



UNIVERSITY OF MAURITIUS

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The Faculty of Engineering is inviting expressions of interest from qualified individuals who wish to be involved as **Research Assistant (Part-Time)** for the project entitled “*Biodegradability/degradability of plastics in marine environment*”, for a period of 1 year.

Qualifications:

Selection will be made among Graduates in Engineering, or any other related fields applicable for this post.

Profile

Candidates must have:

- A strong interest in environmental sustainability and waste management;
- Knowledge on biostatistics, biochemistry, molecular techniques;
- Experience in data collection, report writing, and project coordination;
- Knowledge of legislation, policies, and regulations related to environmental issues;
- Excellent communication skills and ability to liaise with stakeholders;
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office and data analysis tools;
- Ability to work independently and within a team.

Responsibilities & Duties

Task 1 – Experimental Design and Planning

Assist in the design and planning of experimental studies related to the biodegradation and degradation of plastics under different marine environmental conditions.

Task 2 – Experimental Implementation and Monitoring

Support the implementation, operation, and monitoring of laboratory- and field-based experiments on plastic degradation and biodegradation.

Task 3 – Field Sampling Activities

Conduct field sampling of seawater, sediments, beach materials, and other relevant environmental matrices for the investigation of plastics and microplastics.

Task 4 – Environmental Monitoring

Participate in monitoring activities aimed at assessing the occurrence, distribution, abundance, and temporal or spatial variations of plastics and microplastics in marine environments.

Task 5 – Microplastic Identification and Characterisation

Assist in the detection, identification, classification, and characterisation of microplastics using appropriate laboratory and analytical techniques.

Task 6 – Environmental Impact Indicators

Identify, analyse, and monitor relevant indicators for assessing the environmental occurrence, distribution, degradation, and potential impacts of plastics and microplastics on marine ecosystems.

Task 7 – Sample Preparation and Laboratory Analysis

Undertake the collection, preparation, processing, preservation, and analysis of environmental and experimental samples in accordance with established laboratory protocols.

Task 8 – Data Management and Statistical Analysis

Compile, organise, validate, and manage experimental and field data, and undertake appropriate statistical analyses to support interpretation of research findings.

Task 9 – Interpretation and Research Reporting

Contribute to the interpretation of experimental and monitoring results and to the preparation of technical reports, scientific summaries, presentations, and other research outputs.

Task 10 – Scientific, Regulatory and Standards Review

Compile and review relevant scientific literature, regulatory requirements, methodologies, and national and international standards related to marine plastic pollution, biodegradation, and degradability of plastics.

Task 11 – Training, Documentation and Dissemination

Support the preparation of training materials, laboratory protocols, technical documentation, presentations, and scientific dissemination and knowledge-sharing activities associated with the project.

Task 12 – Project Coordination and Administrative Support

Assist with project coordination, documentation, record keeping, procurement-related activities, organisation of meetings and field/laboratory activities, and other administrative or cognate duties assigned by the Project Leader.

Remuneration

An all-inclusive allowance of **MUR 600,000** for the whole duration of the project. However, payment of **Rs 50,000** will be released upon satisfactory completion of **each** assigned task.

Duration

The period of involvement as Research Assistant (Part-Time) will be for 1 year. The proposed starting date is **30 September 2026**.

Mode of Application

Letter of expression of interest together with a detailed Curriculum Vitae and photocopies of qualifications should reach **the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering (Attention: Associate Professor Dr (Ms) Geeta Somaroo), University of Mauritius, Réduit by email at: *g.somaroo@uom.ac.mu* and copied to *deanfeng@uom.ac.mu* by 14 September 2026**, at latest.

The envelope (for the hardcopy, if any) and/or the email subject should be clearly marked ***“Biodegradability/degradability of plastics in marine environment”***.

Incomplete applications or those received after the closing date will not be considered

The University reserves the right:

- to call for interview only the most appropriately and best qualified applicants;
- not to make any selection as a result of this advertisement.

2nd September 2026

Dean, Faculty of Engineering