



## Senior Scientist

Keracol Limited, Leeds, UK

**Keracol is looking to recruit an enthusiastic, detail-oriented, natural product chemist to join us as a Senior Scientist.**

The successful candidate will be in charge of the daily management of the R&D laboratory, and of the development and scale up of Keracol's ingredients and formulations' processes for its commercial applications. The role will cover a wide variety of projects, ranging from small-scale laboratory work to commercial production. This is a permanent position with 3-months' probation.

**Our company.** Keracol is a spin-out company from The University of Leeds. Our core value is *sustainability with performance*. We combine high-end physical science with innovative consumer product applications. Our expertise spans organic chemistry, colour chemistry, polymer chemistry, extraction technology, effect assessment, coloration technology, and natural products chemistry.

Keracol develops novel approaches to the extraction of active molecules from plant sources, and fractionating and purifying them for multiple applications, both existing and novel. We use renewable materials and waste materials as sources of extracts, and are able to produce extracts from raw materials that do not compete with land for food crops.

Our extracts are formulated in consumer products such as hair coloration, hair care, and skin care, providing solutions to unmet needs, as there is a huge consumer demand for products containing natural and renewable ingredients.

We work with multinational partners on research projects and products and Keracol also has its own brand of cosmetics called Dr. Craft ([drcraft.co.uk](http://drcraft.co.uk)), which launched in 2018.

**The ideal candidate.** The successful candidate will have strong management skills, able to identify and develop talents within the team and optimise performance through clear goals setting. The candidate must hold an appropriate science-based degree, ideally a doctoral degree, preferably in organic and/or natural products chemistry, phytochemistry, or a related discipline. They will have strong communication skills and will manage and contribute to several projects in parallel and prioritise tasks. It is imperative that the candidate is detail-oriented and driven to ensure the quality of all their work. The successful candidate will write reports based on experiments they and team members will carry out and present them in an appropriate manner. **Previous work experience is essential.**

Keracol is a small but growing business. As the business expands, our hope is to reward the loyalty of employees with excellent opportunities within the company. The position is offered with an attractive salary and a comfortable work environment.

Keracol's laboratory and office are located in Nexus ([nexusleeds.co.uk](http://nexusleeds.co.uk)), a new £40m state-of-the-art building located on The University of Leeds campus.

**Salary will be £35,000+ dependent on qualifications and experience.**

Informal enquiries may be made to: Dr Meryem Benohoud, Technical Director, 0113 306 1386.

**Closing date 5pm on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020, but early applications are welcomed.**

**Applications should include a full CV and covering letter explaining how you meet the person specification. They should be sent to [technical@keracol.co.uk](mailto:technical@keracol.co.uk) before the closing date.**

## Job Description

**Responsible to:** Dr Meryem Benohoud, Technical Director, Keracol Ltd.

### Main responsibilities

- Optimisation of plant material extraction processes.
- Conducting all analytical chemistry work (HPLC, NMR, and various assays) required for the analysis of plants extracts.
- Development, testing, data analysis and scale up of new processes.
- Supporting the R&D team in designing and formulating cosmetic products.
- Managing stability testing and performance testing of the ingredients in formulations as well as external testing.
- Preparing safety assessments for new products.
- Managing junior scientists from the team.
- Critically interpret experimental data and identify quality improvement opportunities.

## Person specification

### Essential

- Minimum of Masters degree (or equivalent) in an appropriate science based degree, preferably with a strong background in organic chemistry or phytochemistry.
- Minimum 2 years' experience in a R&D laboratory setting.
- Clear understanding of laboratory safety procedures, e.g. COSHH and risk assessments.
- Creative problem solver.
- Solid teamwork and interpersonal skills
- Ability to meet deadlines.
- Proven ability to communicate results of research effectively, through oral and written media to a high standard.

### Desirable

- Doctoral degree (or equivalent) in an appropriate science-based degree, preferably in organic chemistry or phytochemistry.
- Experience in the use of advanced analytical techniques, including HPLC, LC-MS, NMR, UV-Vis, FT-IR, MS.
- Potential to be innovative, and generate and deliver on new ideas.
- Experience of dyeing and coloration methods and relevant analytical methods.
- Experience in natural product extraction, purification, separation and characterisation technologies.
- Experience in cosmetic formulation and product design.
- Experience of working in a commercial environment.
- Experience of working in the Personal/Consumer Care sectors.
- Experience in the use of sustainable technologies & green chemistry.
- Business knowledge and acumen within a relevant industry.