



Materials Specialist / Engineer
Fulltime –location TBD but with international travel

Starting date: As soon as possible or when suits

Application deadline: 12 April 2024

ABOUT KELP BLUE

At Kelp Blue, we're developing long-term solutions to help restore marine ecosystems, lock away CO₂, create sustainable products and have a positive impact on communities. We plant giant kelp forests around the globe and, just like our seaweed, we're growing quickly. We harvest and process the kelp into environmentally friendly products and are looking for a Material Scientist with experience working in fashion, textiles or bio polymers to join our team.

Kelp Blue is not a 'business as usual' company. We're here to make a difference. We're a lean team and we all roll up our sleeves to get the job done, whatever it may be. We look for collaborative team players, people who are results-driven and have a bias for action. We're looking for people who have a healthy dose of common sense, who are problem solvers by nature, and are great at lateral thinking.

We measure our success by having impact, and we put 4 'Returns' at the heart of what we do. These are:

- **Inspiration;** we inspire people to be better and we pioneer change on an epic scale
- **Nature;** we improve planetary health and create marine ecosystems that increase and support biodiversity
- **Social;** we work to ensure we have an outsized positive social impact wherever we operate
- **Finance;** we drive world class shareholder returns to scale our business and impact

ABOUT THE ROLE

Are you a highly motivated **Material Scientist or Textiles Engineer** ready to drive product innovation that is good for the planet? Join our R&D team as we pioneer the development of bio leather and cutting-edge bio-materials sourced from giant kelp. As a Material Scientist, you'll play a crucial role in helping us revolutionise sustainable materials, enhancing the technical performance of our kelp leather and refining formulations for scalability.

This role calls for a dynamic individual with a comprehensive understanding of bio-fabrics, natural textiles, polymers/composites, and organic chemistry. With an academic background in material science, you'll bring a wealth of expertise and hands on experience to our sustainability-driven mission.

While this role is based in Amsterdam, you will be expected to travel to Namibia to collaborate with our R&D team in the lab to accelerate product development.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provide technical direction and leadership for the formulation, development, and testing of innovative new materials within the textile category with a focus on commercialisation
- Conduct research, design experiments, and analyse data to develop pioneering solutions for the textile industry, leveraging natural and waste materials.
- Analysis of material properties and developing 100% natural, bio-based leather and textiles using kelp and other sustainable materials
- Connect with our Innovation partners and provide technical support for customers. Liaise with suppliers and partners to enhance product quality and performance.
- Keep abreast of textile industry trends, consumer preferences, and regulatory requirements, particularly those related to sustainable materials
- Improve polymer formulations and troubleshooting based on client and market feedback to deliver product innovation and excellence
- Set up quality assurance and control to make sure products meet industry requirements and undergo thorough testing to achieve relevant standards and certifications.
- Work closely with the production managers to align the product development efforts to pilot and scale up goals and to meet company KPIs
- Lead and mentor our R&D team, fostering a culture of collaboration, continuous improvement, and a shared commitment to sustainability and the planet.

SKILLS & QUALIFICATIONS

- A master's in materials science, bio-chemical engineering, biomaterials engineering, or a related field. A doctoral degree in relevant field is a plus
- At least 3-5 years of experience in materials science research and development, with a focus on bio-based materials or biomaterials
- Proficiency in materials science principles, including polymer chemistry, composite materials, and material characterization techniques
- Experience in product development processes, including formulation, prototyping, testing, and scale-up
- Understanding of biomaterials, particularly those derived from natural sources like kelp, and experience working with biodegradable materials
- Experience testing raw materials are fit for purpose with physical testing techniques
- Ability to thrive in a fast-paced, dynamic environment and effectively manage multiple priorities while maintaining a strong focus on sustainability and environmental stewardship
- Passion and commitment to doing good, sustainability, and promoting the health of the planet and oceans

ATTRIBUTES

Working at Kelp Blue is about much more than being good at your job. It's about having the right mindset, being comfortable with the uncomfortable, and about always pushing to be the best. So, in addition to the skills we outline above, we want candidates who can demonstrate:

- A "can do, will do" approach
- Flexible and lateral thinking/problem solving
- Personal responsibility and self-reliance
- Grit and determination, a willingness to learn from mistakes
- A commitment to always working in the company's best interests

- A passion for our 4Rs and a determination to make a difference, *to leave things a little better than you found them*

WANT TO APPLY?

Please send an email and CV to newkelpies@kelp.blue with **Material Scientist** in the subject line. Please use the email to tell us about how you fit the Kelp Blue profile, what you can bring to our mission, and why you are the perfect candidate.