



University of
St Andrews

School of Chemistry

Post-doctoral Research
Fellow





University of
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Introduction



“Our remarkable students and staff are the lifeblood of St Andrews. It is their energy, vision and momentum [we] aim to support, to free them to use knowledge, ideas, and potential for the benefit of all.” The Principal, Professor Sally Mapstone

Founded in 1413, the University of St Andrews is Scotland’s first university and one of the oldest in the English-speaking world. With more than 600 years of academic excellence, we are proud of our reputation as a world-class centre for learning, teaching, and research.

St Andrews is a close-knit, international community set in a beautiful historic town on Scotland’s east coast. Our students and staff come from over 140 countries, creating a diverse and globally minded environment. We strive to create an inclusive culture in which all can flourish, and the University have attained several diversity awards, including those related to race and gender equality, and support for carers, which demonstrate our commitment to this ambition. The University is consistently ranked among the UK’s top institutions for student satisfaction, research quality, and teaching excellence.

We are a research-intensive university where creativity, collaboration, and critical inquiry are at the heart of everything we do. Whether you are joining us in an academic, professional, or support role, you will be part of a team committed to delivering outstanding education and making a meaningful contribution to society.

For those looking to be part of a university with deep-rooted heritage, a global outlook, and a forward-thinking approach, we invite you to consider joining our community at the University of St Andrews.

School of Chemistry

The School of Chemistry at St Andrews is recognised as one of the leading chemistry departments in the UK. It has all the required facilities for the synthesis and characterization of the materials studied in this project.

The research school together with its sister school from the University of Edinburgh form EaStCHEM. This world-class centre for chemistry has five core research pillars: The Chemistry/Biology Interface; Structural Chemistry and Chemical Dynamics; Catalysis and Synthesis; Functional Materials; Energy, Environment, and Sustainable Chemistry. The synthesis and characterisation of materials for energy applications forms a particularly strong research grouping in the School.

Further information about the School of chemistry at St Andrews can be found at <http://chemistry.st-andrews.ac.uk/>. Further details about EaStCHEM can be found at <http://www.eastchem.ac.uk/>

Great British Chemicals is a national alliance of leading universities and industry partners working to decarbonise the UK chemicals sector and drive sustainable innovation. The consortium focuses on scaling low-emission technologies, advancing circular economy practices, and building resilient supply chains to strengthen UK manufacturing sovereignty. In the long term, GBC will deliver transformative technologies, industrial symbiosis, and global leadership in sustainable chemical production. GBC will demonstrate how industry can exploit the net zero transition as one of the most profitable areas for the UK, ensuring a strong economy and an improved environment that is fair and creates inclusive opportunities. The centre is funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council and the Natural Environment Research Centre.





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Job Description

Reporting to: Principal Research Fellow

Location: School of Chemistry

Job Family: Academic Research

Working Hours: Full time, 36.25 per week

Grade/Salary Range: Salary: Grade 6, £38,784 - £42,254 per annum

Reference Number: AR3276SB

Start Date: As soon as possible

Interview Date: to be confirmed

Duration of post: fixed term for 36 months

Main Purpose of the Role

The main purpose of the role is to develop flexible routes to chemicals from waste via a synthesis gas platform.

Key Responsibilities

1. Working to meet and deliver the project's key objectives and milestones in a timely manner
2. Attending and participating in meetings with key collaborators
3. Working on the technical development of the electrolysis of complex gas streams
4. Developing the synthesis, characterisation and testing of highly selective catalyst systems
5. Working within the team under the guidance of the PI and collaborating scientists to develop a future research plan and proposition for the exploitation of the work
6. Disseminating the results of the project to interested parties and potential partners through good written and oral communication

Please note that this job description is not exhaustive, and the role holder may be required to undertake other relevant duties commensurate with the grading of the post. Activities may be subject to amendment over time as the role develops and/or priorities and requirements evolve.

Person Specification

Essential Criteria – requirements without which a candidate would not be able to undertake the full remit of the role. Applicants who have not clearly demonstrated in their application that they possess the essential requirements will normally be rejected at the short-listing stage.

Desirable Criteria – requirements which would be useful for the candidate to hold. When short listing, these criteria will be considered when more than one applicant meets the essential requirements.

Attributes	Essential	Desirable	Means of Assessment (i.e. application form, interview, test, presentation etc.)
Education & Qualifications <i>(technical, professional, academic qualifications and training required)</i>	A PhD or equivalent qualification in Chemistry or a related subject		Application/ Certificates
Experience & Knowledge <i>(examples of specific experience and knowledge sought)</i>	A good working knowledge of high temperature electrolysis AND/OR A good working knowledge of Fischer-Tropsch chemistry, especially in catalyst synthesis Experience in the characterisation of materials through, for example, XRD, XAS, TEM etc	Strong chemistry/materials based skills combined with an outward looking philosophy	Application/Interview



Person Specification

Attributes	Essential	Desirable	Means of Assessment (i.e. application form, interview, test, presentation etc.)
Competencies & Skills <i>(e.g. effective communication skills, initiative, flexibility, leadership etc)</i>	Excellent written and oral communication skills Excellent project management skills	An appreciation of the particular challenges associated with the development of highly selective Fischer-Tropsch synthesis and of the challenges associated with the electrolysis of complex gas mixtures.	Application/Interview
Other Attributes/Abilities	The ability to work safely in a laboratory and with others to ensure a safe working environment The ability to work with others, including more junior members of the laboratory, to further the goals of a research project The ability to resolve both foreseen and unforeseen problems arising throughout the project and to work with the project team to discuss complex problems and the implications of unexpected events.		Application/Interview



Person Specification

Attributes	Essential	Desirable	Means of Assessment (i.e. application form, interview, test, presentation etc.)
Other Attributes/Abilities	<p>Strong planning and organising skills to prioritise workloads within the demands of the project requirements.</p> <p>Ability to deliver the objectives and milestones set out within the project. To maintain accurate and up to date records of all work conducted (technical and commercial development) with full safety assessments.</p>		



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Benefits

St Andrews offers more than just a place to work—it is a place to belong. We value collegiality, inclusion, and wellbeing, and we are committed to creating a workplace where staff can thrive and perform at their best.

In addition to the salary on offer for this position, there are a wide range of benefits for staff working at the University of St Andrews. The package for the Post-doctoral Research Fellow includes:

- Financial contribution to relocation (subject to eligibility)
- Membership of the USS Pension Scheme with a generous employer contribution of 14.5%
- A hybrid working environment, including partial homeworking where appropriate and a range of family friendly policies, supporting work-life balance
- Staff discount scheme for local and national goods and services
- Free staff parking, employee Carshare and Cycle to Work Schemes and subsidised local bus travel
- Subsidised sports membership, reduced tuition fees on degree programmes for staff, access to training and development opportunities including LinkedIn Learning, access to library facilities, salary sacrifice scheme
- 34 Days Annual Leave plus 5 Public Holidays.





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How to Apply



We are committed to creating an accessible, fair and inclusive recruitment process for all candidates. If you require reasonable adjustments or accommodations during the application or interview process then please let us know and we will be happy to discuss support with you.

We encourage applicants to apply online at www.vacancies.st-andrews.ac.uk/welcome.aspx

If you have difficulties in completing the online application form, then please call +44 (0)1334 461990 or contact vacancies@st-andrews.ac.uk to discuss available support.

For all applications, please quote ref: AR3276SB

The University of St Andrews is a charity registered in Scotland (No SC013532).



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Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

At St Andrews, we see diversity as a strength and value the rich variety of backgrounds, identities and experiences of our staff, students and alumni. We are committed to making the University a beacon of inclusivity and creating an environment in where everyone can flourish and realise their potential.

We will achieve this through an approach that empowers our whole community and involves a determined shift in culture. Inclusivity will inform all of our policies and practices. The Principal, Professor Sally Mapstone

Diverse is a core theme of the University Strategy, and alongside our People Strategy, outlines a number of actions we are taking to create an inclusive culture. Our objectives include raising awareness of diversity events, initiatives and support, strengthening support for staff networks, creating more opportunities for employees to engage in consultations and discussions, offering a diverse range of rewarding career pathways and ensuring a working environment which supports positive working practices and behaviours.

We commit to providing a high-quality staff experience which enables all our staff to contribute, thrive, and perform at their best. By joining us at the University of St Andrews, you are joining a community which values difference, being your authentic self, and where you can play an active role in ensuring an inclusive environment for all.





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St Andrews

A modern location surrounded with ancient history, St Andrews is a dynamic and friendly town found on the east coast of Scotland. Situated in the Kingdom of Fife, St Andrews has easy links to nearby commuter towns and transport links (including airports) to the nearby cities of Dundee (13 miles) and Edinburgh (c. 1 hour by train).

Beyond the lecture halls and labs, St Andrews is home to stunning, unspoilt beaches and fresh sea air. Take a peaceful stroll or an energising walk with friends along the iconic two-mile stretch of the West Sands. If you prefer the water, ride the waves at the East Sands or try sailing, sea kayaking and windsurfing. For breathtaking views, a walk to the end of the stone pier is an experience not to be missed.

St Andrews and the surrounding area is home to a wide range of restaurants and shops, while boasting an array of beautiful beaches. St Andrews is also the home of golf and there are seven local courses including the famous Old Course.

Fife is an area filled history and culture. There are nearly 5,000 listed buildings and 50 conservation areas across the Kingdom, with some historic structures dating all the way back to the 12th century. St Andrews enjoys a microclimate and is typically much drier than western parts of the country.





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Further Information

The University encourages all interested candidates to apply, and all applications received are assessed against the essential and desirable criteria listed in the further particulars. The successful candidate will have to demonstrate their right to work in the UK prior to commencing employment and where required, the University can support with visa sponsorship.

You are expected to uphold a duty of care towards colleagues, students, and communities, and to actively contribute to a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment. This includes responding appropriately to disclosures or reports of sexual misconduct, gender-based violence, bullying, harassment, or other concerns, in line with organisational policies, and signposting individuals to the appropriate departments





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