



Royce Battery Suite Facility manager

Department of Materials Science and Metallurgy

Closing date: Sunday 2nd March 2025

Job Reference: LJ45143



The role

Salary:

£34,866 –£45,163

Contract:

Fixed term (2 years)

Location:

West Cambridge

Department:

Department of Materials
Science and Metallurgy

Responsible to:

Prof. Manish Chhowalla
Royce Cambridge Lead

Working pattern:

Full-time

Purpose of the role

The Sir Henry Royce Institute at Cambridge is headquartered in the Department of Materials Science & Metallurgy (DMSM), which hosts several users' facilities including the Royce Technology Platform and the Wolfson Electron Microscopy Suite.

The Royce Cambridge Battery Manufacturing Facility provides equipment for academic and commercial researchers to manufacture and process battery materials bridging the gap between materials innovation and industrial collaboration. This comprehensive suite can accommodate a variety of materials and overcome difficult processing operations.

The role holder will be responsible for a specialist and advanced suite of shared equipment and facilities to provide high level method development, equipment construction and testing ensuring its safe and optimal operation, continued technical development, and efficient user support for scientific and industrial research and effective delivery of research projects.

The Royce Battery facility has an increasing number of academic and industrial users, with a wide range of experience from complete novices to leading experts. The role holder will be required to scope and negotiate, collaborate with, and advance the research activities of the facility users. This involves working with academic and industry users of the facility from around the UK.

The role holder will train students and staff on the use of the facility, including risk assessment, health and safety forms, and any other administrative requirements including monitoring the usage and charging for the facility. The role holder will ensure a high standard of equipment operation and maintenance as well as provide professional technical support for users. This involves providing high level method development, equipment construction and testing, and measurement and equipment optimisation services in order to support the efficient and effective delivery of research projects for the users. This ranges from purchasing of consumables and equipment, their storage and cataloguing, updating web pages relating to the Suite, looking after all ancillary equipment, and liaising with the departmental facilities team and a variety of external contractors

Main Duties

Technical responsibilities

- Management of the maintenance, assembly, and installation of a range of instruments, including testing and commissioning of equipment.
- Responsibility for ensuring user measurement needs are met, including, but not limited to, proper sample preparation, sample loading, data collection, and results analysis.
- Particular emphasis on advice in the selection of appropriate instrument and technique used for the sample, and sample mounting/preparation and instrument setup.

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- Maintenance, problem solving, fault diagnosis and repair of the instruments and equipment within the Battery Suite.
- Responsibility for equipment upgrade, development, and testing of new equipment and software.
- Work collaboratively with colleagues within DMSM to gain familiarity with other available research facilities and capabilities, and facilitate multi-disciplinary cross-technique research activities.
- Interface with departmental maintenance and facility staff to undertake maintenance and alteration to the equipment and lab infrastructure.
- Ensure provision of general lab maintenance and support.

Operation of facilities

- Management and operation of shared equipment, including upkeep and adaptation of the booking system and policy for usage.
- Co-ordination of user registration and inductions.
- Ensure that training and usage documentation, as well as equipment and non-standard measurement protocols are usable by the next holder of this role, and by generalist users.
- Interface with equipment suppliers to build relationships and resolve technical issues.
- Manage, plan, and organise resources including ordering, the installation and supply of utilities and other supplies.
- Co-ordinate and manage work by specialist technicians on the Suite equipment.
- Liaise with DMSM and the Royce Cambridge Management teams to ensure smooth operation of the Facility.

User support and customer service

- Scope and plan work with users, prepare schedules and advice on funding opportunities (Royce access scheme, ICP). Liaise with DMSM and Royce team to ensure initial due diligence and framework agreements are in place.
- Provide support for users, including experimental assistance, provision of bespoke instrumentation, help in data acquisition and analysis – for both routine and complex research experiments.
- Organise training and provide supervision for new users in how to safely and effectively use the equipment, and in the local safety rules.
- Carry out experiments as a service for occasional users.
- Develop and document processes and SOPs for supporting user access to the facilities and the operation of the equipment.
- Provide highly specialised technical advice on the design of experimental devices, mounting of samples, preparation of

measurements, optimisation of measurement parameters and instrument settings, in order to realise research needs.

- Provide high-level wholistic technical advice for users, and refer to other facilities available, where it is beneficial.

Health and safety

- Responsible for familiarising users with equipment operation, ensuring users are acquainted with and abide by all safety regulations.
- Ensure risk assessments are kept up-to-date.

Other duties

- Liaise with colleagues to plan the facility's activities.
 - Maintain and update web pages where the Royce Battery Suite is listed. Prepare outreach and marketing materials, help in organising events and workshops to showcase and promote the facilities to a variety of audiences (from school children, to industrial users, and funders).
 - Liaise with Royce Communication coordinator to develop case studies and other collaterals and with the Research and Business Engagement manager and the Application Scientist to promote the facility and identify new potential users.
 - Liaise with the Royce management team and participate to Royce meetings for updates on the programme.
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Person specification

	Essential or Desirable
Experience	
A good working knowledge of and the competence to perform advanced experimental measurements and data analysis on a variety of battery materials and to overcome difficult processing operations, including microwave manufacture, digestion, separation, drying, purifying, mixing, and washing.	E
Experience and specialist knowledge in running experiments and other advanced surface measurement analysis techniques.	E
Experience of implementing health and safety requirements within a research environment.	E
Experience of providing training to groups and on a 1:1 basis, and supporting users of research facilities	E
Skills	
Specialist knowledge and skills in relevant research area	E
Demonstrate advanced knowledge of research technical work involving a critical understanding of relevant theory and/or principles	E
Specialist knowledge and skills in sample preparation and mounting for experiments.	E
Ability to operate specialist experimental equipment	E
High degree of precision and accuracy	E
Technical problem-solving skills – troubleshooting equipment malfunction and measurement errors.	E
Strong written and verbal communication skills.	D
Strong organisational skills.	D
Qualifications	
PhD or equivalent substantial experience in conducting experimental research on Battery materials.	E

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The Department has over 30 academic staff, (including staff extended beyond retirement age, established academic staff and early-career research fellows), approximately 50 administrative, technical and other support staff, and around 80 postdoctoral researchers, 150 postgraduate students and 20 visiting scientists at any time. Our research falls into six themes: structural materials, device materials, materials chemistry, clean energy and sustainability, medical and pharmaceutical materials and materials characterisation (particularly electron microscopy).

In 2013 the Department moved to a new purpose-built building on the West Cambridge Site. This is the first time all academic groups have been housed together in a single building. In the last UK Research Excellence Framework (REF 2021), for the first time, our Department was included within the Engineering Unit of Assessment (UoA), together with the Department of Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology, and the Department of Engineering. 99% of the submission as a whole was rated 'world leading' or 'internationally excellent'.

Research funding totals around £12M per annum, and come from a variety of sources: about 40% from the UK research councils and government, 40% from the EU (including a large number of European Research Council grants), 20% for industry, overseas governments and charities.

The Department offers a 3 or 4 year BA/MSci degree within the Natural Sciences Tripos (NST), with the majority of students completing the 4-year course. In year 1 the students read four subjects, in year 2 three subjects, before specialising in one subject only. Over 280 take Materials Science in year 1, over 85 in year 2, and over 35 in years 3 and 4. Year 4 includes students who have transferred from other universities to read for the Master of Advanced Studies (MASt) degree. In addition, 10 to 20 students are admitted each year to the one-year MPhil in Micro- and Nanotechnology

Enterprise administered by the Department. Further details of the teaching programme can be found on the teaching pages of the departmental website:

<http://www.msm.cam.ac.uk/teaching>

We have a thriving Graduate School.

Almost all postgraduate research students are working for the PhD, which they complete on average in 3.5 years. We play a prominent role in a number of centres for doctoral training centre, including the NanoDTC and the CDT in Computational Methods for Materials Science (in collaboration with the Department of Physics at Cambridge), and the DTC in Structural Metallics linking Materials at Cambridge with sister departments at Birmingham and Swansea.

For more information: <https://www.msm.cam.ac.uk/>

Henry Royce Institute

The Henry Royce Institute, known as Royce, is the UK's national institute for advanced materials science research and innovation. Royce at the University of Cambridge, known as Royce at Cambridge, is one of Royce's nine partners, funded by the Engineering & Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), which is part of UK Research & Innovation (UKRI). Royce at Cambridge is the centrepiece for industrial engagement with the scientists and engineers working across the materials sciences on the West Cambridge Science and Technology Campus.

Through an initial £12M capital investment in research facilities, Royce Cambridge supports research and innovation through an inter-departmental network of 18 open access deposition, fabrication and characterisation facilities. Our focus is on supporting the development of materials for energy efficient devices as part of the Royce 'AtomsToDevices (A2D)' research theme.

For more information: [Henry Royce Institute at Cambridge | Maxwell Centre](#)

The School of the Physical Sciences

The School of the Physical Sciences is one of the six Schools making up the academic work of the University. It comprises the following Departments: Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics (DAMTP), Chemistry, Earth Sciences, Geography (including the Scott Polar Research Institute), Institute of Astronomy, Isaac Newton Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Materials Sciences and Metallurgy, Physics (Cavendish Laboratory), Pure Mathematics and Mathematical Statistics (DPMMS).

The School's aim is to contribute to our understanding of the physical world through excellence in observational, theoretical and experimental science and to extend quantitative, qualitative and combined methodologies to address problems in the fields of biology, technology, medicine, social science and the humanities. In pursuit of these goals, the School coordinates objectives in research, teaching and infrastructure.

The School is responsible for allocating core funds to departments and provides broad strategic focus across its constituent departments in a number of areas including: research activity, undergraduate and graduate education, estate needs, fundraising and human resources. As part of the University's planning process, the School prepares a financial and academic plan which sets out strategic objectives, and determines budgets as well as the flow of resources to departments. The School manages a wide range of administrative activities and

projects across its departments and works alongside other Schools to further interdisciplinary research.

The School has over 1500 members of staff, over 3000 students and an annual budget of over £100 million.

The Office of the School of Physical Sciences in a small team led by the Head of Schools, currently Professor Nigel Peake, the School Secretary, the Director of Education and the Finance Manager. As well as the Deputy Secretary, there are currently six other staff, as well as those in the Degree Committee office. The wider School team supporting our Departments also include representatives from HR, Fundraising, and Research Operations who are assigned to the School.

The Office of the School currently occupies a suite of offices in 17 Mill Lane.

More information about the School Office and links to the websites of the School's constituent Department can be found at the SPS website:
<https://www.physsci.cam.ac.uk>



Terms of appointment

Tenure and probation for assistant staff

Appointments will be made on a permanent basis. Appointments will be subject to satisfactory completion of a six month probationary period.

Hours of Work and Working Pattern

The hours of work for the position are full-time, working Monday – Friday.

Pension

You will automatically be enrolled to become a member of CPS (Contributory Pension Scheme) – a defined benefits pension scheme. For further information, please visit: www.pensions.admin.cam.ac.uk/.

Annual leave

Full-time employees are entitled to annual paid leave of 7.2 weeks (or 36 days for those working full-time), including plus public holidays.

General information

Pre-employment checks

Right to work in the UK

We have a legal responsibility to

ensure that you have the right to work in the UK before you can start working for us. If you do not have the right to work in the UK already, any offer of employment we make to you will be conditional upon you gaining it.

Health declaration

Once an offer of employment has been made the successful candidate will be required to complete a work health declaration form.

Qualifications

The person specification for this position lists qualifications that are essential and/or desirable. Please note that if you are offered the post you will be asked to provide your relevant original certificates of these qualifications.

References - offers of appointment will be subject to the receipt of satisfactory references.

Information if you have a disability

The University welcomes applications from individuals with disabilities.

We are committed to ensuring fair treatment throughout the recruitment process. We will make adjustments to enable applicants to compete to the

best of their ability wherever it is reasonable to do so and, if successful, to assist them during their employment. Information for disabled applicants is available at <http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/hr/staff/disabled/>

We encourage you to declare any disability that you may have, and any reasonable adjustments that you may require, in the section provided for this purpose in the application form. This will enable us to accommodate your needs throughout the process as required. However, applicants and employees may declare a disability at any time.

If you prefer to discuss any special arrangements connected with a disability, please contact, the Department Administrator, who is responsible for recruitment to this position. Alternatively, you may contact the HR Business Manager responsible for the department you are applying to via hrenquiries@admin.cam.ac.uk.



The University

The University of Cambridge is one of the world's oldest and most successful universities. We are a renowned centre for research, education, and scholarship that makes a significant contribution to society. The University is consistently ranked amongst the top universities in the world. Our affiliates have won more Nobel Prizes than any other University.

Our sustained pursuit of academic excellence is built on a long history of first-class teaching and research within a distinctive collegiate system. For eight centuries our ideas and innovations have shaped the world. Our principal goal is to remain one of the world's leading universities in an increasingly competitive global higher education sector. Today the University of Cambridge is at the centre of a cluster of over 4,300 businesses employing 58,000 people. Our capital investment projects include the West Cambridge site, the North West Cambridge development and the growth of the Biomedical Campus in the south of the city. The North West Cambridge development includes the opening of a primary school – the first in the UK to be managed by a University. So we are deeply embedded in, and committed to serving, our local community. These are all conspicuous signs of a University that is not only adapting to new needs, but also anticipating the future.

Our mission is to contribute to society through the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence. Our core values are:

- freedom of thought and expression; and
- freedom from discrimination.



About us

The University is one of the world's leading academic centres. It comprises 150 faculties and departments, together with a central administration and other institutions. Our institutions, museums and collections are a world-class resource for researchers, students and members of the public representing one of the country's highest concentrations of internationally important collections.

The University has an annual income of £1.66 billion. Research income, won competitively from the UK Research Councils, the European Union (EU), major charities and industry, exceeds £400 million per annum and continues to grow.

The Colleges and the University remain committed to admitting the best students regardless of their background and to investing considerable resources both in widening access and financial support.

The 31 Colleges are self-governing, separate legal entities which appoint their own staff. Many academic staff are invited to join a College as a Teaching Fellow, which provides a further social and intellectual dimension. The Colleges admit students, provide

Our ideas and innovations have shaped the world. Our campaign, 'Dear World... Yours, Cambridge', will raise £2 billion to help us shape all our futures.

student accommodation and deliver small group teaching. The University awards degrees and its faculties and departments provide lectures and seminars for students and determine the syllabi for teaching and conducting research.

The University's estate is undergoing the most significant transformation in its history. Cambridge has been able to create a new science and technology campus to the west of the city centre, and is now expanding further to the north west of Cambridge including investing in affordable homes for University key workers and community facilities. Even with our continued development, the University remains within walking or cycling distance across the campus. The University is a major partner on the Cambridge Biomedical Campus and we continue to redevelop our historic city centre sites demonstrating our determination to ensure that we can offer the best facilities and opportunities for our staff and students.

Our instinct for seeking out excellence and setting up enduring and mutually beneficial collaborations has led us to establish strategic partnerships across the globe.

Whether it is the successful Cambridge-Africa Programme involving universities in Ghana, Uganda and elsewhere on the African continent; or the close association with the government of India to pursue new research in crop science; or the creation, with Germany's Max Planck Institutes, of a Cambridge-based centre for the study of ethics, human economy and social change – international partnerships are now an inextricable part of the University's make-up

Working at the University

Working at Cambridge you will join a diverse, talented and innovative community, with more than 18,000 students and over 11,000 staff from all walks of life and corners of the world.

The University continually explores strategies to attract and retain the best people. It is committed to supporting its staff to achieve their best. We are a fair, diverse and inclusive society and we believe our staff are our greatest asset. There is strong commitment to developing institutional leadership and supporting and encouraging staff development at all levels. Furthermore, the University's Athena SWAN award recognises and celebrates good practice in recruiting, retaining and promoting women. We offer a variety of roles including academic, research, professional, managerial and support roles. We also offer extensive benefits and excellent learning opportunities within a stimulating working environment. The University has signed up to the Race Equality Charter, a notional framework for improving the representation, progression and success of minority ethnic staff and students within higher education.



Living in Cambridge



Cambridge is rich in cultural diversity. From beautiful University and College buildings, museums and art galleries, quaint gardens and punts on the River Cam, to a vibrant restaurant and café scene, our employees are surrounded by the wonderful features of this unique city.

If you prefer the faster pace of life, London is a 45 minute train journey away. For those travelling from overseas, Stansted Airport is just 45 minutes away and Heathrow Airport under 2 hours away.

The University is a short distance from a host of other attractions such as Ely Cathedral, Newmarket Races and various wildlife parks and stately homes.

Cambridge is also within easy reach of the beautiful Broads and coastlines of Norfolk and Suffolk.

Further information about attractions in and around Cambridge can be found at [Visit Cambridge](#), the official tourism website for the city.



What Cambridge can offer

We offer a comprehensive reward package to attract, motivate and retain high performing staff at all levels and in all areas of work. The University offers a wide range of competitive benefits, from family leave entitlement, to shopping and travel discount schemes. Our generous annual leave package contributes to the positive wellbeing of our University employees. Sabbatical leave enables academics to focus on research and scholarship, whilst still maintaining their full salary. The University also has a career break scheme for academic and academic-related staff, with additional flexible working policies for all other staff.

CAMBens employee benefits

We offer a CAMBens scheme for University employees, providing access to online and in-store shopping discounts and cashback. With more than 2,000 participating retailers, employees can save money on a wide range of household expenses, from groceries and clothes, to holidays and insurance and much more. A range of local discounts are also available, helping employees to save money whilst also supporting local Cambridge businesses. CAMBens Cars and CAMBens Cycle to Work salary sacrifice schemes are also available, which enable employees to save money on transport costs. A 10% discount rate on the purchase of train season tickets, bulk buy tickets and an interest free travel to work loan are also available for staff of the University of Cambridge.

Family-friendly policies

The University recognises the importance of supporting its staff. We have a range of family-friendly policies to aid employees' work-life balance including a

generous maternity, adoption and shared parental leave entitlement of 18 weeks full pay and emergency family care support via My Family Care.

In addition, our Ofsted rated 'outstanding' workplace nurseries, childcare vouchers, a childcare salary sacrifice scheme and a high quality holiday play scheme are available to help support University employees with caring responsibilities. The Newcomers and Visiting Scholars Group is an organisation within the University run by volunteers whose aim is to help newly arrived wives, husbands, partners and families of Visiting Scholars and members of the University to settle in Cambridge and give them an opportunity to meet local people.

Your wellbeing

The University's Sport Centre, Counselling Services and Occupational Health are just some of the support services available to University employees to promote their physical and mental wellbeing. There are many societies in Cambridge catering for almost every taste and interest. Whether you want to take part in a sport, participate in music or drama, pursue a hobby, or join a political group, you will almost certainly find that a society exists for this purpose. The University also hosts the [Cambridge Science Festival](#) and [Cambridge Festival of Ideas](#), as well as [Open Cambridge](#) weekend, which together attract over 50,000 visitors per year. The festivals are a great opportunity to get your first taste of public engagement, through volunteering, supporting hands-on activities or proposing a talk.



What Cambridge can offer

Pay and benefits

The University salary structure includes automatic service-related pay progression in many of its grades and an annual cost of living increase. In addition to this, employees are rewarded for outstanding contribution through a number of regular pay progression schemes. The University offers attractive pensions schemes for employees, with an additional benefit of a salary exchange arrangement providing tax and national insurance savings. Payroll giving is also a simple, tax-efficient way for employees to make monthly donations to charity.



Relocating to Cambridge

The University Accommodation Service exists to help employees in their search for a rental home in Cambridge. A new University development at North West Cambridge called Eddington offers subsidised rented accommodation to University staff. The development consists of high quality furnished one and two bedroom apartments. For more information about the development and how to apply please visit the website www.nwcambridge.co.uk



The importance of helping individuals settle into a new area is also recognised by the University. The Shared Equity Scheme <https://www.hr.admin.cam.ac.uk/pay-benefits/cambens-employee-benefits/financial/shared-equity-scheme> provides financial assistance to qualifying new members of staff with the purchase of living accommodation, where they have to relocate to take up their appointment. Removal expenses are also available for qualifying new members of staff.

Equality & diversity

The University has a vibrant and varied community. We support and encourage under-represented groups and we value diversity. We welcome applications from individuals with disabilities. Our recruitment and selection procedures follow best practice. We have an Equal Opportunities Policy, along with a range of diversity networks for women, black and minority ethnic and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender staff. More details are available here: <http://www.equality.admin.cam.ac.uk/>

Development opportunities

We support new employees to settle in through various activities. The encouragement of career development for all staff is one of the University's values and we put this into practice through various services and initiatives. Our Personal and Professional Development Department provides development opportunities and courses for all University employees. These include face-to-face sessions, online learning modules and webinars. Employees may also apply for financial support to undertake training that will lead to a qualification. We offer reduced staff fees for University of Cambridge graduate courses and the opportunity to attend lectures and seminars held by University departments and development for all staff is one of the University's values and we put this into practice through various services and initiatives. Our Personal and Professional Development Department provides development opportunities and courses for all University employees. These include face-to-face sessions, online learning modules and webinars. Employees may also apply for financial support to undertake training that will lead to a qualification. We offer reduced staff fees for University of Cambridge graduate courses and the opportunity to attend lectures and seminars held by University departments and institutions.

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The CareerStart@Cam programme also supports employees in assistant staff roles who do not hold higher education qualifications to develop their skills, experience and qualifications.

Whether it is understanding the molecular basis of neurodegenerative diseases, or helping farmers in India increase their yield, or discovering better ways to live in large cities – I know that what we do in Cambridge affects lives, and livelihoods, the world over.

Vice Chancellor Emeritus, Professor Sir Leszek Borysiewicz, 2016

How to apply

Applications should be submitted online via the University of Cambridge jobs page, www.jobs.cam.ac.uk by clicking "Apply online" in the job advert. You will need an email address to register for our online system.

Informal enquiries are welcomed and should be directed to:

Alexandra Robasto ar2014@cam.ac.uk

The closing date for applications is 2nd March 2025