



2026 Helmholtz – OCPC – Program for the involvement of postdocs in bilateral collaboration projects

Title of the project:

Electrocatalytic membranes for micropollutant degradation

Helmholtz Centre and/or institute:

Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT)

Project leader:

Prof. Dr.-Ing Andrea Iris Schäfer

Contact Information of Project Supervisor: (Email, telephone)

Tel +49 (0)721 608 26906

Andrea.Iris.Schaefer@kit.edu

Web-address:

<http://iamt.kit.edu/>

Department: (at the Helmholtz centre or Institute)

Institute for Advanced Membrane Technology (IAMT)

Program Coordinator (Email, telephone)

Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT)

International Affairs (DE INTL)

Oliver Kaas

Phone: +49 721 608 45323

Email: oliver.kaas@kit.edu

Description of the project (max. 1 page):

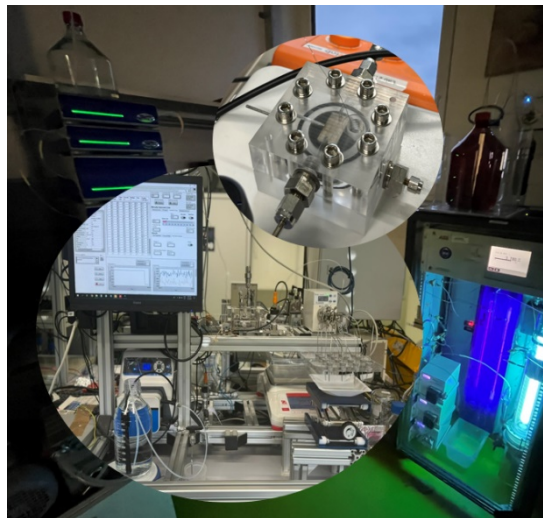
Several postdoc opportunities are available that build on ongoing research projects in the area of Electrocatalytic Membrane Reactors (EMR) for the removal of micropollutants during water treatment and reuse. Projects span from materials characterization through to process upscale depending on the individual skills and interests of the applicant. On the materials side, the main aim is to fabricate a electrocatalytic membranes and investigate these systematically using common operational and water quality parameters for the removal of micropollutants such as steroid hormones in the nanogram per litre concentration range. On the process side the design and constuction of a pilot system with a innovative electrocatalytic membrane module is a key challenge – folllowed by field testing. The research is carried out at IAMT where the membranes will be characterized with state-of-the-art filtration and analytical devices. Extesive opportunity for international collaboration and up-scale exists.

The project is developed with the following objectives, i) identify a electrocatalytic material of interest that targets the degradation of challenging micropollutants, ii) identify most suited analytical method for micropollutant of interest (analytical tools for ng/L quantification exist), iii) evaluate the effectiveness of membrane for the removal of micropollutants initially in synthetic and later in real waters. This research will investigate the following research questions;

- ◆ What membrane materials are most suitable as electrocatalytic membranes?
- ◆ What are the limiting parameters to the electrocatalytic degradation of the most stable micropollutant bonds?
- ◆ What is the degradation efficiency in a flow through reactor operated with applied potentials?
- ◆ What are the mechanisms involved in micropollutant removal in EMRs?

Further, the postdoc will be responsible for process development and up-scale, setup and control of this membrane filtration system in the laboratory

working with workshops and suppliers on such engineering tasks. At postdoctoral level the preparation of research proposals and publications, participation in team responsibilities and activities as well as the supervision of students is a key requirement. Throughout the project, there will be additional opportunities for cooperation with internal and external partners, team events, as well as contributing to (a minimal amount of) teaching.



Description of existing or sought Chinese collaboration partner institute (max. half page):

IAMT is open to new collaborations from within China with a focus on membrane materials and processes, in particular for membrane preparation, but possible also technology transfer. Many IAMT collaborations have resulted in joint publications in high impact journals.

Required qualification of the postdoc:

The ideal candidate will hold a PhD in Chemical, Process, Environmental, Materials Engineering, or equivalent and is a naturally curious 'can do' person, eager to learn more and has a strong interest in research. Experience with membrane filtration is a requirement and electrocatalytic membrane preparation skills a definite advantage. Further requirements are experience in specifying system components, sound experimental problem solving skills, micropollutant/water analysis and a solid publication track record – as well a good common sense. Excellent English language proficiency is essential (IAMT is English speaking), basic German language skills of advantage. A valid driver's licence is required.

Please send applications with cover letter addressing position requirements, 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** (10 pages) on the topic to the above contact(s). It is strongly advised to visit the IAMT website as well as read the numerous publications on the topic.