



Materials Scientist

Full time, Permanent

£28,000 - £35,000

Bristol, UK

We are currently looking for a Materials Scientist to contribute to development of our speciality adhesive and personal care products. We are looking for candidates able to start immediately to support delivery of a recently awarded Defence and Security Accelerator (DASA) contract. This is a lab-based role at our premises in St Philips, Bristol.

What we do

Zentraxa is a Bristol-based biotechnology company. Our custom-designed biomaterials are inspired by natural systems and precision engineered to deliver the performance enhancements our target markets are actively seeking. Providing groundbreaking solutions to difficult problems in industry and with a track record of producing adhesives for defence & medical applications, our proprietary Zentide platform allows us to discover and produce innovative, otherwise inaccessible biomaterials in a repeatable, sustainable and scalable manner. By making biomaterial solutions more effective & accessible across a range of industries, we aim to contribute to a biomanufacturing revolution and a more sustainable future.

Working at Zentraxa

We see Zentraxa as playing a key role in the long-term mission to adopt more sustainable processes, rooted in biotechnology, across an increasingly wider array of industries. Our mission is to make fermented peptides and proteins more accessible to new industries. We deliver our innovations by rigorous scientific work and thinking creatively about industrial problems. Our belief is that fundamental change requires small steps to deliver a greener future that is economically viable for all.

We provide a supportive and nurturing environment for our employees, offering opportunities for individual growth alongside delivery of the company's core mission and objectives. We ensure our employees have regular one-to-ones and progress reviews, as well as frequent team catchups and socials.

We work and communicate as a team, trusting each other to be in the right place at the right time and to do the right thing so that everyone can balance their work and home commitments in a way that works best for them. We offer flexible working, delivering to company and project needs around a schedule that works for you and your team. Other benefits include 26 days annual leave per year in addition to bank holidays, and eligibility for the company share option scheme.

What we're looking for

The main focus of the role will be to provide supporting data on our peptide material formulations and products, validating our technology claims and ensuring they meet customer defined target specifications. We are looking for candidates with hands-on experience of material characterisation techniques to work in the laboratory full time.

As material scientist, you will take a rigorous approach to sample preparation, data collection and interpretation. You will be following both well-defined test protocols as well as contributing to the development of new analytical methods that will add value to our rapidly growing technical capability. This is a new role created to ensure delivery of a recently awarded Defence and Security Accelerator (DASA) contract focussed on developing our peptide adhesives for maritime, including underwater applications. This will include close collaboration and site visits with key partners. You will also play a key role on other projects within the business including developing novel adhesive products for medical and personal care applications. Through both a creative and critical scientific approach you will ensure that we bring these products to market by meeting our own, as well as customers defined target specifications.

You will join a vibrant team of interdisciplinary scientists bringing new skills and experience into the team. You will work closely with the senior materials scientist to defined project plans, meeting key targets and deliverables on time. Alongside there is the opportunity to contribute to project strategy, giving input to the planning of experiments where appropriate. You will be expected to present and write up data suitable for integrating into product specification sheets that can be shared with key industrial partners.

You will be an integral part of our team, and your main responsibilities will be to:

- To define and implement test methodologies for materials characterisation.
- To support technology development through chemical and analytical thinking and approaches.
- Engage and collaborate outside of field of expertise and develop an interdisciplinary approach to research.
- To collaborate with internal and external stakeholders.
- To suggest and develop improvements to experimental design.
- Follow standard operating procedures to generate material characterization data on formulated products.
- Contribute to continued improvement of testing and formulation methods & protocols.
- Follow project plans, ensuring work progresses in a timely fashion.
- Write up experimental work into technical reports when required.
- Supervise and train other team members in experimental work where appropriate.
- Ensure good laboratory practice and safe working is adhered to.
- Ensure accurate records are kept allowing full traceability of any experimental data.
- Contribute to overall laboratory efficiency.

The experience you'll need

We are looking for someone who meets some or all the following criteria:

- Experience of working within a team in a lab. Experience in an industrial/commercial setting would be an advantage.
- BSc or MSc qualification, or equivalent.
- Proven ability to prioritise and manage workload
- Hands-on experience of formulation development, mixing technologies, extrusion or materials characterisation (tensile stress-strain testing, peel tests, rheology, thermogravimetric analysis, differential scanning calorimetry, and spectroscopy).
- Sound understanding of polymer chemistry. Knowledge of biochemistry/biomaterials would also be an advantage.
- Knowledge and/or experience of analytical chemistry techniques such as UV-Vis, FTIR, HPLC.
- A hunger for innovation and demonstrated contribution to research projects.
- Ability to precisely and accurately follow SOP's, review MSDS's and laboratory protocols.
- Ability to accurately and concisely report experimental work to other team members.
- Ability to troubleshoot problems independently or where appropriate asking for advice

How to apply

To apply for this position, please email your CV and a covering letter highlighting why you fit the role to jobs@zentraxa.com. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Please include "Materials Scientist" in the email subject. Any applications without a covering letter will be discarded.

NO AGENCIES PLEASE: We prefer to fill our roles without the help of recruitment agencies. Thank you in advance for respecting this.

Expected Start Date:

January 2023.

Eligibility and Expectations

- In order to qualify for this position, you **must already be authorised to live and work in the UK, we cannot sponsor visas.**
- You must have respect for others and a commitment and enthusiasm for high standards and continuous improvement
- At Zentraxa we value diversity. We are an equal opportunities employer and actively encourage applications from people of all backgrounds regardless of gender, ethnic origin, disability, age, religion or sexual orientation. Please let us know if you have any special requirements in relation to this recruitment process

Important information regarding your application:



Please note that we will not be confirming receipt of applications. With regard to an application, the procedure outlined will be followed:

- We will be running a rolling recruitment process and will close the role once it is filled.
- Zentraxa will keep records of your application strictly for recruitment purposes.
- Any recruitment documentation will be kept for 12 months following the job position being filled.
- The successful candidates' recruitment documentation will be kept in accordance with Zentraxa's Internal Personal Data Policy

If you wish for your information to be removed from our records before that date, please mention this in your application.