

## **Internship R&D Imerys**

Imerys Minerals Ltd, the leading international minerals processing company, is looking for a motivated, dynamic individual to work as an intern with its Research and Development team based in Cornwall, UK. The role, within the Performance and Filtration Minerals business unit, will allow the successful applicant to work independently on a project under the supervision of a senior scientist. The project will make use of mineral additives to bring value improvements in different materials including plastics, rubber, filtration aids or coatings. Previous projects have included the development of additives to enhance the degradability of oil-based polymers; designing and testing new calcined clays as improved extenders for matt paints; developing and introducing a new kaolin product for use in lithographic inks; optimising calcium carbonate particle size and surface chemistry for breathable films. In all cases, the technical programme is agreed between the R&D and marketing teams and is viewed as both innovative and commercially important for Imerys' business.

The student will be responsible for the design, planning and delivery of a project that has tangible economic benefits and they must be highly motivated and able to learn a broad range of skills in a short time period. Skills gained will include the processing of inorganic materials and their application in, for example, polymers or coatings. It would hence be valuable for the applicant to have interest in both process engineering and material science, incl. physical chemistry. The opportunity to discuss and present the work both internally and at customers will be given and a full written report should be presented on its completion. During the internship the applicant will be able to further improve their language skills and gain experience in contributing to future developments of a multinational business.

Key competences are:

- The ability to work as part of a team.
- Self motivation.
- Excellent problem solving.
- Proven practical laboratory skills.
- The ability to learn new processes.

Essential skills are:

- Working towards, or having recently completed, a degree or higher degree in materials science, chemistry, or technologies such as coatings or polymers.
- A good level of verbal and written English.
- The ability to plan and carry out experimental work with minimum supervision.
- A methodical approach to recording and reporting scientific findings.

The internship is for a period of 5 to 6 months.

Location: Cornwall, on the South West tip of Great Britain, is an ideal place for those who enjoy outdoor pursuits such as walking, sailing and other watersports including surfing and canoeing. Imerys has an activities club available to all employees, including students. The club arranges sporting activities such as weekends away, windsurfing and swimming and has a small gym facility. Many students have also joined local clubs, including football and squash, for the duration of their employment. Accommodation can be arranged locally by agreement with individuals.

Applications should be in writing with a CV, by e-mail [mark.crawford@imerys.com](mailto:mark.crawford@imerys.com)