

## Assignment internship Life Sciences

### Living Lab Biobased Brazil

The Living Lab Biobased Brazil is a transnational Living Lab in the field of Biobased Economy, created in 2014 by a consortium of Dutch Universities of Applied Sciences in collaboration with several Brazilian universities. The Living Lab helps students with internships and graduation projects in the Netherlands with the focus on Biobased Economy. We also help students finding accommodation, and offer buddy support and some events.

For more information please see [www.biobasedbrazil.org](http://www.biobasedbrazil.org) and [www.biobasedbrazil.org/student/the-netherlands/](http://www.biobasedbrazil.org/student/the-netherlands/) or ask the International Office of your university.

### University of Applied Sciences information:

The universities of applied sciences (in Dutch: 'hogescholen') offer programs that focus on the practical application of arts and sciences.

Getting practical work experience through internships is an important part of the professional study programs offered at these institutions. The largest universities of applied sciences enroll 20,000 to 40,000 students. Altogether some 446,000 students are enrolled on professional programs. University of Applied Sciences have also research groups. These groups do applied research and they are so called professorships. This internship assignment is within one of the associate professorships.

### NHL Stenden University of Applied Sciences information:

NHL Stenden University is an internationally recognised institution that awards accredited degrees. We have already successfully educated thousands of international students (also from Brazil) with our English-language bachelor and master programmes in a variety of subject areas. These range from International Hospitality Management to International Teacher Education for primary schools (ITEPS) to Information Technology and Life Sciences.

All bachelor's and master's degrees conferred by NHL Stenden are accredited by the Accreditation Organisation of the Netherlands and Flanders, an independent, Netherlands-based accreditation organisation. Your degree will be recognised all over the world. As a graduate of NHL Stenden, you will be prepared for a career anywhere in the world. Our graduates have embarked on successful careers at major multinational companies. Many employers recognise the valuable combination of practical skills and experience NHL Stenden graduates bring to the table.

Our graduates have found employment at many renowned companies around the world, including:

- Hilton Worldwide
- Sony Music Entertainment
- Marriott Hotels & Resorts
- Holland America Line
- G Adventures
- ABN AMRO Bank N.V.

- Thomas Cook
- Booking.com
- Volkswagen
- Nike
- Delta Lloyd

Studying at NHL Stenden is an exciting new experience. You will be challenged to voice your opinion and take the initiative. You do this in a safe learning environment where respect for different views and backgrounds is a shared value. In small and personal groups of students, lecturers, and researchers, you will tackle real-life assignments from the actual field. Together you will test your ideas in practice, to make sure they work as expected. You will work on assignments from both local and international organisations – the best way to prepare for your future line of work. That is why many employers highly value NHL Stenden's education style.

All our bachelor programmes contain one or more of the following practical components:

- Project work in our own training companies including Broadcast Studio, Stenden Hotel and European Tourism Futures Institute (ETFI).
- Integrated Internship at renowned companies.
- Design Based Education: real-world assignments, which you do in collaboration with other students, instructors, researchers, and across different disciplines.

One of the most international educational institutes in the Netherlands, NHL Stenden has a strong and varied student body, with more than 80 nationalities, and 4 international branches located in South Africa, Qatar, Thailand and Indonesia.

More information: <https://www.nhlstenden.com/en/>

#### **Main research topic:**

Within NHL Stenden there is a research institute called GreenPAC. Green PAC is the hub for green (fibre) chemistry in the North East Netherlands and the place to develop knowledge. At Green PAC ideas lead to innovations and innovations to new products: products with added value and the power to compete on the market. The research areas are biobased and/or biodegradable polymers, 3D-printing, sustainable fibers, recycling of polymers, biocomposites.

More information: [www.greenpac.eu/en](http://www.greenpac.eu/en)

#### **General background:**

Within the topic of this internship you will be working in the research PHA's. PHA (Poly Hydroxy Alcanoate) is a biobased polymer made by bacteria. A lot of research has to be done about the processing, behaviour and possible application of PHA's. Depending on your skills you will be working on the chemical part of PHA's or more on the technological part of PHA's. In the field of PHA's we offer 2 internships:

##### **1. Processing of PHA's**

Biobased polymers are well-known in the field of thermoplastic materials, *e.g.* PLA, PHA's and starch-based polymers. Blends of these materials are interesting for certain applications, however the thermal,

chemical and mechanical behaviour is not known very well. In this project you will make different kind of polymer blends and study the properties of these mixtures of polymers. Some of the applications can be fulfilled by biocomposite materials, *e.g.* a combination of natural fibers or synthetic biobased fibers with biobased polymers.

## 2. Biodegradability of PHA's

Which parameters play a role in the biodegradability of PHA's or PHA-related compounds? In this study you will look at the influences of temperature, moisture, bacteria, soil on the biodegradation behaviour. Is it possible with this knowledge to control or predict the biodegradation behaviour. That would be very nice, for certain applications in agriculture or gardening. Also blends of PHA's with other biopolymers will be studied in order to get a good insight in the parameters involved during biodegradation.

### **Goal of internship:**

Main goal is to obtain more knowledge about processing and behaviour of PHA's, because these materials are very promising for applications in domestic products.

### **Activities:**

The Project involves:

- Preparing compounds based PHA's, and other biopolymers.
- Analysing techniques; studying bio-degradability of these materials
- Preparing new polymers or compounds (combination with natural fibres based on cellulose).
- Cooperating in a larger project together with PhD's and researchers
- Gain knowledge about the biobased economy

### **Final product**

The student will write a report that contains an overview of all activities and findings.

### **Starting date**

September 2019. The length of the assignment is approximately 5 months (20 weeks). The student who will execute the assignment get a fee of €550,- per month.

The intern will be part of a research team lead by the adviser and supervised by a professor or research associate

### **Desirable skills/qualities of the student**

The student should be able to carry out independent laboratory research. The preferred background is organic chemistry or otherwise biochemistry, analytical chemistry or bioprospecting. The interest in material science and applications is a pre.

Good knowledge of the English language is required. We have set minimum language requirements for foreign students. The minimum English language prerequisite is: an academic IELTS test (or equivalent\*) with an overall band score of at least 6.0. As a foreign student you must provide evidence of your language



competences in the form of an official certificate: IELTS, TOEFL, TOEIC or Cambridge ESOL. It is your responsibility to ensure that you meet these requirements. **Please see the requirements on the webpage.**

**Information of the company:**

Contact person concerning this assignment : Guilherme de Souza Reis  
Phone : + 31 (06) – 5192 43 43  
E-mail : ga.desouzareis1@avans.nl  
Visiting address : Centre of Expertise Biobased Economy  
Street / number, areal code and place : Lovendijkstraat 63, Breda  
Postal address : 4800 RA  
Website : www.biobasedbrazil.org

**Interested?**

Please see the procedure at <https://www.biobasedbrazil.org/student/the-netherlands/>. Please be aware that the process stated at the above mentioned link applies.

**PLEASE CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THE INTERNATIONAL OFFICE OF UFMG, UFV, UFSJ, UFOP OR PUC MINAS**