Senior Instrument Scientist - Secondary Processing

Department
Strathclyde Institute of Pharmacy and Biomedical Sciences
(www.strath.ac.uk/science/strathclydeinstituteofpharmacybiomedicalsciences/)

Faculty
Faculty of Science (www.strath.ac.uk/science/)

Staff Category
Technical

Reference No
474516

Reports To
Technical Project Manager

Grade:
8

Salary Range:
£43,414 - £46,042 capped due to funding

Contract Type:
Fixed Term (3 years)

FTE
1.0 (35 hours/week)

Closing Date
09/10/2022

Job Advert

The Centre for Continuous Manufacturing and Advanced Crystallisation (CMAC) is a world-class centre of excellence for medicines manufacturing research, training and translation. Working in partnership with industry, CMAC’s goal is to transform the development and manufacture of medicines. Our portfolio is designed around four key pillars to deliver: high quality manufacturing research; the workforce of the future through skills development and training; effective translation of research into industry and, to continue to develop our world leading facilities and Lab of the Future infrastructure. Further details can be found in our 2021-2026 Strategy (www.cmac.ac.uk).

CMAC are now seeking to grow our National Facility team providing operational and technical support for our infrastructure, world-class instrumentation and manufacturing research facilities to provide an environment that facilitates collaboration across academics, researchers and industry.

Applications are invited for a highly motivated Senior Instrument Scientist in Secondary Processing who has significant experience of powder processing unit operations analytical and process modelling. Candidates must have practical experience of SCADA/PC controlled systems within a laboratory, pilot plant or manufacturing environment. It is preferable to have obtained this experience in the pharmaceutical or other formulation science driven sectors.

The successful candidate will have excellent written and verbal communication skills, demonstrably lead a small team of formulation scientists, in addition to prioritising and scheduling of your own workload. The post-holder must have strong problem solving abilities, demonstrating innovation and creativity in dealing with research challenges.

Applications are invited from candidates seeking a challenging role who have a good degree in a relevant subject (Pharmaceutical Sciences, Chemistry, Engineering, Materials Science or related discipline) and who has experience in managing multiple projects.

This is an exciting and challenging position which will provide an ambitious and committed candidate with the opportunity to broaden their knowledge within a multidisciplinary environment working on ambitious collaborative projects at the academia-industry interface to deliver real impact.
Job Description

Brief Outline of Job:
This role will carry out secondary process development within the CMAC National Facility team to manage and execute projects for clients. They will manage and provide results on a suite of formulation equipment, train staff members and PhD students to deliver expert assistance. The post-holder will build on existing operating procedures and look to provide additional capabilities as service offerings. They will take an active role in managing health and safety throughout the CMAC laboratories within the Technology Innovation Centre.

Main Activities/Responsibilities:

1. Lead in the integration of powder processing and formulation services within the National Facility, liaising with other research staff in the development of the techniques and applications, producing case studies where appropriate.

2. Manage short to mid-range projects in the range of 1-6 months, seeking additional analytical support from colleagues where appropriate.

3. Liaise directly with internal and external collaborators providing experimental results, expert project support, feedback and reports in written or verbal format as required.

4. Provide direct management support and provide scientific leadership to a small team

5. Work with the Business Development & Technical Project Manager as required to develop new service offerings and input into costings for the various customers requiring access.

6. Develop and build on existing standard operating procedures, methods, reporting templates and process models for a range of formulation equipment, including but not limited to, blending, granulation, compression and Hot Melt Extrusion (HME).

7. Provide appropriate levels of training on equipment and techniques to staff and PhD students with various levels of expertise. Build an appropriate schedule of refresher training for existing users.

8. Build on existing working relationships with equipment vendors and expert support to manage the equipment.

9. Take an active role in implementing and adhering to the University’s Occupational Health and Wellbeing Policies and local rules throughout the National Facility and specifically around robust lab practices. Take on the role of Assistant Area Safety Convener (ASC) for the National Facility.

10. Undertake other support, where deemed high priority, to CMAC team members in delivering research, training, facilities or translation to industry objectives.

11. Record data in a structured manner within electronic systems, prepare written reports and records of laboratory work

12. Engage in continuous professional development. Attend suitable internal and external training events and identify additional opportunities to build on existing experience.

Person Specification

Educational and/or Professional Qualifications
(E=Essential, i.e. a candidate must meet all essential criteria to be considered for selection, D=Desirable)

E1 1st Degree in a relevant subject (Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, or related discipline

D1 PhD (or equivalent professional experience) in a relevant subject area (Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, Materials Science or related discipline

D2 Membership of relevant Chartered/professional body

Experience

E2 Excellent knowledge and appropriate experience and knowledge in formulation science including blending, granulation, compression and HME and relevant models

E3 At least five years of relevant working experience in a research facility at graduate level or above

E4 Experience in scientific equipment installation, commissioning and use

E5 Experience of operating equipment utilising control systems such as PLC/SCADA/PC
E6 Appreciation of laboratory health and safety practices (e.g. COSHH, PUWER)
D3 Experience of pharmaceutical oral solid dose forms or consumer products

Job Related Skills and Achievements
E7 Excellent interpersonal and communication skills combined with a creative drive and flexibility to work in a high-paced and evolving environment
E8 Ability to interact with a range of stakeholders from industry and academia
E9 Good project management skills and experience of managing multiple projects
E10 Excellent IT skills
D4 An interest in advanced IT use such as coding

Personal Attributes
E11 Good written communication skills
E12 Good oral communication skills
E13 Ability to work independently and contribute to a team environment

Application Procedure
Applicants are required to complete an application form including the name of three referees who will be contacted without further permission, unless you indicate that you would prefer otherwise. Applicants should also submit a Curriculum Vitae and a covering letter detailing the knowledge, skills and experience you think make you the right candidate for the job. Applicants should also complete the Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form.

Other Information
Further information on the application process and working at Strathclyde can be found on our website (http://www.strath.ac.uk/hr/workforus).
Informal enquiries about the post can be directed to Kenneth Smith, Senior Technical Programme Manager (kenneth.smith@strath.ac.uk).

Conditions of Employment
Conditions of employment relating to the Technical Services staff category can be found at: Conditions of Employment.

Rewards and Benefits
Our staff have access to a wide range of outstanding benefits that include financial rewards, family friendly and wellbeing benefits and career development opportunities, details of which can be found here.

Pre-employment health screening
An offer of appointment will be subject to a medical assessment by Occupational Health. An individual who accepts an offer of employment must complete a confidential medical questionnaire and forward it to the Occupational Health Nurse within 5 days of receipt. If further information is required the individual may be contacted by the OHN or a Medical Advisor and a personal appointment with the individual may be arranged. An unconditional contract of employment will not be issued until Human Resources receives confirmation that applicant is fit to undertake the duties of the post.

Probation
Where applicable, the successful applicant will be required to serve a 12 month probationary period.

Pension
The successful applicant will be eligible to join the Universities’ Superannuation Scheme. Further information regarding this scheme is available from Payroll and Pensions.

Relocation
Where applicable, the University offers a relocation package to support new employees who meet the eligibility criteria. The relocation package is offered as a contribution towards costs incurred, and is designed to be flexible, allowing staff to use the financial support available in the way that will be most helpful to them. Further details are outlined in the Relocation Policy.

Interviews
Formal interviews for this post will be held on 27/10/2022.
Equality and Diversity

The University of Strathclyde is a socially progressive institution that strives to ensure equality of opportunity and celebrates the diversity of its student and staff community. Strathclyde is people-oriented and collaborative, offering a supportive and flexible working culture with a deep commitment to our equality, diversity and inclusion charters, initiatives, groups and networks.

We strongly encourage applications from Black, Asian and minority ethnicity, women, LGBT+, and disabled candidates and candidates from lower socio-economic groups and care-experienced backgrounds.

University Values

The University’s Values capture what we’re all about: who we are, what we believe in and what we stand for. Our Values have been derived from how we act and how we expect to be treated as part of Strathclyde.
1. GENERAL CONDITIONS

Members of staff are subject to the Charter and Statutes and the Ordinances and Regulations of the University, published in the Calendar, and to any amendments or additions thereto approved by the University Court and, in the case of the Charter and Statutes, the Privy Council. Staff are also expected to familiarise themselves with, and adhere to, general University policies and procedures, as published on University web pages.

The University Court recognises UNITE as the sole body with which it will negotiate and consult on all collective issues concerned with the terms and conditions of employment of Technical Services staff. Such terms and conditions may be varied by the University Court after negotiation and consultation with UNITE.

Each member of staff is responsible for the proper performance of allocated duties to the person or persons specified in the member of staff’s letter of appointment and any accompanying papers. Members of staff may not accept outside paid work including personal consultancies without the permission of the University, which will not be unreasonably withheld.

The University is committed to ensuring that its business is conducted in an open and transparent manner and will take all appropriate steps to address risks of bribery or corruption. Members of staff are required at all times to act honestly and with integrity and to safeguard the resources for which they are responsible. The University has in place a robust Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblowing) Policy to enable concerns to be brought to its attention. This is available at www.strath.ac.uk/publicinterestdisclosure. Other relevant policies, e.g. Fraud Prevention and Conflicts of Interests, can also be found on the University’s website.

Any member of staff may at any time be exposed to commercially sensitive information, information related to potentially valuable intellectual property or information which may otherwise be of a confidential nature. This information, which could be found anywhere in the University, may be written or disclosed orally, can include information of a commercial or technical nature, and may be owned by the University or by third parties. The University requires all employees to keep any such information confidential in the first instance and not disclose, publish or otherwise disseminate it without prior consent of the University. Such confidentiality obligations are commonplace and in the commercial interests of the University. When in doubt advice should always be sought from Research and Knowledge Exchange Services prior to disclosure.

The University operates probationary periods for new staff, the duration of which will be specified in individual letters of appointment. The normal probation period for posts in this staff category is 9 months for grades 6 and 7 and 12 months for grade 8. Further guidance on probationary procedures is published at http://www.strath.ac.uk/staff/policies/hr/.

Further information on the terms and conditions specified in this document and other staffing policies and procedures can also be found at www.strath.ac.uk/hr.

2. SALARY

Appointments are made at an appropriate salary point on the University’s grading structure, with initial placing determined according to qualifications and experience. Increments are paid to staff on 1 August each year, when the employee has a minimum of 6 full months of service at the appointed grade, allowing progression to the next point on the salary scale until the top guaranteed point of the scale is reached.

Arrangements in relation to overtime, additional hours, non-standards and on-call working are published at www.strath.ac.uk/staff/policies/hr.

Salaries are paid directly to staff members nominated bank account, normally on the second last working day of the month.

3. HOURS OF WORK

The normal working week is 35 hours. Unless otherwise indicated in an individual’s letter of appointment, the normal hours are 9.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday with a one hour lunch break. Certain members of staff may be required to work some hours outwith this normal pattern and this should be agreed locally. Nonetheless, operational requirements vary significantly across the University and therefore, where local circumstances dictate, reasonable variation may be adopted dependant upon operational needs. In such situations your Head of Department/School/equivalent will discuss with you the alternative arrangements that will apply.

Overtime rates do not apply to staff grades 6 and above. Where a Head of Department/School/equivalent requests additional work, above the standard working week to meet the particular requirements of the Department, equivalent time off in lieu may be granted by prior agreement.

4. HOLIDAYS

Annual leave entitlement is 31 days per year to be taken by agreement with the line manager. For staff members working on a part-time basis, holidays will be calculated on a pro-rata basis.

In addition to annual leave there is an entitlement to eleven public holidays per year which should be taken on days that the University is closed for this purpose. The University presently closes for four additional days over the Christmas and New Year period. These additional days count against the annual leave entitlement.

For staff members working on a part-time basis, public holiday entitlement will be calculated on a pro-rata basis.

Annual leave and public holiday entitlements should be taken in the leave year to which they relate. Up to five days leave can be carried forward into the new leave year subject to line management agreement. In exceptional circumstances, Heads of Department/School/equivalent may approve carry forward of accrued annual leave in excess of five days.

The University’s expectation is that staff take all accrued holidays prior to their termination date. If staff have exceeded their entitlement the University will deduct an equivalent number of days pay from final salary payments.
5. SICKNESS ABSENCE

During any period of absence through illness or injury provided the appropriate notification and certification procedures have been followed the University will pay a member of staff (having taken account of the aggregate of all periods of absence due to illness during the twelve months immediately preceding the first day of the current absence) as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period of Continuous Employment at start of absence from work</th>
<th>Full Pay</th>
<th>Half Pay</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than 1 year</td>
<td>1 month</td>
<td>1 month</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 year but less than 2 years</td>
<td>2 months</td>
<td>2 months</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 years but less than 3 years</td>
<td>4 months</td>
<td>4 months</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 years but less than 5 years</td>
<td>5 months</td>
<td>5 months</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 years or more</td>
<td>6 months</td>
<td>6 months</td>
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In order to manage the University’s sick pay scheme the University requires to maintain sickness absence records on individual members of staff. When making payments after the expiry of statutory sick pay the University will deduct an amount equivalent to any benefit normally payable by the Department of Work and Pensions. For full details on the general University policy in this area please refer to the Sickness Absence Management Policy at www.strath.ac.uk/staff/policies/hr.

6. PENSIONS

If you are under age 75 at the date your appointment commences you will automatically become a member of the pension scheme operated by the University — the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS). You will be admitted to the career revalued benefits scheme called the USS Retirement Income Builder; the contribution rate that currently applies is 9.8% of pensionable salary. A threshold applies to the maximum salary that counts towards the USS Retirement Income Builder. The current threshold from 1 April 2022 is £40,000 per year. Contributions based on salary above the monthly equivalent rate of the threshold are paid to the defined contribution section of the scheme called the USS Investment Builder. Please use the following link to access information, including the USS Member Guide: https://www.uss.co.uk/for-members/you-re-a-new-joiner. The scheme booklet is called ‘Your Guide to the Universities Superannuation Scheme’.

The University operates a salary exchange arrangement, Pensions Plus, for members of the USS. Pensions Plus enables pension contributions to be made in a manner so that both employees and the University can benefit from available National Insurance Contribution savings. You will be automatically included in Pensions Plus, provided it does not adversely affect your take-home pay or your ability to claim certain state benefits. If your earnings fall below the Pension Plus pay protection limit you will be opted out of Pension Plus. This will not affect your membership of the USS.

New members of staff may opt out of USS within three months of taking up appointment and will then be treated as if they had never been a member of the scheme. After three months members of staff who wish to withdraw from USS during their employment will be required to give a minimum of 28 days’ notice in writing to the University. Any member of staff who wishes to opt out should contact the Pensions Section, Finance, in the first instance (pensions@strath.ac.uk). Please note that if you are a member of Pensions Plus and withdraw from USS with less than two years of membership, or cease employment with the University and have less than two years of USS membership, the option of a refund of pension contributions will not be available to you. Instead, USS must provide you with a pension benefit that is payable from your Normal Pension Age. Regardless of whether you participate in Pensions Plus, if you are a member of the pension scheme for two years or more you are entitled to a refund of pension contributions on leaving the scheme, you will be entitled to a pension benefit.

The University reserves the right to alter or withdraw Pensions Plus as it sees fit or as required to comply with legislative changes. Withdrawal or amendment of Pensions Plus will not affect your membership of USS. If you do not wish to participate in Pensions Plus but wish to remain in the pension scheme please contact the Pensions Team who will provide you with a non-participation form.

Information regarding pension scheme membership can be found on the Pensions pages of the University’s website. Full information regarding USS can be found on the USS website — www.uss.co.uk.

7. PLACE OF WORK AND RESIDENCE

Members of staff will be based on the John Anderson Campus, unless otherwise stated in the letter of appointment. The Department/School in which the post is initially placed will be specified in the letter of appointment although there will be an expectation to work at such other places as required in the course of employment.

If the need arises for members of staff to work outside the UK for a period (or periods) of more than one month then such arrangements will be subject to mutual agreement. Members of staff would then be provided with a statement in advance setting out the terms covering such periods of employment.

The University does not normally place specific restrictions upon the place of residence of members of staff. All staff are, however, expected to reside in a location which is compatible with the satisfactory fulfilment of all the duties associated with their appointment.

8. DISCIPLINARY AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

Further information on the University’s disciplinary and grievance procedure can also be found at www.strath.ac.uk/policies/hr or on request from Human Resources.

9. NOTICE AND TERMINATION

The employment of a member of staff is terminable by at least 3 months’ notice, in writing, on either side, except during the probationary period when notice is one month. If notice is being given by a member of staff earlier release may be granted if this can be arranged without detriment to the work of the department or area. If the appointment is for a fixed term period it will expire at the end of the period without the necessity for notice. Fixed term contracts may be terminated by either party short of the expiry date by the serving of one month’s notice in writing. The University is not obliged to continue a fixed term appointment beyond the specified employment period.

Revised April 2022