

August 11, 2016

Immediate graduate student research assistantship available at the University of Maine

Synopsis:

The Laboratory of Renewable Nanomaterials (LRN) at the School of Forest Resources, University of Maine is seeking Graduate applicants to fill a newly funded graduate research position. The project will support either a Master's student for two years or a Ph.D. student for three years on a research assistantship. The project will be focused on the production and property assessment of a novel hybrid panel made with wood particles, cellulose nanofibrils (CNF) and a fungal resin. The research will involve characterization of the fungal resin and adhesion mechanism in the presence of CNF, growth of the fungus on a CNF containing woody substrate, hybridization of CNF and the fungal resin as the binder in panels to improve physical and mechanical properties, thermal characterization, modeling of drying process and study of fire performance of the panels.

Qualifications:

An undergraduate degree in wood science, forest products, pulp and paper, chemistry, chemical/mechanical/materials engineering or other closely related disciplines is required for admission as a Master's student. An earned Master's degree in a related discipline is required for the Ph.D. level. The ideal candidate is expected to have working knowledge of a variety of production and characterization techniques including but not limited to composite materials processing, physical and mechanical characterization, adhesives and adhesion evaluation. In addition, the ideal applicant is a team worker, has a high level of intellectual curiosity and can work independently. Good written and verbal communication skills are expected. GRE scores are required, international students must also have acceptable TOEFL scores or equivalent.

Assistantship:

The position provides an annual stipend of \$30,000. In addition, half the Annual Health Insurance fee will be provided. All tuition and fees will be the responsibility of the successful candidate. Operating funds for conducting research and travel will also be available.

How to apply:

Send a Statement of Purpose with your C.V., degree transcripts, three recommendation letters and GRE and TOEFL (for international students only) scores to:

Mehdi Tajvidi, Assistant Professor of Renewable Nanomaterials, mehdi.tajvidi@maine.edu

About LRN:

Established in September 2013, the **Laboratory of Renewable Nanomaterials (LRN)** focuses on alternative applications of cellulose nanomaterials aimed at large volume production and end uses. Dr. Mehdi Tajvidi leads the LRN research group currently consisting of five graduate students, two postdoctoral researchers and one visiting student.