
Accelerating Higher Education Expansion and Development (AHEAD)

Research Innovation and Commercialization (RIC) Grants

Nanocomposite Research Group
Faculty of Applied Sciences
University of Sri Jayewardenepura

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE RESEARCH ASSISTANT

1. BACKGROUND

The development of the higher education sector is of central importance to enable Sri Lanka to make the transition from a Lower-Middle Income Country (LMIC) to an Upper Middle-Income Country (UMIC). Recognizing this, the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) and the World Bank have agreed to support the higher education sector through a Bank funded Accelerating Higher Education Expansion and Development (AHEAD) operation. The Ministry of Education and Higher EDUCATION (MOEHE) is implementing the program. The University Grants Commission (UGC) will coordinate the activities of the universities. Each university will have Operations Monitoring and Support Team (OMST) which will coordinate and support all AHEAD activities between the MOEHE, UGC, and the universities.

The Nanocomposite Research Group of Faculty of Applied Sciences of University of Sri Jayewardenepura secured a competitive, performance-based Research and Innovation Commercialization (RIC) grant worth of LKR 45 million. Under the project the Nanocomposite Research Group of Faculty of Applied Sciences of University of Sri Jayewardenepura will develop and implement innovation activities of direct relevance for industrial and service sector development.

At present Nanocomposite Research Group of Faculty of Applied Sciences of University of Sri Jayewardenepura backed by four highly qualified university academics in multidisciplinary areas and couple of research students. The group is extensively research on plastics and rubber related fields.

2. JOB TITLE

Research Assistant

3. PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- Conduct literature reviews, plan experiments, identify the physical and human resources needed for smooth functioning of the project related to compounding of rubber composites
- Collect and analyze data

- Develop research protocols
- Track progress over time
- Provide ready access to all experimental data for the academics of the Nanocomposite Research Group of Faculty of Applied Sciences of University of Sri Jayewardenepura
- Request and/or monitor the procurement process of acquiring new equipment or supplies necessary for the project
- Manage and respond to project related email as early as possible (within 8 hours)
- Supervise undergraduate students (if any) working on the research project (maintaining records on assignment completion, acting as mediator between the undergraduate students and the faculty researcher)
- Attend all the project meetings
- Attend area seminars and other meetings as necessary
- Summarize project results and maintain summaries up-to-date
- Prepare progress reports as necessary
- Prepare other articles, reports and presentations
- Monitor the project budget
- Travel to field sites/industrial partner's facility at Horana to conduct, collect and record data and/or samples as appropriate to the specific objectives of the study
- May set up, calibrate and maintain laboratory and/or research equipment, as specified by the coordinator or assistant coordinator of the project
- Prepare findings for publication and assist in laboratory analysis, quality control, or data management on time
- Write and contribute to publications in high end journals
- Perform miscellaneous research-related duties as assigned (Undertake any other tasks assigned by the Coordinator and/or assistant coordinator of AHEAD/RIC grant)

4. REMUNERATION

- A payment of Rs. 47900.00 per month excluding EPF and ETF shall be paid, subject to satisfactory performance, from the AHEAD/RIC budget (Including everything approximately Rs. 55000.00 per month). This payment includes all statutory and other allowances. Payment will be made based on the submission of a monthly time sheet and approval by the Coordinator/Assistant Coordinator of AHEAD/RIC grant of Nanocomposite Research Group
- Employee will contribute 8% from their monthly salary to the Employee Provident Fund (EPF) while the AHEAD/RIC grant will make a contribution of 15% of their salary of which 12% will be credited to Employee Provident Fund (EPF) and 3% to the Employee Trust Fund (ETF).

5. REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE

- The ideal candidate should have minimum academic qualification of B.Sc. (special/general) in Chemistry or Polymer Science or Material Science
- Experience in research related to latex and dry rubber processing and characterization will be given high priority

6. METHOD OF APPOINTMENT

After the potential candidates have been identified, an appointment will be given based on on-site interviews in presence of selection committee appointed by the Vice-Chancellor.

7. PERIOD OF CONTRACT

Initially the appointment will be made for a period of 12 months, and may be renewed for another 24 months based on performance.

8. DUTY STATION

The main duty station will be located at Faculty of Applied Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. There may have some field visits to collect graphite and clay samples and some visits to industrial partner's facility at Horana.