



Applications Scientist Intern

Full time, 8-10 week internship

Reports to: Product Development Manager

Job location: Xampla HQ, Cambridge Science Park (on-site)

Introduction to Xampla

Xampla is a groundbreaking materials technology company unlocking the power of natural plant polymers for a range of industries and applications, from plastic-free alternatives in packaging to high-performance encapsulation.

Stemmed from 15 years of research at the University of Cambridge, Xampla is the UK's first university spin-out to be award B Corp status, highlighting our care for people and planet. Our team of global experts are committed to make the world a better place with cutting-edge scientific and industry knowledge.

Inspired by nature, powered by innovation, and led by world-class science, Xampla is scaling the next generation of materials to revolutionise the way we all live.

Our Culture

The Xampla team is a vibrant network of great innovators, eco-warriors, passionate professionals, and forward-thinkers. Our diverse and inclusive environment helps the team to grow, learn, and truly make a difference to our world. United together, our team of global experts is committed to bring our cutting-edge technology to market and revolutionise the way we all live.

The Role

This internship is an opportunity to work within the Xampla R&D Applications team, with a particular focus on sustainable coating technology. Our coating platform, made from plant proteins, offers biodegradable, recyclable and plastic-free solutions for fibre based packaging applications, such as flexible packaging, cups and takeaway boxes.

The intern will bring their skills and can-do attitude to customer projects by applying coatings to a variety of paper/board substrates and testing their performance, as well as contributing to R&D projects. This hands-on role will provide valuable experience in sustainable materials, packaging and industry-driven research.

The role will involve:

- Producing various coated samples using Xampla's proprietary plant-based coatings
- Conducting and evaluating the performance of coated substrates (such as heat sealing and barrier testing e.g. water/grease resistance) vs customer specifications

- Providing excellent operational and technical support across a range of laboratory and/or manufacturing processes
- Assisting in keeping the lab clean and performing and maintaining other quality control measures

Required skills/qualifications

- Experience in a lab setting (essential)
- A strong interest in sustainability, plant-based materials and other plastic-free technologies especially in the field of packaging and related coatings (familiarity with heat sealing/barrier testing is desirable but not essential)
- Experience in materials science, chemistry, biochemistry or a related field
- Experience of following SOPs and experimental plans closely, following hygiene procedures and understanding quality control procedures to produce quality products for our customers
- A passion for applied R&D
- An enthusiasm for Xampla's mission of addressing plastic pollution, an interest in sustainability, and a scientific curiosity.
- An individual with a can-do attitude who thrives in a fast-paced environment

Learning outcomes

At the end of the internship the student will be able to demonstrate:

- Hands-on experience in applying and testing plant-based biodegradable coatings.
- An understanding of sustainable packaging materials and their performance requirements.
- High standards in maintaining lab cleanliness and quality control measures
- Strong adherence to SOPs
- Experience of delivering experimental plans and/or producing product samples to customer briefs
- Experience in R&D and industry related projects within a dynamic team

This is a paid internship to start in June 2025 for a period of 8-10 weeks.

Are you looking for a career that has an impact on the world? We're always looking for new talent to help us achieve our goals, so if innovation and drive is part of your DNA too, join our ambitious team.