



**POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT**  
**Assistant Professor – Flexible Packaging**  
**School of Packaging**  
**Michigan State University**

**Position description:** The School of Packaging at Michigan State University invites applications for a full-time, 9-month tenure track Assistant Professor with 50% teaching, 40% research, and 10% service assignment. The position start date is anticipated to be August 16, 2023.

This position creates a teaching commitment to the domain of flexible packaging with special emphasis on ensuring students learn how to make science-based decisions and trade-offs when considering and designing flexible packaging solutions. The candidate will work closely with industry to develop curriculum and create experiential learning opportunities for students in labs and lectures and keep abreast of technology as well as environmental regulations, extended producer responsibility (EPR), design for circularity, and environmental, social, and governance (ESG) trends that impact flexible packaging and prepare students for a future career working with flexible packaging.

The candidate is expected to initially teach one large (around 100 students) undergraduate course during spring and fall semesters on Packaging with Plastics. Expectations include incorporating the latest research developments in renewable based resins, degradable materials and how to advance their use in flexible packaging, bio-based and/or bio-degradable plastic films, end-of-life strategies for flexible packaging especially multilayer to reduce waste, and manufacturing, waste reduction during manufacturing, printing, and other relevant topics into the course. The candidate will also develop at least one graduate-level and one elective course related to flexible packaging with a focus on one or more topics such as design for circularity, optimized barrier performance, and measuring or evaluating the total carbon footprint to make fact-based assessments that optimize sustainability benefits across the value chain. The candidate may also be assigned to teach smaller elective classes and/or co-teach an existing class based on School need.

The School of Packaging is well known around the world for offering exemplary educational experiences in the science of packaging. The candidate would have the opportunity to create and teach short courses for industry professionals and contribute to the growth of the school's outreach program.

The successful candidate will be expected to develop a nationally and internationally recognized multidisciplinary research program that builds collaboratively on MSU's strengths, focusing on flexible packaging to provide novel packaging with enhanced functionality and improved sustainability. Research areas may include (but not limited to) sustainability and life cycle assessment with a circular solution, strategies for increasing its recyclability, and end-of-life emphasis, the use of flexibles across diverse product lines, machine optimization, material science fundamentals, and flexible packaging digital print applications. The candidate will establish innovative research



programs, secure competitive grants, publish in high-quality refereed journals, and establish strong ties with the industry. The candidate will also mentor undergraduate and graduate students and postdoctoral researchers in the same area.

**Required qualifications:** An earned Ph.D. in Packaging, or a closely related field such as Chemical Engineering, Chemistry, Polymer Science, Paper Science, or Material Science. A demonstrated record of activities in teaching, research, and service relevant to the position.

**Desired qualifications:**

- a) Experience working in research intensive, multidisciplinary environments,
- b) Ability to conduct basic and applied research while addressing the issues in the packaging industry,
- c) Knowledge of current and emerging needs of the flexible packaging industry,
- d) Ability to secure industry and/or competitive grant funding,
- e) Evidence for the potential to develop a strong publication record,
- f) Experience in mentoring peers, undergraduate and graduate students,
- g) Experience in teaching undergraduate and graduate student courses, as well as courses for industry professionals, and
- h) Interest in providing leadership and service in professional scientific associations.

**The School of Packaging (SoP)**, founded in 1952, is the leading institution in packaging education and research. As the only U.S. university offering a Ph.D. program in packaging, the School of Packaging at MSU attracts students from a variety of disciplines around the world. Our community of scholars is poised for significant growth and a commitment to improving practice through the land-grant mission of Michigan State University. We are seeking a colleague who can contribute, through their research, teaching, and service, to the diversity and excellence of the academic community and who will build collaborative ties with other departments across the University.

**Location:** The position will be based at Michigan State University in East Lansing, MI, USA. Michigan State University (MSU) is one of the top research universities in the world and home to nationally ranked and recognized academic, residential college, and service-learning programs. MSU is a diverse community of dedicated students and scholars, athletes and artists, and scientists that provide regional, national, and international leadership in basic and applied research and excellence in teaching. In addition, consistent with its Land Grant origins, the MSU community pursues international engagement and provides strong extension programs that partner with diverse stakeholders to provide much needed research in the areas of food, energy, water, and the environment. MSU enjoys a park-like campus with outlying research facilities and natural areas. The campus is in the city of East Lansing, adjacent to the capital city of Lansing. The Lansing metropolitan area has a diverse population of >500,000. Local communities have excellent school systems and place a high value on education. The University is proactive about its obligations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and provides individual accessibility plans to students and employees with disabilities. Michigan State University is also proactive in exploring



opportunities for employment for dual career families, both inside and outside the University, and respects all family forms. Information about MSU's dual career support can be found at <http://miwin.msu.edu/>. Information about WorkLife at MSU can be found at <http://worklife.msu.edu/>

**Commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion:** The College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at Michigan State University is committed to achieving excellence by creating and sustaining an accessible and inclusive culture that values cultural and academic diversity. We are an equal opportunity / affirmative action employer. The CANR is particularly interested in candidates of all backgrounds who are committed to the principle that academic excellence is achieved through open access and proactive inclusion. Candidates are invited to view the CANR norms. <https://www.canr.msu.edu/diversity/dei-statement>

**Salary and Benefits:** Salary will be commensurate with qualifications. MSU offers a generous benefits package (details at <https://hr.msu.edu/benefits/index.html>).

**To Apply:** For consideration, submit your application online at <http://careers.msu.edu> to job number 825109. Upload the following required documents in a single pdf file: **a)** letter of interest that includes qualifications for the position (1 page); **b)** a separate statement of research and teaching philosophy highlighting how your experiences align with the position (2 pages); **c)** current curriculum vitae; **d)** a description of how you will contribute to our diversity, equity, and inclusion goals (1 page); and **e)** contact information for three professional references. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

**Review of Applications:** The search committee will begin reviewing applications on January 23, 2023 and continue until a suitable candidate is selected.

Questions regarding this position can be addressed to the Search Committee Co-Chairs: Dr. Laurent Matuana at [matuana@msu.edu](mailto:matuana@msu.edu) and Dr. Muhammad Rabnawaz at [rabnawaz@msu.edu](mailto:rabnawaz@msu.edu), School of Packaging, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824, USA.

*MSU is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer, committed to achieving excellence through a diverse workforce and an inclusive culture that encourages all people to reach their full potential. We actively encourage applications from, and nominations of, women, persons of color, veterans, persons with disabilities and other individuals who can contribute to the intellectual diversity and cultural richness at Michigan State University. MSU is committed to providing a work environment that supports employees' work and personal life and offers employment assistance to the spouse or partner of candidates for faculty and academic staff positions.*