

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER
PARTICULARS OF APPOINTMENT
FACULTY OF SCIENCE & ENGINEERING
SCHOOL OF MATERIALS
RESEARCH ASSOCIATE IN POLYMER CHEMISTRY
VACANCY REF: S&E-13429

Salary: £32,236 to £39,609 per annum, according to relevant experience
Hours: 1 FTE
Duration: Fixed Term from 1 March 2019 until 1 January 2020
Location: Sackville Street, Manchester

Enquiries about the vacancy, shortlisting and interviews:

Name: Prof. Michael Shaver

Email: michael.shaver@manchester.ac.uk

BACKGROUND

Research in the Shaver group focusses on the development of sustainable polymer technologies through intelligent polymer and catalyst design. We work to develop both fundamental academic projects (controlled radical polymerisation, new-to-the-world polymers) and applied industry-driven projects (hydrogels in medical diagnostics, crystallisation controllers, latex stabilisers). This appointment will be working on the EPSRC funded grant: “**Functional Polyesters from Renewable Monomers Through a New Reaction Mechanism**”.

Overall Purpose of the Job

To develop a new synthetic methodology to prepare a broad range of functional polyesters, including biodegradable polystyrene mimics, self-healing polymers and stimuli-responsive materials.

Key Responsibilities, Accountabilities or Duties

The range of duties will include:

- Conduct individual and collaborative research projects
- Write up research work for publication
- Continually update knowledge and understanding in field or specialism
- Deal with routine communication using a range of media
- Communicate complex information, orally, in writing and electronically

- Communicate material of a specialist or highly technical nature
- Liaise with colleagues and students
- Build internal contacts and participate in internal networks for the exchange of information and to form relationships for future collaboration
- Join external networks to share information and identify potential sources of funds
- Work with colleagues on joint projects, as required
- Collaborate with academic colleagues on areas of shared research interest.
- Attend and contribute to relevant meetings
- Use new research techniques and methods
- Use creativity to analyse and interpret research data and draw conclusions on the outcomes
- Contribute to collaborative decision making with colleagues in areas of research
- Use research resources, laboratories and workshops as appropriate
- Plan and manage own research activity in collaboration with others.
- Balance with help the competing pressures of research and administrative demands and deadlines
- Be aware of the risks in the work environment and their potential impact on their own work and that of others

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Essential Knowledge, Skills and Experience:

- Have, or be about to obtain, a relevant PhD (or equivalent)
- Specialist knowledge in synthetic polymer chemistry
- Experience in research methods and techniques to work within established research programmes, particularly experience in polymer synthesis and characterisation
- Excellent knowledge of sustainable polymer science
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Excellent time management and organisational skills
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Ability to liaise confidently and effectively with a range of individuals
- Flexible approach to dealing with research problems as they arise
- Willingness to learn and develop
- Ability to present in both written and oral publications
- Ability to meet deadlines
- The ability to evaluate complex data
- Ability to contribute to broader management and administrative processes.
- Ability to assess and organise resources