

Ph.D. Positions in Synthetic Polymer Chemistry

The Laboratory of Synthetic Polymer Chemistry (LCPS), headed by Prof. Suong “Su” Nguyen at the Institute of Chemical Sciences and Engineering (ISIC) at EPFL, Switzerland, is seeking 2–3 inaugural Ph.D. students. Our research will integrate organic synthesis, catalysis, photo/electrochemistry, and polymer chemistry to develop new strategies for the synthesis and characterization of polymers with novel architectures and properties. Our findings will be relevant for plastic sustainability, biomedical applications, and materials with interesting electronic and optical properties. Research topics will be tailored to students' interests and expertise.

Start date: The earliest start date is March or April, 2025.

Duration: 4 years (full time).

Qualifications: Ideal Ph.D. candidates would have:

- A four-year Bachelor's or Master's degree in Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, or Materials Science, broadly defined;
- Enthusiasm, self-motivation, creativity, and team spirit;
- Knowledge and research experience in organic chemistry, polymer chemistry, materials science and related fields. Priority will be given to candidates with experience in small molecule and polymer synthesis;
- Experience with standard structural characterization techniques (e.g., NMR, IR, mass spectrometry, chromatography). Experience with material characterization techniques (e.g., GPC, tensile testing, rheology, DMA, DSC and TGA) is a plus, but not required;
- Good communication skills in English (verbal and written).

Required documents: To have your application be considered, you must submit a single PDF document containing:

- *Statement of Purpose.* Please prepare a concise essay (maximum 2 pages) that describes your research interests and relevant research experiences, as well as your objectives in pursuing a PhD with our group. You are encouraged to include chemical figures if relevant.
- *Curriculum Vitae (CV).* Include 3 referees at the end, with at least one of the referees being a research advisor. For the referees, please include their name, current position, affiliation, and email address. Shortlisted candidates will be informed after an initial review that their letters of recommendation will be requested directly from their referees.
- *Transcripts of grades for Bachelor's and, if relevant, Master's degrees.*

Application process: Please send your application to Su via email (stn89@mit.edu) with the subject line: “LCPS PhD Application: [Your name]”. Only completed applications containing all required documents will be considered. Several candidates will be invited for virtual interviews.

If selected, the candidates will be instructed on how to apply to the doctoral school at EPFL and visa/working permit.

We offer:

- Comprehensive training in diverse areas of research and professional development
- A supportive and inclusive working environment
- Access to state-of-the-art lab equipment and facilities at EPFL
- Opportunities to collaborate with world leading research groups at EPFL and beyond
- Networking opportunities via the National Center of Competence in Research (NCCR) Catalysis Center, seminars, and conferences
- An internationally competitive stipend (see the [current rates](#))

Timeline: Review of the applications will begin immediately. The positions will stay open until they are filled.

Visa application time for non-Swiss student: If you are a non-Swiss student and wish to join the LCPS, you should consider the time needed to obtain a Swiss Visa: ~2 months for European Union citizens and ~6 months for others.