PhD Renewable Chemicals (Organic Synthesis/Catalysis/Green Chemistry)

The University: The University of Antwerp (Flanders, Belgium) is an autonomous and pluralistic institution, supporting a democratic and multicultural society, and is an equal opportunity employer. The University of Antwerp is a young dynamic academic institution for internationally recognized, innovative and pioneering research. Special attention is given to the training of students, and to the innovation of teaching programs.

Details vacancy: You will be working in the Maes group of the research division Organic Synthesis (ORSY) of the Department of Chemistry. ORSY is a partner in the Centre of Excellence CASCH and the Valorization Platform InSusChem of the University of Antwerp. Your research project will deal with the development of new synthetic methodologies to transform renewable feedstock into building blocks for the commodity and specialty chemicals industry. This will involve the development of catalytic processes. The novel synthetic methods will be developed in batch and then transferred to a continuous production system (flow).

Candidate profile: The ideal candidate for this position holds a master degree in chemistry or bioscience engineering (option chemistry) with proven hands-on experience in organic synthesis, analytical separation techniques, mass spectrometry, preparative purification techniques, and structural characterization of organic molecules. You have interest in and affinity with mechanistic studies. Previous experience with continuous flow chemistry is an advantage but not mandatory. You obtained or will have obtained your master degree between March 1, 2026 and October 31, 2027. **Master students in their last year are encouraged to apply.** Ability to work in a team as well as good communication/writing skills and a good mastery of the English language are required. A commitment to secure competitive external funding (such as an FWO PhD fellowship) to support your doctoral research is expected.

Additional info: You will receive a PhD scholarship which covers social security. The University of Antwerp offers you a contract of 1 year (which can be extended upon positive evaluation). For more information on the Maes group and recent publications in the field of biorenewables please visit our group website.

Application process: Does this opening appeal to you? Please send a detailed CV, motivation letter, transcript of study results of your Bachelor and Master (include provisional transcripts with available grades if you have not yet fully completed your Master's degree) and contact details of minimum 1 previous supervisor to VacancyORSY@uantwerpen.be before **November 30th 2026.** Only applications with all requested info included will be considered. Please mention "*Application PhD Biorenewables 2027*" in the subject line.