

PhD student position Supply Chain Challenges for sustainable aviation fuels in Africa

CMK
CENTRE FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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Background of the position

The [Centre for Environmental Sciences](#) (CMK) at Hasselt University strives to be an international academic leader in holistic, multi-, and transdisciplinary analyses pertaining to the environment and a source of robust science-driven advice to public and private decision-makers from the local to the international level. CMK research addresses challenges of high societal urgency that require analyses that span across the boundaries of different scientific domains and disciplines, and necessitate fundamental as well as applied research. CMK has approximately 200 researchers. The PhD position is situated in CMK's research theme "[clean technologies](#)", more specifically it is part of a line of research that deals with making aviation more sustainable. The research institute has long-standing expertise here in particular with regard to [sustainable aviation fuels](#) (SAF), with multiple research projects ongoing at the moment funded by the [EU commission](#) and the [US Federal Aviation Administration](#). CMK has been heavily involved in advising the [International Civil Aviation Organization](#), national governments and other aviation stakeholders on aspects of economic and environmental sustainability of SAF and has taken up a formal leadership function in the integration of SAF into the [ICAO CORSIA](#) process. Through its ICAO involvement, the institute has strong ties to all actors in the SAF supply chain. Hasselt University is the only non North-American partner university in the [ASCENT Center of Excellence for Alternative Jet Fuels and Environment](#), where it collaborates closely with leading institutions in the field of alternative energy such as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Purdue University, the EU Joint Research Centre in Ispra, and Argonne National Laboratories.

Job content

You will be paid as a [PhD student](#) of Hasselt University within the CMK research group Environmental Economics, primarily on a project funded by the [ASCENT Center of Excellence](#). The goal of the PhD is to rigorously assess current supply chain challenges for the development of a sustainable aviation fuels industry in Africa, and to develop solutions on how to overcome these challenges. This should be done from a broad set of perspectives, including [resources-related](#), [technical](#), [economic](#) and [regulatory](#) aspects. You will publish your findings in top academic journals, present them at conferences, and use them for advising public and private decision-makers. You will also have a limited teaching assignment. Your PhD supervisor will be [Professor Robert Malina](#). You will work closely with researchers from the [Laboratory for Aviation and the Environment](#) of the [Massachusetts Institute of Technology](#) which form an integral part of the project team. You will also work with researchers from Washington State University and the University of Hawaii, respectively, who will focus on SAF supply chain challenges in other world regions. You will collaborate with other PhD students and postdocs that work on the topic of SAF in our research institute CMK.

The position is based in [Hasselt \(Belgium\)](#), a university city close to Brussels, Maastricht (Netherlands) and Aachen (Germany). It is envisioned, that the PhD student will also spend considerable time during the PhD in Africa.

Your profile

The position is embedded in ASCENT, which is home to the world-leading research program on sustainable aviation fuels. We are, therefore, looking for [highly motivated researchers](#) with [top grades](#) that would like – and have the capabilities – to address supply chain challenges for SAF in Africa. The candidates should have a [Master degree in economics, business administration, management, or in chemical or civil engineering](#) (or equivalent), or will obtain this degree by September 2022. Candidates need to be [fluent in English](#), and should have a [proven affinity](#) to the [air transport sector](#) or [alternative fuels](#) for the transport sector. We need [highly analytical candidates](#) that [have excellent quantitative skills](#), and are able to [communicate](#) their research findings in a technically rigorous and clear way. [Experience in Africa](#) is appreciated.

If your CV is a good match for the profile for this PhD position, then please send an email with your CV and a short motivation statement to robert.malina@uhasselt.be.

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