Aston University

Candidate Brief

Polymer Scientist – KTP Associate

Reference: R180472

Salary: £32,000 per annum

Contract Type: Fixed Term (24 months)

Basis: Full Time

Closing Date: 23.59 hours GMT on Wednesday 28th November 2018

Interview Date: To be confirmed

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Athena SWAN Member

Job description

Job Purpose:

This is an exciting opportunity for a candidate with a PhD in Polymer Science, or equivalent experience in a relevant role, to develop an advanced polymeric material, primarily for the gas pipe industry. This position is a 24 month fixed term contract, with a £2k per annum dedicated training budget tailored towards your personal development.

This 24 month project takes the form of a Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) (http://www.ktponline.org.uk/), which provides you with practical and formal training and the availability of support from experienced mentors from the Company, Aston University and InnovateUK. You will be based predominantly at MW Polymers in Derby, but will also be required to spend periods of time in Aston University's laboratories.

The Company

MW Polymers is a family-run company with over 40 years' experience of creating and manufacturing adhesives, sealants, and coatings for pipes across multiple industries. It has established a reputation for quality products, innovation, and reliability. For more information, visit: http://www.mwpolymers.co.uk/.

The Project

The company has partnered with Aston University on this KTP project to develop a new polymer system as a 'maintenance and repair' solution for metallic pipes in the gas & water industry. The solution will extend operational life using innovative polymer formulations to reduce supply disruption and create both energy & operational cost savings for utility networks.

This is an exciting opportunity to carry out research in molecular design and polymer fabrication & characterisation.

Further details of the main duties and responsibilities of the role are detailed below.

Main Duties/Responsibilities:

Main Project Requirements (include but not limited to):

- Design research based on user needs and incorporating customer inputs, based on fundamental principles from the scientific literature.
- Design and test new polymer systems.
- Drive the project- organising relevant meetings and project timelines.
- Develop continuous improvement plan.
- Deliver staff workshops & training to embed new capabilities.
- Work in both company and academic environments.

Additional responsibilities

- Engage in continuous personal and professional development in line with the demands of the role, including undertaking relevant training and development activities to develop themselves and support the development of others.
- Ensure and promote the personal health, safety and wellbeing of staff and students.
- Carry out duties in a way which promotes fairness in all matters and which engenders trust.
- Promote equality of opportunity and support diversity and inclusion as well as working to support the University's environmental sustainability agenda and practices.

Person specification

	Essential	Method of assessment
Education and qualifications	PhD in Polymer Science or equivalent industrial experience.	Application form, CV
Experience	Previous experience in an R&D setting (academic or industrial) Managing projects and demonstrating ability to deliver to agreed costs & timescales.	Application form, CV, interview and presentation
Aptitude and skills	Ability to design research based on user needs and incorporating customer inputs, based on fundamental principles from the scientific literature. Excellent written and verbal communication skills. Strong organisational skills to take project ownership and achieve agreed objectives. Fit in with the organisational culture and present a positive image of the company to clients. Appreciation of applicability of technology innovation to market. Self-motivated, with the ability to work either solo or as part of multiple teams.	Interview and presentation

	Desirable	Method of assessment
Experience	Industrial/ commercial experience gained outside of academia. Broad experience in the coatings industry would be an advantage.	Application form, CV, interview and presentation
Aptitude and skills	Experience with materials testing and extensive knowledge of material characterisation.	Interview and presentation

How to apply

You can apply for this role online via our website www.aston.ac.uk/jobs. Applications should be submitted by 23.59pm on the advertised closing date. All applicants must complete an application form, along with your CV.

Any CV sent direct to the Recruitment Team and Recruiting Manager will not be accepted. If you require a manual application form then please contact the Recruitment Team via recruitment@aston.ac.uk.

Contact Information

Enquiries about the vacancy:
Name: Professor Paul Topham
Job Title: Professor of Chemical Engineering & Applied Chemistry
Email: p.d.topham@aston.ac.uk

Enquiries about the application process, shortlisting or interviews:
Recruitment Team via recruitment@aston.ac.uk or 0121 204 4500.

Additional Information

Visit our website www.aston.ac.uk/hr for full details of our salary scales and benefits Aston University staff enjoy

Salary Scales: http://www.aston.ac.uk/staff/hr/payroll-pensions-and-benefits/salary-scales/

Benefits: http://www.aston.ac.uk/staff/hr/payroll-pensions-and-benefits/

Working in Birmingham: http://www.aston.ac.uk/birmingham/city-living/

Employment of Ex-Offenders: Under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974, a person with a criminal record is not required to disclose any spent convictions unless the positions they applying for is listed an exception under the act.

Eligibility to work in the UK: Candidates who are not citizens of the United Kingdom, or another EEA member country, should check their eligibility to enter or remain the UK in advance of making any job application via the UKVI website https://www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/work-visas. Before applying you should ensure that you meet the requirements, including meeting the English language standards. If you do not meet the eligibility criteria, any application for a work visa would be unsuccessful

Equal Opportunities: Aston University promotes equality and diversity in all aspects of its work. We aim to ensure, through our admissions policies for students, and our staff recruitment and selection processes that we encourage applications from all groups represented in the wider community at a local, national and international level.

The University will endeavour not to discriminate unfairly or illegally, directly or indirectly, against student or potential students, staff or potential staff. This commitment applies to all functions of the University and to any stage of an individual's career.

An Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form is included within the application form. Data you provide on the Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form will be included in a general database, for statistical monitoring purposes, enabling the University to monitor the effectiveness of its Policy, Codes of Practice and Guidelines on Equal Opportunities in Employment. Individuals will not be identified by name.

Data Protection Act 1998: Your personal data will be processed in compliance with the DPA and from 25 May 2018 with the GDPR. The University's Data Protection Policy and Privacy Notices, including the Job Applicant Privacy Notice can be found at http://www.aston.ac.uk/data-protection. Your application will only be used to inform the selection process, unless you are successful, in which case it will form the basis of your personal record with the University which will be stored in manual and/or electronic files. Information in statistical form on present and former employees is given to appropriate outside bodies.

Full details of our terms and conditions of service and associated policies and procedures are available online at www.aston.ac.uk/hr