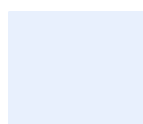
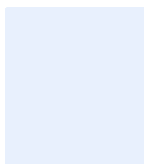


Appointment details
Laboratory Technician

Job Ref: R170563

Closing Date: 23:59 (GMT) 4 December 2017

EXCELLENT
DIFFERENT
DISTINCTIVE
ASTON



Contents

- ▶ About Aston University
- ▶ Welcome from Professor Alec Cameron, Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive
- ▶ University values and staff expectations
- ▶ School of Life and Health Sciences
- ▶ Job description
- ▶ Person specification
- ▶ Salary and benefits
- ▶ How to apply and the selection process
- ▶ Outline terms and conditions
- ▶ About Aston University

Founded in 1895 and a University since 1966, Aston is a long established research-led University known for its world-class teaching quality and strong links to business and the professions. Professor Alec Cameron became Vice Chancellor of the University in 2016, building on a strong legacy left by the Baroness Brown of Cambridge.

Outstanding graduate employability

Aston has been a leading university for graduate employment success for over 25 years. More than 80% of Aston graduates go on to a graduate level job within six months. The majority of Aston students choose to take an integrated placement year or year abroad, making them very attractive to employers. We have strong relationships with national and international graduate employers, as well as smaller and local employers. These relationships are extremely important and make a real contribution to graduate employability.

Career focussed programmes

Aston's close and established links with business, the public sector and the professions ensure that our career focussed degree programmes are inspiring, challenging and constantly updated to equip students with essential work-related skills and experiences.

Excellence in teaching and research

We are committed to high quality teaching and academic excellence, ensuring we provide the highest standard of education to our students. Aston has an excellent reputation for research which shapes and improves lives. We're proud of the quality of our research and the real world applications developed as a result – it makes a substantial and beneficial difference to people, organisations and society.

Aston's four academic Schools offer a range of undergraduate and postgraduate degree programmes, and also work with the public and private sectors to develop tailored Foundation Degree programmes.

International

Aston University is a popular choice for international students. We recognise and welcome the important academic contribution and cultural diversity international students bring to our university environment. Students from over 120 countries study at Aston University each year

Aston University is ranked 29th in the world and 9th in the UK as one of the 'most international universities in the world.' (The Times Higher World University Ranking, 2016-17).

Birmingham – one of Europe's liveliest cities

Birmingham is internationally recognised as a leader in leisure, entertainment, shopping and sport. It is an international centre for business, commerce and industry, housing numerous UK and overseas banks and law firms. Birmingham attracts 25 million visitors each year and contributes billions to the national economy through manufacturing and engineering.

The University campus is located in the city centre making it very accessible to an extensive network of motorways and railways.

A green, sustainable campus

Located in the heart of a vibrant city, our 40 acre campus houses all the University's academic, social and accommodation facilities for our 14,355 students. All staff have the opportunity to contribute to our sustainability agenda and practices.



Welcome from Professor Alec Cameron, Vice Chancellor & Chief Executive

Dear applicant

The HE sector is currently experiencing an unprecedented scale and pace of change, combined with a high degree of ambiguity and uncertainty. Those universities able to adapt swiftly to a changing and increasingly competitive market will thrive. As a mid-sized, focused university Aston has the advantages of agility, innovation and team working that some other institutions do not. Our integrated placement year, our applicable, exploitable research, and our commitment to widening participation all help to make Aston distinct.

The 2014 Research Excellence Framework results recognised the quality and impact of Aston research. This research directly influences medical breakthroughs, advancements in engineering, innovation, policy and practice in government, and the strategies and performance of local and international business. The Times Higher Education REF rankings placed Aston University 35th in the UK and 78% of our submissions were judged to be World Leading or Internationally Excellent.

Teaching quality and the student experience are an important focus at Aston. We are committed to doing all we can to address the needs of students and to assisting them to achieve their career ambitions on graduation.

We very much look forward to receiving your application and learning more about how you would contribute to Aston's continuing success.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alec Cameron." The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Professor Alec Cameron
Vice Chancellor & Chief Executive

► University values

All staff are expected to demonstrate / promote the University's values and expectations, which are an integral part of our 2020 strategy and underpin the culture of the University. Our vision is to be the UK's leading University for business and professions, where original research, enterprise and inspiring teaching deliver global impact. More information about the university's values is available at www.aston.ac.uk/staff/working/dare-to-succeed/values/

In addition, our leaders are expected to be accountable, help to execute strategic visions of the University, share and set clear expectations that inspire those around them. Further information on our leadership expectations can be found at:

<http://www.aston.ac.uk/EasySiteWeb/GatewayLink.aspx?allId=158042>



► Staff expectations

All staff are expected to;

- Be committed to delivering high performance
- Recognise and praise the high performance of others
- Remain open to new ideas and seek to act quickly for positive change
- Develop themselves, and support the development of others
- Be ambitious, for themselves, their teams and the university
- Engage with others, listen, observe and communicate
- Focus on excellent customer service, finding solutions and saying “yes”

- ▶ Make reasoned decisions without fear of blame
- ▶ Engender trust through their own actions
- ▶ Be fair in all matters

► School of Life & Health Sciences

All the activities within the School of Life & Health Sciences affirm the mission of Aston University to be an international centre of excellence in learning & teaching, research and community engagement.

Taught Programmes

<http://www1.aston.ac.uk/lhs/undergraduate/>
<http://www1.aston.ac.uk/lhs/postgraduate-study/>

The School offers a range of HEFCE funded undergraduate programmes spanning the life and health sciences, all of which were rated as excellent in the last Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) teaching assessment.

There are currently around 2200 undergraduate students studying within the School of whom the majority are on single honours programmes. Entry to all single honours programmes is highly competitive with entry qualifications in excess of BBB at A-level.

The School also offers a range of taught postgraduate programmes focused upon the developing career needs of health professionals. The current teaching activities within the school are divided into subject groups of audiology, biology, optometry, pharmacy, and psychology, each of which is led by a Subject Leader. Under each subject there are a range of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes each led by a Programme Director.

Research

<http://www1.aston.ac.uk/lhs/research/>

The exceptional quality of the research in the School has been demonstrated once again in the 2014 Research Excellence Framework (REF2014) results. Research in LHS is ranked 5th overall from 94 UK Higher Education institutions in Allied Health Professions, Dentistry, Nursing and Pharmacy, top 10 in the UK by every measure, and 1st for Environment which assesses the “vitality and sustainability” of our research. In LHS, 94% of our academic research is classed as world leading or internationally excellent. This outstanding performance reflects the vibrant, world class research environment, and is a testament to the worldwide reputation and outstanding scientific activity of our research staff. The School of Life & Health Sciences is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities to

pursue cutting-edge research. Aston University Day Hospital is a >£10m flagship clinical research centre and day hospital which accommodates Optegra (ophthalmology services) and Birmingham Children’s Hospital Cochlear implant team. The Day Hospital, which opened in the spring of 2004, is designed to support the core health research and clinical activities within the School. It is a European centre of excellence in Ophthalmic research (cornea and refractive surgery, human myopia, vascular imaging) and other health-related research including paediatric Cochlear Implantation and Rehabilitation. A further investment of around £3.5m in laboratory refurbishment and equipment has occurred in the last four years. In addition, the University has invested a further £3m towards the virtual Aston Research Centre for Healthy Ageing (ARCHA) encompassing researchers from all disciplines within the School and a further £3.6m towards the Aston Brain Centre (ABC).

Specialised Research Facilities in the School of Life & Health Sciences:

Biomedical Sciences

Biomedical Sciences have invested in scale-up facilities for protein expression and purification; this is supported by a range of chromatographic separation equipment (HPLCs, FPLCs, amino acid analyser) which can be used for DNA, protein and carbohydrate analysis. Real-time PCR is available for quantification of specific gene expression and our proteomics facility includes peptide sequence analysis by LC-MS/MS. Cell analysis work is also undertaken using flow cytometry resources, confocal, epifluorescence and atomic force microscopy (shared with the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences) while In vivo investigations of disease process, progression and management are undertaken within the newly refurbished Biomedical Facility.

The new ARCHA imaging facility provides research groups with access to state-of-the-art equipment enabling users to carry out a range of experiments from sample screening to deep tissue imaging. The new facility, located in the main building consists of a Leica Widefield Fluorescence Microscope Leica SP5 multiphoton Laser Scanning confocal microscope.

Pharmaceutical Sciences

Novel compound discovery is supported by computer aided drug design; synthetic chemistry laboratories are well furnished for synthesis of novel entities and understanding is further extended by determination of molecular structure using x-ray crystallography. Drug Delivery and Drug Dosage From design is undertaken in our Pharmaceutics laboratories which are furnished with a large range of state of the art analytical equipment (e.g. pharmacopeial apparatus, particle sizing equipment; Differential Scanning Calorimetry; Thermogravimetric Analysis). Small molecule chemical synthesis and analysis facilities include high-field NMR, GC-MS and LC-MS.

The Aston Brain Centre

The Aston Brain Centre is a research facility comprising specialist assessment and laboratory provision, primarily for the School of Life and Health Sciences, although collaborations across the University are established and encouraged.

Operational from July 2011 the newly constructed ABC building accommodates an integrated research facility for the study of neurodevelopment in health and disease. It provides a novel training centre for Magnetoencephalography (MEG) and Electroencephalographic studies incorporating translational and humane research. The ABC was funded through £3.6M Science Research Infrastructure Funding (SRIF) together with £800k from Aston University, and houses The Wellcome Trust laboratory for MEG studies, first established in 1999 to be the first whole brain MEG system in the UK, and soon to be the location of the world's first high-resolution paediatric-compliant MEG system (supported by The Wellcome Trust grant - Ref: 088314/Z/09/Z). The facility also houses the Development and Dyslexia Assessment Unit and the Clinical Neurophysiology Unit, comprising two dedicated Sleep Laboratories, 128 channel dense array EEG dense, a Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation Laboratory and a sound proofed auditory laboratory for clinical testing. A dedicated computer analysis and training suite provides an environment for collaboration and integration of scientists and techniques from diverse disciplines.

Clinical Audiology Research Centre

This centre opened in September 2006, and includes sound-treated test rooms and specialised equipment for clinical and applied hearing research.

The centre provides a specialist audiology

clinical service to the local area as well as supporting the research of the Audiology staff and research students.

Vision Sciences and Day Hospital

Over the last 30 years, Aston University has developed a strong track record in conducting ophthalmic research, which is recognised internationally. Within the Ophthalmic Research Group (ORG), optometrists, ophthalmologists and biomedical engineers work within an integrated investigative framework to advance understanding of the development, use, preservation and restoration of ocular function. Using bidirectional transfer of research between structure, function and clinical application provides the flexibility to address a range of contemporary research issues: the development and management of refractive error; the diagnosis and management of major ocular pathology and the management of ocular dysfunction and pathology in the ageing eye. Studies are conducted in a series of self-contained laboratories designed for clinical investigations. These facilities are housed within the Vision Sciences building and the Aston University Day Hospital. The former offers over 3,000 appointments per year for members of the general public and specialised clinical facilities in all areas of optometric investigation, while the Day Hospital provides a platform, unique in the UK, for the combination of leading edge clinical research in optometry and ophthalmology.

Under development is our new £2m 3D visualisation teaching labs and CAVE virtual environment for the teaching of anatomy, physiology and computer aided design as well as a research into vision and perception, which will be operational by the end of 2015.

Centre for Vision and Hearing Research

Aston University has a strong international track record in the fundamental workings of the normal human visual and auditory systems. Investigations into how sensory data is picked up and encoded by our brains to build meaningful representations of the outside world are performed using non-invasive techniques of psychophysics, functional imaging and computational modeling.

Aston Laboratory for Immersive Virtual Environments (ALIVE)

This recently built (2015/16) facility has been funded by the Wolfson Foundation, the Eranda Foundation, the Cadbury Charitable Trust and the Eveson Charitable Trust, and comprises a

motion capture laboratory, a driving simulator and large interactive CAVE virtual reality platform. It pulls together researchers from the CVHR, the ABC and ARCHA from the School of Life and Health Sciences (see above) and from the Aston Interactive Media Laboratory in the School of Engineering and Applied Science, to carry out multi-disciplinary research in visual perception, social perception and cognition, social neuroscience, pedestrian and driver behaviour, ambulation and navigation.

Organisation

The School is led by an appointed Executive Dean, Professor Chris Hewitt, and operates through three key committees: Senior Management Committee, Teaching Committee and Research Committee.

The Executive Dean is supported by a Deputy Dean and six Associate Deans. All undergraduate and postgraduate programmes have a Programme Director and are delivered by the staff from the subject groupings.

For more information, visit our website www.aston.ac.uk/lhs

► Job description

The post-holder, as part of a team will be responsible on a day-to-day basis for ensuring that undergraduate and postgraduate activities for Psychology are provided with adequate resources and technical support. The post-holder will work closely with the Psychology Senior Technician and will provide a point of contact for staff and students with any problems relating to laboratory provision or related procedures. The post-holder will assist in ensuring all undergraduate laboratories are fit for purpose; also that the specialist equipment in the Aston Brain Centre is maintained.

Responsibilities

- ▶ To support the day-to-day running of undergraduate practical classes in Psychology with other members of the technical team.
- ▶ To supervise students during practical sessions.
- ▶ Cover for the Psychology Senior Technician to provide specialist monitoring and maintenance support for the MEG laboratory and regular monitoring of the MRI facility.
- ▶ To test, maintain and repair basic laboratory equipment, used in teaching and research laboratories, where possible, and report any problems to the Psychology Senior Technician.
- ▶ To assist in the maintenance of stock levels and to requisition supplies as necessary, requesting authorising signature from the Head of Psychology (HOP).
- ▶ To assist in the running of an up-to-date audit of equipment and assist in the loan of equipment to students.
- ▶ To advise students in basic laboratory procedures e.g. good housekeeping.
- ▶ To provide support for external courses as and when necessary. This includes support for foundation degree courses, demonstrations and Open Days.
- ▶ To observe and implement all Health & Safety rules and regulations in the workplace and to attend Health & Safety courses offered and pertinent to the job.
- ▶ In liaison with the HOP provide assistance to Research Groups out of peak term time. This to be arranged with appropriate Research Group Supervisors and Psychology management.
- ▶ To undertake such other duties as may be reasonably requested and that are commensurate with the nature and grade of the post.

Additional responsibilities

- ▶ Engage in continuous personal and professional development in line with the demands of the role, including undertaking relevant training and development activities to develop themselves and support the development of others.
- ▶ Ensure and promote the personal health, safety and wellbeing of staff and students.
- ▶ Carry out duties in a way which promotes fairness in all matters and which engenders trust.
- ▶ Promote equality of opportunity and support diversity and inclusion as well as working to support the University's environmental sustainability agenda and practices.



► Person specification

	Essential	Method of assessment
Education and qualifications	HND/BTEC, NVQ level 3 in a relevant subject	Application form
Experience	Knowledge of the subject area	Application form and Interview
Aptitude and skills	<p>Good IT skills including use of Microsoft Office packages and e-mail.</p> <p>Understanding of basic experimental techniques.</p> <p>A knowledge of basic statistical methods and familiarity with SPSS</p> <p>Ability to provide practical assistance to students using equipment in psychology laboratories.</p> <p>Ability to carry out basic maintenance on scientific equipment.</p>	Application and Interview
Personal Attributes	<p>Good organisational and prioritisation skills.</p> <p>Willingness to learn.</p> <p>Strong team player.</p> <p>Good interpersonal skills.</p> <p>Awareness of health and safety requirements of working in laboratory environments.</p>	Interview

	Desirable	Method of assessment
Education and qualifications	Degree in a relevant subject	Application form
Experience	<p>Previous experience working in a public facing capacity (e.g, with students or members of the public).</p> <p>Experience of using software packages for conducting psychology experiments (e.g. SuperLab, e-Prime)</p> <p>Experience of using software for running web-based questionnaire studies (e.g. Qualtrics)</p>	Application form and Interview



► Salary & benefits

This post is offered on a continuing basis. The appointment is full-time and the salary range for this grade is £19,305 to £21,585.

Holiday entitlement 25 days per annum, in addition to 13 days public and university holidays.

Pension Eligible staff are offered a defined benefit pension with the Aston University Pension Scheme (AUPS).

The University is proposing to close the current Aston University Pension Scheme (known as AUPS) early next year and replace it with a new pension scheme and is undertaking formal consultation about this proposal. The University believes that the new scheme, together with a flexible contribution structure for members, would continue to provide a valuable pension benefit, if the proposed closure of the AUPS proceeds.

Contribution pay The University's Performance Development and Reward Scheme provides for salary enhancement for staff who are considered to be performing at an exceptional level on a consistent basis.

Relocation Aston University aims to recruit the most talented individuals. This policy is intended to support this aim by providing assistance to new employees who have to relocate to take up a position. This policy applies to staff appointed to a position from 1 January 2014 at grade 7 (salary point 25) or above on an open-ended contract or to a fixed term position of two years or more, and who have to relocate their place of residence in order to take up the appointment. Positions which are externally funded fall outside of this policy. Individuals may be eligible to claim costs in line with the relevant funding arrangements.

Visit our website: aston.ac.uk/hr for full details of our [salary scales](#) and the [benefits](#) Aston University staff enjoy.

► How to apply and the selection process

Please visit our website aston.ac.uk/jobs to apply online. If you do not have internet access, call 0121 204 4500 and leave your name and address quoting the job title and reference number.

Closing date for applications 23:59 (GMT) on 4 December 2017

Interview date To be confirmed.

Please contact Professor Adrian Burgess for an informal discussion about the role.

Tel: +44(0) 121 204 4054 Email: a.p.burgess@aston.ac.uk

If you would like information on the progress of your application, advice on any aspect of the appointment process, or a conversation about our terms and conditions of service, please contact:

Sarah Carey
HR Business Partner
+44 (0) 121 204 4581
s.j.carey@aston.ac.uk

or

Deborah Walker
HR Business Partner
+44 (0) 121 4596
d.walker1@aston.ac.uk

Jenny Thompson
Recruitment Administrator
+44 (0) 121 3351
j.l.thompson@aston.ac.uk

► Outline terms and conditions of the appointment

Qualifications	Successful candidates will be required to produce evidence of their qualifications upon joining the University
Medical clearance	It is a condition of appointment that newly-appointed staff receive medical clearance from the University's Health Centre.
Eligibility to work in the UK	Candidates who are not citizens of the United Kingdom, or of another EEA member country, should check their eligibility to enter or remain in the UK in advance of making any job application via the UKVI website https://www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/work-visas . Before applying you should ensure that you meet the requirements, including meeting the English language standards. If you do not meet the eligibility criteria, any application for a work visa would be unsuccessful.
Document checks	As a result of the implementation of sections 15 to 26 of the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality 2006 Act on 29 February 2008, the University requires all prospective and, in some cases, current employees, to provide documentation to verify their eligibility to work in the UK. Further information about these requirements can be found on the UK Visas and Immigration website .
Equal opportunities	<p>Aston University promotes equality and diversity in all aspects of its work. We aim to ensure, through our admissions policies for students, and our staff recruitment and selection processes, that we encourage applications from all groups represented in the wider community at a local, national and international level.</p> <p>The University will endeavour not to discriminate unfairly or illegally, directly or indirectly, against students or potential students, staff or potential staff. This commitment applies to all functions of the University and to any stage of an individual's career at Aston.</p> <p>An Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form is included with the application form.</p>
Data Protection Act 1998	<p>Your application will only be used to inform the selection process, unless you are successful, in which case it will form the basis of your personal record with the University which will be stored in manual and/or electronic files. Information in statistical form on present and former employees is given to appropriate outside bodies.</p> <p>Data you provide on the Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form will be included in a general database, for statistical monitoring purposes, enabling the University to monitor the effectiveness of its Policy, Code of Practice and Guidelines on Equal Opportunities in Employment. Individuals will not be identified by name.</p>
Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)	Under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974, a person with a criminal record is not required to disclose any spent convictions unless the position they are applying for is listed as an exception under the act.

Aston University
Employable Graduates
Exploitable Research

Aston University
Birmingham B4 7ET
www.aston.ac.uk

