

Internship topics Living Lab Biobased Brazil Netherlands (updated 30-05-22). Scholarship/internship fees varies per project (€350 - € 550).

| Topic for internship | Professor in the Netherlands | University | Extra info & Example projects |
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| Biorefinery | Qian Zhou | Avans | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biomass pyrolysis process optimization (reactor, chemical engineering, simulation, laboratory work). Pyrolysis product purification (chemical engineering, simulation, laboratory work). • Example of previous internships: pyrolysis of cashew nutshell using Auger pyrolyzer (23). • Performing LCA on pyrolysis processes of converting different kind of feedstocks into valuable end-products by taking into account the whole chain value. Example: literature research, modelling the pyrolysis process, writing a report, contact with clients (17). |
| Wastewater treatment | Hans Cappon | HZ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recycling of surface and process water for industry, agriculture and aquaculture. • Recovery of valuable content in wastewater, like nutrients and humid acids. • Process monitoring and control, like smart sensors to monitor water quality • Examples of previous internships: Reduce the total organic carbon content of industrial condensate using IX and adsorption (11) |
| | Luewton Agostinho | NHLStenden | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electrohydrodynamic Atomization. Examples of previous internships: support and conduct experiments in the laboratory, write reports, perform literature review, work with data analysis and data treatment. The research topic is the application of electrohydrodynamic atomization (EHDA) as an emulsification tool. The process has many applications both in food technology and water technology. The experiments will be conducted in the EHDA laboratory inside the Water Application Centre in the city of Leeuwarden, The Netherlands (30). |
| Drinking water treatment | | | |
| Reuse of residual streams | Michiel Michels | Avans | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optimization of green extraction of PHA. Example of previous project: Accumulation of PHA bioplastic in microorganisms from secondary sludge (microbiology, bioreactors, analytical chemistry, simulation). Solvent extraction of PHA bioplastic from dry biomass (solvent extraction laboratory work, analytical chemistry) (33) |
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| Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) | Alwin Hoogendoorn | Avans | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life cycle analysis for biocomposite materials for buildings and bridges. Working with GABI modelling software in compliance with ISO 14040, client contacts, environmental impact assessment. Part of the LCA is calculating a few end of life options both including & excluding molecular chemical recycling and re-use of expensive bio-epoxy resins and flax fibers. The LCA work is part of large research and demonstration projects with Dutch, Belgian and German partners. |
| | Alexander Compeer | Avans | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life cycle analysis for the process of pyrolysis. Working with GABI modelling software, client contacts, environmental impact assessment. Examples of previous internships: performing LCA on converting biomass into useful products by pyrolysis (24). |

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| Building and Construction | John van Oorschot | Zuyd | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practical research in the field of sustainable and circular building and construction, both on building as on urban scale. Running projects cover sustainable material development for the construction industry, circular material application, LCA of construction materials and components, architectural and technical designing, and energy efficient installations aspects. Projects are in close collaboration with (inter)national partners. |
| Biocomposites | Rudy Folkersma | NHL Stenden | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obtain more knowledge about biocomposites: these materials are very promising for replacement of wood, steel and concrete. Example of previous projects: Depending on skills you work on either 1. Synthesis of biobased resins or 2. Processing of biocomposite materials. Preparing compounds based on natural fibres and a polymer - Analysing techniques; chemical and mechanical - Preparing new polymers or compounds (new fibre-polymer combinations). - Cooperating in a larger project together with PhD's and researchers - Gain knowledge about the biobased economy (31). |
| Advanced Materials | Gino van Strijdonck | Zuyd | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nano structured coatings for energy management e.g., switchable heat blocking coatings. (Biobased) Materials for 3D printing (e.g., light weight automotive and prostheses). Mechanical recycling. Circular product engineering. All projects are conducted with companies in the laboratories of CHILL (www.chillabs.nl) situated at Chemelot, a major chemical production and research site. (16) |
| Business and Innovation | | | |
| Geosciences Ecosystem services | | | |
| Biopolymers & biomolecules | Qian Zhou | Avans | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biocarbon based biopolymer composites (polymer processing, polymer characterization). Preparing of biobased thermosets (chemistry, analytical chemistry, laboratory work). |
| | Rudy Folkersma, Corinne van Noordenne | NHL Stenden | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research of PHA's: processing, behaviour and possible application of PHA's. Example of previous projects: Preparing compounds based PHA's, and other biopolymers. - Analysing techniques; studying biodegradability 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 (58 1-2) |
| | Michiel Michels | Avans | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accumulation of PHA bioplastic in microorganisms from secondary sludge (microbiology, bioreactors, analytical chemistry, simulation). Solvent extraction of PHA bioplastic from dry biomass (solvent extraction laboratory work, analytical chemistry). Examples of previous internships: optimization of green extraction of PHA (22). |
| | Gino van Strijdonck | Zuyd | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Polymer processing (3D printing). Polymeric materials. The project is conducted by a project group consisting of students, researchers/lecturers and experiences professionals in the Chemelot Innovation and Learning Labs (www.chillabs.nl) situated at the Brightlands Chemelot Campus an international hotspot in Chemistry and Materials Research 16). |
| | Chiara Franchi | Avans | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodegradation of (bio)polymers, for more information, see here. |
| | Wim Gakeer | Avans | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Supercritical Carbon dioxide and cotton dyeing (6 months, starting September 2022). The traditional way of dyeing cotton uses a large amount of fresh water and energy. A water-free dyeing process with SuperCritical Carbon dioxide (SCC) will save energy and lower the environmental pollution from waste water. In this project you will perform experiments with a SCC pilot plant to develop a SCC-dyeing process for indigo to cotton. This process will be implemented and tested in a commercial small scale SCC dyeing machine. |

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| | Wim Gakeer | Avans | ❖ Supercritical Carbon dioxide and removal of colourants from recycled plastic (6 months, starting September 2022 or later). The recycling of plastic waste streams is a fast growing industrial branch. However, colour differences in the recycled plastic reduces its utilisation. In this project you will perform experiments with a SCC pilot extraction plant to evaluate the usage of this technique for the decolourisation of recycled plastic. You will also make a preliminary design for a commercial SCC decolourisation plant to make a techno economic evaluation of this process. |
| Ecology | | | |
| Sustainable synthesis and production | Gino van Strijdonck | Zuyd | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar conversion (CO₂ valorization, nano-catalysis, photo reactors), microreactor technology, biotechnological conversions, polymers, pharma, depolymerisation, chemical recycling, downstream processing and scaling. |
| Composting | | Avans | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodegradability of (bio)plastics in compost (not available) |