

PhD Position (Doktorarbeit)

Project	<p>This PhD project builds on ongoing research projects within the NanoMembrane initiative and will explore novel materials and membrane preparation methods for functionalized membrane development. The project will focus on i) membrane material selection, , ii) explore options of material functionalization and/or coating, iii) investigate system design from small-scale to potentially pilot scale process design - with one of the challenges being the regeneration of the reactive moieties if required, and iv) an application to micropollutant removal. Modelling aspects are open to exploration at molecular and process scale. There are many aspects of this project, potential that require in-depth R&D, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ How can a system react with contaminants in-situ in a functionalized membrane? ◆ What is the most suitable functionality for micropollutant removal in water treatment applications? ◆ What are the mechanisms behind the reaction kinetics and how can such mechanisms be quantified?
	
	<p>The PhD project will be largely experimental and will begin with an identification of a set of research questions based on detailed literature survey that results in a suggestion of functionalities/materials and the micropollutants of interest. Subsequently, development of a research plan and timetable for the 3 year research project, and set-up of required equipment and development of relevant analytical methods will follow. Establishment of suitable models to explain the results obtained drawing of interdisciplinary and potentially multi-scale approaches will be an opportunity to integrate experiment and model. Execution of the research plan through conducting of experiments, sample and data analysis and write up of results for scientific publication are part of the PhD process – a journey to become an independent researcher!</p> <p>Throughout the project, there will be multiple opportunities for cooperation with internal and external partners, supervising bachelor and master students, giving oral presentations at conferences, writing high-impact journal articles, as well as sharing your knowledge via teaching.</p>
Qualifications	<p>You are required a Masters in Chemical, Process, Environmental Engineering, or equivalent. Experience with membrane filtration systems (of any scale) is a definite advantage, as well as being comfortable in specifying system components and sound experimental problem solving skills. You are a naturally curious person who is eager to learn more and has a strong interest in research. Excellent English language proficiency is essential, basic German language skills of advantage.</p>
KIT	<p>KIT is one of the biggest research institutions worldwide and has access to state-of-the art research facilities resulting from the merger of the National Research Centre of the Helmholtz Association and the former Technical University of Karlsruhe. This project is hosted by the Membrane Technology, Institute for Functional Interfaces (IFG-MT). The PhD will be registered in the Faculty of Chemical and Process Engineering.</p>
Contact	<p>Prof. Dr.-Ing. Andrea I. Schäfer, Membrane Technology Department, Institute of Functional Interfaces (IFG-MT), Tel: +49(0)721-608-26906, Email: Andrea.Iris.Schaefer@kit.edu; http://mt.ifg.kit.edu/</p>
Applications	<p>Please send applications with CV, publication list and your contribution to the publication (if relevant), academic transcripts, degree certificates, contact details for three references and a preliminary research proposal.</p>