Faculty of PVAC (Performance, Visual Arts and Communications)
School of Design

Research Assistant (Nonwovens Research Group)
Fixed term for up to 12 months

As part of a recently awarded industrial research project you will be responsible for assisting in a programme of scientific research involving the development of new filter media and means of instrumental characterisation. You will be responsible for ensuring that technical milestones and deliverables are met according to the technical work-plan, liaising with the external sponsor, organising technical progress meetings and assisting with the design and development of new test equipment. You will be qualified to PhD level (or be close to obtaining a PhD), or equivalent, preferably in the area of textile science and technology and have a BSc in textile technology, materials science or a related engineering discipline.

University Grade 6 (£25,769 to £30,738 p.a.) It is likely that an appointment will be made at £25,769 since there are funding limitations which dictate the level at which the appointment can start.

Informal enquiries may be made to Professor Stephen Russell, tel +44 (0)113 343 3705, email s.j.russell@leeds.ac.uk

Closing Date: 24 June 2016 (Redeployment closing date 9 June 2016)

Ref: PVDES1034

Click here for further information about working at the University of Leeds www.leeds.ac.uk/info/20025/university_jobs
Job Description

Responsible to: Professor Stephen Russell
Reports to: Professor Stephen Russell

Main duties and responsibilities

You will assist in delivery of the research programme, analysis and interpretation of the results and the development of new ideas based on the outcome of the experimental results. You will assist in the preparation of detailed technical reports for dissemination within the project team meetings, contribute to the preparation of scientific papers for publication and oral presentations. This will require a solid understanding of mathematical and statistical methods used in engineering.

The research will require frequent liaison and discussions with research colleagues and support staff as well as external industrial collaborators in the nonwovens industry. You will participate actively in research progress meetings, engage in detailed technical discussions and contribute to planning, decision-making and problem solving as the research progresses. You will plan your own day to day research activities within the framework of the agreed research programme and under the direction of the Project Director and co-ordinate your activities with others in the team. You will assist in the guidance of other researchers as required and where appropriate assist in the supervision of student projects.

In this role you will:

- Undertake and contribute to the delivery of the agreed research programme.
- Gather and analyse data and information, interpreting the results for use by self and others.
- Engage in complex analyses and interpretation, working with research colleagues.
- Interpret and regularly communicate research results and analysis to research colleagues.
- Participate in discussions and share information, proactively and reactively liaising on a day-to-day basis to generate and adapt information in the research programme.
- Plan your own day-to-day research activities within the framework of the agreed research programme and under the direction of the Project Director and co-ordinate your activities with others in the team.
- Provide guidance, as required, to staff and any students who may assist with the research.
- If required, assist in the supervision of student projects.
- Contribute to on-going technical decision-making affecting the work of the research team.
• Deal effectively with problems, which may affect the achievement of research objectives and deadlines, referring more complex problems to the Project Director.

• Contribute to planning decisions affecting the progress of the research programme.

• Competently utilise PC-based statistical methods and scientific modelling tools.

• Contribute to the production of technical plans based on the strategic objectives of the project both in the university and with external commercial partners.

• Produce reports on the progress of the Project, both technical and financial, including recommendations for action, for an external audience.

• Develop relations with an external network of academic and industrial stakeholders on all matters regarding the Project, acting as the main point of contact.

• Undertake knowledge transfer and assist in the identification, development and exploitation of intellectual property working with the University’s legal and commercial advisors and commercial partners.

• Any other duties as may reasonably be required, consistent with the grade of the post.

University Values

All staff are expected to operate in line with the University’s values and standards, which work as an integral part of our strategy and set out the principles of how we work together. More information about the University’s strategy and values is available at http://www.leeds.ac.uk/comms/strategy/.
Person Specification

Essential

- Qualified to PhD level (or be close to obtaining a PhD) or equivalent in textile science and technology.
- Hold a BSc in textile technology, materials science or a related engineering discipline.
- Knowledge of nonwoven fabric technology.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills (including written).
- The ability to contribute to a decision-making process.
- Proven ability to work constructively in a team and independently.
- Ability to work to deadlines.
- Good organisational and time management skills

Desirable

- Experience of working with limited supervision.
- Knowledge of nonwoven fabric structure and properties.
- Knowledge of nonwoven filter media structure, properties and characterisation.
- Knowledge of technical textile product development.
Additional Information

The University offers generous terms and conditions of employment, a wide range of benefits, services, facilities and family friendly policies. Full details are available on the Human Resources web pages accessible at www.leeds.ac.uk/hr

The Partnership

The Partnership has been developed by students and staff and describes the mutual expectations of us all as members of the University of Leeds community. More information about the Partnership is available at http://partnership.leeds.ac.uk

Disclosure and Barring Service checks

A Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Check is not required for this position. However, applicants who have unspent convictions, cautions, reprimands and warnings, including any pending criminal proceedings must indicate this in the ‘other personal details’ section of the application form and send details to the Recruitment Officer at disclosure@leeds.ac.uk.

Disabled Applicants

The post is located in the School of Design. Disabled applicants wishing to review access to the building are invited to contact the department direct. Additional information may be sought from the Recruitment Officer, email disclosure@leeds.ac.uk or tel + 44 (0)113 343 1723.

Disabled applicants are not obliged to inform employers of their disability but will still be covered by the Equality Act once their disability becomes known.

Further information for applicants with disabilities, impairments or health conditions is available in the applicant guidance.

Further information about the School of Design can be found at http://www.design.leeds.ac.uk