

**STRICTLY PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL**

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

**Post: Head of Security &  
Emergency Planning**

**Department: Campus Services**

**Reference Number: R110318**

Contents:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Aston University                             | 1 |
| Structure, Governance, Financial Performance | 2 |
| School / Department Information              | 3 |



## **ASTON UNIVERSITY**

([www.aston.ac.uk](http://www.aston.ac.uk))

Founded in 1895, Aston is a long-established research-led University known for its world-class teaching quality and strong links to industry, government and commerce.

Aston University is based in the centre of Birmingham, one of Europe's liveliest and most welcoming cities, and home to 50,000+ students. Aston University's friendly and safe 40-acre campus houses all the University's academic, social and accommodation facilities, creating a uniquely tight-knit learning environment and underlining the benefit of being one of the smaller higher-ranking universities. Work recently began on a £215m Aston Student Village development project to further enhance the campus; Phase One of the development (circa 1,300 en-suite rooms) is due to be ready for students in September 2010, and the enhanced Library, with more capacity and better facilities, is due for October 2010.

Aston University gained its charter in 1966, and has come a long way in broadening its educational excellence and student appeal across Schools in Business, Engineering and Applied Science, Life and Health Sciences, and Languages and Social Sciences. Professor Julia King became Vice-Chancellor of the University in 2006, and presided in 2007 over the definition and implementation of the [Aston 2012 Strategy](#) which has helped define Aston's positioning, and the advantages which will help sustain its further development and 'edge' in an increasingly international competitive context.

The Aston 2012 Strategy aimed at establishing Aston as a top 10 University whilst retaining the core value: delivering accessible excellence. This has been underpinned by the challenging mission to deliver excellence in the learning experience, in rigorous and relevant research, and in community engagement, specifically addressing local interests and business, with the support of a high-quality physical, communications and information infrastructure. It also highlighted core values which make Aston an outstanding place to work; these include, amongst others, valuing diversity, creating inspirational learning opportunities and research outcomes, developing 'critical reflective learners' who will make a real difference, focusing on student welfare and wellbeing, stimulating adventure and innovation, celebrating successes, and promoting integrity and sustainable growth.

Two important interlinking initiatives aim at building further on the Aston 2012 Strategy: firstly the Aston 2020 Strategy, which is at an early stage of discussion and development; secondly the Aston First transformation programme, which seeks to establish what Aston stands for, and ensure Aston fulfils its potential through branding, external projection, culture and communications.

Aston University justifiably prides itself in the diversity of its population of 9,000+ students, of whom 7,300+ are undergraduates, about 1,500 are taught postgraduate students, and 200+ are postgraduate research students. Over 20% of students come from outside the European Union, while over 15% of undergraduates are from outside the UK. Aston is ranked 13th of 113 UK universities by the 2010 Complete University Guide, and 19th in the Guardian rankings 2010, confirming its place amongst the elite of UK Universities.

As well as offering a range of undergraduate and postgraduate degree programmes, Aston works with the public and private sector to develop tailored Continuing Professional Development and

Foundation Degree programmes. Aston's reputation for helping graduates secure good jobs stands out, with 82% finding graduate-level employment within six months of graduation, compared to a national average of less than 70% (relating to 2007 and 2008 graduates). This success placed Aston 9th out of all 120 UK Universities for this variable in the 2008-9 Sunday Times University Guide. Improvements in the entry grades needed and in University applications also bear witness to the growth in Aston's reputation in recent years.

## **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE, FINANCIAL PROCEDURES**

Aston's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Julia King, is the principal academic and executive officer of the University, with overall responsibility for Aston's executive management and day-to-day direction. The Vice-Chancellor is supported by four Pro-Vice-Chancellors, Professor Helen Higson (the Senior Pro-Vice-Chancellor), Dr Phil Extance, Professor Alison Halstead, and Professor Martin Griffin.

The Chief Financial Officer, Alastair Hewgill, the Director of Staff and Student Services, Adèle MacKinlay, who is also the University Secretary and Registrar, and the Director of Marketing Strategy and Communications, David Farrow, head all the support functions which provide administrative services to the University. Sheila O'Neal is the Director of Development and Alumni Relations.

### **Schools of Study**

As indicated above, Aston's academic activity is divided into four Schools of Study, each of which is Managed by an Executive Dean as follows:

|  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| Executive Dean, Aston Business School:           | Professor John Edwards    |
| Executive Dean, Engineering and Applied Science: | Professor Robert Berry    |
| Executive Dean, Life and Health Sciences:        | Professor Helen Griffiths |
| Executive Dean, Languages and Social Sciences:   | Professor Pam Moores      |

### **Honorary positions and governance**

Aston is governed by the University Council, which comprises 10 staff members from within the executive and Schools leadership, 2 student members, and 14 appointed lay members who are business and community leaders from the Midlands and beyond – 20% are Aston alumni. The University Senate is Aston's supreme academic authority. Aston's Chancellor, Sir John Sunderland, is the honorary and ceremonial head of the University.

### **Financial Performance**

Total income for the last full year 2010 was £110.5m, representing a 5% increase over the previous year, with 33% of income from the Funding Council, teaching fees and support grants accounting for 43%, research grants accounting for 8%, and other operating income of 16% arising from residential and rental revenues and intellectual property rights

## **LOCAL INFORMATION**

[www.aston.ac.uk](http://www.aston.ac.uk)

**Structure:** The Security Services Dept consists of 4 Teams of 5 staff working 12 hour shifts on a 4 days off, 4 days off pattern. Each team is supervised by a Senior Security Officer and there is also a Deputy SSO designated in each time. There are also 2 control room operators who primarily work Monday to Friday on alternating early and late shifts. The team is supplemented by a car park administrator who deals with applications and processing of car park permits.

**Activities: Security**

**Facilities: Control Room**

**Funding: Revenue budget of approximately £2m per annum**