

Master project from Chair Cellulose Valley

« Innovative 2D cellulosic material with high barrier for packaging application » (industrial project)

Description and expertise of the organization

The "Cellulose Valley" Chair is a special ecosystem that aims to provide alternatives with new cellulosic materials for packaging applications. It is a consortium of several industrial partners: Marie, Ahlstrom, Decathlon, Chanel, DS Smith, Guillin Emballage, CITEO and Aptar. Each year, 8 students are hired to work on one or more specific problems our partners encounter.

Cellulose Valley is located in the Laboratory of process engineering for biorefinery, bio-based materials and functional printing (LGP2). LGP2 is a joint research unit (UMR 5518) of the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS). Its activities range from wood science to packaging converting and printing. The laboratory's distinctive feature is its multi-disciplinary approach to processes, chemistry and materials. What's more, its close links with the paper and packaging industry lead to numerous research projects and specific tools (from laboratory to pilot scale).

Main tasks

In recent years, regulatory frameworks and standards adopted worldwide have reinforced and implemented the circular economy and bioeconomy. In this context, cellulose is an excellent candidate for new high-performance bio-based materials. It offers advantages in terms of strength, lightweighting and barrier properties. Companies are increasingly interested in producing them.

The proposal below concerns the development of new cellulosic materials with an innovative character, in collaboration with one of our industrial partners in the field of packaging, or molded cellulose.

The main challenges of the Master's project will be to study:

- (i) An innovative 2D cellulosic material to provide barrier properties;
- (ii) Measurement of barrier properties;
- (iii) The design of a new 3D cellulosic packaging;
- (iv) Analysis of the recyclability of the new packaging;
- (v) Impact on life-cycle analysis of the proposed solution.

Developing a demonstrator is one of the tasks to be carried out during the internship.



Meetings will be scheduled with the industrial research department of the partner concerned, as well as occasional site visits. The Master's project will last 5 to 6 months at the LGP2 laboratory, beginning in February 2026 to June or July 2026.

Candidate requirement

The candidate must be at engineering school or master's level, with expertises in materials, chemistry or processes will be appreciated. A good level of written and spoken English is required. Work on cellulose or packaging barriers would be a plus. Knowledge of biopolymers and life cycle assessment will be considered. The ability to work in a team, autonomy and motivation are important selection parameters.

Contact persons involved in the project

- Dr Candice REY, research engineer,
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Send CV and Motivation letter.

Deadline to apply : 15th october 2025.

