used to produce hygienic wipes and develop pineapple leaf fibre-based yarns for the manufacturing of 3D knitted masks.

Purpose of the Role:

The main purpose of this role is to work collaboratively with the Project lead at Ananas Anam, the project team at the Centre for Circular Design (UAL) and technology providers, facilitating the delivery of the R&D project's key objectives, including:

- Making cellulosic based fibres including pineapple leaf fibres microbiologically compliant to the standards of hygienic wipes via a sterilisation process
- Developing a yarn using a blend of sterilised cellulosic based fibres suitable for facemask application using 3D knitting or similar technology
- Identifying and testing with the Project Lead existing sustainable and industrial technologies to achieve the above products
- Sharing data and communication with the centre of circular design to facilitate the achievement of their objectives for the project (Life cycle and end of life network)

This is a key role for the project and requires an experienced researcher with appropriate industry experience in sustainability, textile production and finishing technology and an interest and/or experience in applied and collaborative research. The role also requires excellent organisational, communication and project management skills.

Duties and Responsibilities

- To facilitate the R&D collaboration between the company and the university for the duration of the project.
- To undertake the research and development of the project's core aims, under the supervision of the Project Lead for the duration of the project.
- To develop, facilitate and document the process of the key project deliverables.
- To successfully execute the project's implementation plan, refining and adjusting where needed in consultation with the Project Lead.
- Travel (if permitted under COVID-19 guidance) to attend meetings and make presentations both within the project partners working group and to external stakeholders.
- Collaborate with and assist the Project Lead on the running of the project.
- Whenever relevant, work with the Principal Investigator and Co-Investigators to produce papers for publication within International and National Journals and presentation and conferences.
- Maintain confidentiality at all times and ensure that intellectual property (IPR) agreements are respected.
- Engage in training programmes that are consistent with the needs and aspirations of the project and those of the company.

- Perform such duties consistent with the role as may from time to time be assigned anywhere within the company.
- Undertake health and safety duties and responsibilities appropriate to the role
- Make full use of all information and communication technologies in adherence to data protection policies to meet the requirements of the role and to promote organisational effectiveness

Person Specification:

Qualifications

Post graduate qualification in cellulosic and natural fibre derived textile materials and their performance. (Essential)

Comprehensive knowledge of the hygienic textile sector gained through research and/or relevant R&D industry work. (Essential)

Experience:

Experience in working on material performance and finishing technologies at sampling and prototyping stages. (Essential)

Experience in cellulosic and natural fibre derived textile materials for hygienic market and their performance. (Essential)

Experience in cellulosic and natural fibre and blend derived yarn processes and developments. (Essential)

Experience in circular textile and/or material development.

Experience in undertaking research and/or R&D with external collaborators, designing of experiments and data analysis.

Other

Communicates effectively orally and in writing to adapt the message to a diverse audience in an inclusive and accessible way.

Strong presentation skills.

Ability to collect and to analyse data related to textiles and related technology.

Excellent organisational and project management skills.

Plans, prioritises, and manages resources effectively to achieve long term objectives.

Suggests practical solutions to new or unique problems.

Works collaboratively in a team and where appropriate across or with different professional groups and industries.

Can take the appropriate level of responsibility and act with initiative.

Builds and maintains positive relationships with key stakeholders related to project activities.

Benefits

As part of the Ananas Anam team you will have access to the benefits of working at Somerset House:

- Free and safe bike parking space
- Free entry to Somerset House ticketed exhibitions on Mondays (Covid-19 permitting)
- Discounts across Somerset House cafes, restaurants and shops

Equal opportunity employer

We aim to be an equal opportunities employer and we are determined to ensure that no applicant or employee receives less favourable treatment on the grounds of gender, age, disability, religion, belief, sexual orientation, marital status, or race, or is disadvantaged by conditions or requirements which cannot be shown to be justifiable.