**Job Title:** Non-Woven Research & Development Project Lead (BFTT Partnership) – Centre for Circular Design (UAL) – Ananas Anam Ltd.

**Accountable to:** Academic Mentor & BFTT Creative R&D Programme Manager

**Contract Length:** 12 months

**Salary:** £38,694

**Job Type:** Part-time (0.5 FTE)

**Grade:** 5

**Location:** Chelsea College of Arts (UAL), 16 John Islip Street, London SW1P 4RU & Ananas Anam, Somerset House, Strand, London WC2R 1LA

**College/Service:** RMA

### Background:

The Business of Fashion, Textiles & Technology (BFTT) Partnership is a multi-million pounds initiative aimed at accelerating the growth of fashion, textile and technology sector through collaborative R&D partnerships and projects. The five-year industry-led project focuses on delivering innovation within the entire fashion and textile supply chain, with special attention given to positioning industry as agents of new technology and materials development.

This post is an exciting opportunity for a Post Graduate, or Post-Doctoral Researcher (or equivalent demonstrable industry/research experience) to work as the Research & Development (R&D) Project Lead, facilitating a novel collaborative project between the Centre for Circular Design (UAL) and Ananas Anam.

The successful candidate will work with the management R&D and commercial teams at Ananas Anam, who are the developers and manufactures of Piñatex®, an innovative natural material made from pineapple leaf fibre, and research experts in the Centre for Circular Design at Chelsea School of Art, University of the Arts London.

You will be employed by the University of the Arts London but will be predominately based at Ananas Anam with premises in Somerset House, London. You will spend some time at the University on research as well as receiving academic, technical and mentoring support throughout the project.

The Piñatex project has been awarded funding within the BFTT R&D SME Support Programme. The Programme aims to foster a creative business development culture which will enable fashion, textile and technology SMEs to thrive using bespoke R&D as a mechanism for innovation and growth. A core objective of this challenge is to advance the development of sustainable and technologically engaged fashion, textiles and technology products, services and experiences.

The principal aims of the project are to improve the aesthetics and properties of Piñatex® and to enhance its UK-based production and supplier network for commercialisation.

### Purpose of the Role:

The main purpose of this role is to work collaboratively with the Academic Mentor for the Piñatex project and the Company Lead facilitating the delivery of the R&D project’s key objectives, including:

- improving aesthetics and properties of Piñatex (such as waterproofing, abrasion resistance and drape)
- identifying and testing sustainable and accessible technologies to achieve the above qualities (such as laser, sonic and embossing)
- producing a viable plan for scale-up of the developed processes ready for commercialisation

This is a key role for the project and requires an experienced researcher with appropriate industry experience in sustainability, materials production and finishing technology and an interest and/or experience in applied and collaborative research. The role also requires excellent organisational and project management skills.
Duties and Responsibilities

- To facilitate and lead on the R&D collaboration between the university and the company for the duration of the R&D project.
- To undertake the overall management of the R&D of the Piñatex project and co-ordination of the project team’s activities so that the project aims and outcomes can be effectively planned, executed, documented and communicated.
- To undertake the research and development of the project’s core aims, under supervision from the project’s Academic Mentor and the Company Lead for the duration of the project.
- To develop, facilitate and document the process of the key project objectives.
- To successfully execute the project’s implementation plan, refining and making adjustments where needed in consultation with the Academic Mentor, the Company Lead and the BFTT Creative R&D Programme Manager.
- To organise and lead quarterly evaluation meetings with Ananas Anam key personnel, the academic mentor (and BFTT team when relevant) to discuss and review the project implementation plan, key activities, milestones and resources. To act on decisions made within these meetings, and lead on the quarterly reporting of the project to the BFTT R&D SME Programme.
- Travel to attend meetings and make presentations both within the project partners working group and to external stakeholders.
- Be responsible for conducting the day to day running of the project.
- Whenever relevant, to work with the Principal Investigator and Co-Investigators to produce papers for publication within International and National Journals and presentation and relevant conferences.
- Maintain confidentiality at all times and ensure that intellectual property (IPR) agreements are not violated.
- Engage in training programmes in the University (or elsewhere) that are consistent with the needs and aspirations of the project and those of the Department.
- To perform such duties consistent with your role as may from time to time be assigned to you anywhere within the University.
- To undertake health and safety duties and responsibilities appropriate to the role
- To work in accordance with the University’s Equal Opportunities Policy and the Staff Charter, promoting equality and diversity in your work
- To undertake continuous personal and professional development, through effective use of the University’s Planning, Review and Appraisal scheme and staff development opportunities
- To make full use of all information and communication technologies in adherence to data protection policies to meet the requirements of the role and to promote organisational effectiveness
- To conduct all financial matters associated with the role in accordance with the University’s policies and procedures, as laid down in the Financial Regulations

Key Working Relationships:

- Director/Principal Investigator, BFTT
- Creative R&D Programme Manager, BFTT
- Academic Mentor (WP2 - Piñatex Project), BFTT
- Company Lead and other relevant company personnel
- Project Manager, BFTT
- Research project team and industry partners across the UK

Specific Management Responsibilities

Budgets: None
**Job Title:**  Non-Woven Research & Development Project Lead (BFTT Partnership)  
– Centre for Circular Design (UAL) – Ananas Anam Ltd.

**Grade:** 5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Person Specification</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Specialist Knowledge/Qualifications** | PG or Doctoral qualification in the area of non-woven materials development, appropriate production and finishing technologies, sustainability applied to non-woven development and/or equivalent and relevant research and industry experience. (essential)  
Comprehensive knowledge of the UK non-woven textile sector gained through research and/or relevant R&D industry work. (essential)  
Knowledge of circular and sustainable design models within the fashion/materials space. |
| **Relevant Experience** | Experience of working on material performance and finishing technologies at sampling and prototype stages. (essential)  
Experience related to sustainable non-woven textile sector and markets and familiar with bio-based fibres and appropriate bio-finishes. (essential)  
Experience in circular, textiles and/or materials design.  
Experience of undertaking research and/or R&D with external collaborators. |
| **Communication Skills** | Communicates effectively orally and in writing adapting the message for a diverse audience in an inclusive and accessible way.  
Strong presentation skills. |
| **Research, Teaching and Learning** | Ability to collect and to analyse data related to fashion, textiles and related technology.  
Quantitative and qualitative research skills suited to the analysis of sustainability, material performance and associated technology. |
<p>| <strong>Professional Practice</strong> | Contributes to advancing professional practice/research or scholarly activity in own area of specialism. |
| <strong>Leadership and Management</strong> | Excellent organisational and project management skills. |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Plans, prioritises and manages resources effectively to achieve long term objectives.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Teamwork**                   | Works collaboratively in a team and where appropriate across or with different professional groups and industries.  
Is able to take appropriate level of responsibility and act with initiative. |
| **Student experience or stakeholder service** | Builds and maintains positive relationships with key stakeholders related to project activities. |
| **Creativity, Innovation and Problem Solving** | Suggests practical solutions to new or unique problems. |

The application form sets out a number of competence questions related to some of the following selection criteria. Shortlisting will be based on your responses to these questions. Please make sure you provide evidence to demonstrate clearly how you meet these criteria.