

## Candidate Brief

# Research Assistant

**Reference:** R180042

**Salary:** Grade 8, £32,548 to £38,833 per annum

**Closing Date:** 23.59 hours GMT on Thursday 08 March 2018

**Interview Date:** To be confirmed

EXCELLENT  
DIFFERENT  
DISTINCTIVE  
ASTON



## **Job description**

### **Job Purpose:**

The post holder will be funded by a variety of projects, all of which will concerns the development of technologies and network architectures to enable new cost-reduced approaches to high capacity ultra-long haul optical networks. The post holder will be involved experimental and theoretical investigation of revolutionary high-speed optical systems using a variety of existing systems.

### **Main Duties/Responsibilities:**

- ▶ To carry out research in line with the project plan to which you are assigned (which may vary from time to time), implementing novel ideas and contributing to the planning of associated research tasks.
- ▶ Maintain accurate and traceable working records, including appropriate software version control and links to raw data.
- ▶ To lead the delivery of reports associated with assigned projects.
- ▶ Maintain a sufficient breadth or depth of specialist knowledge in the discipline, and of research methods and techniques to work within established and new research programmes.
- ▶ To contribute to publications of research outcomes in high impact journals and major international conferences.
- ▶ Travel nationally and internationally to disseminate research output, participate in project meetings and activities and plan future research proposals.
- ▶ To contribute to the generation, protection and exploitation of intellectual property.
- ▶ To actively contribute to research initiatives and collaborate with colleagues in and beyond the School as appropriate.
- ▶ To engage in training and professional development programmes in the University consistent with personal needs and aspirations and with the strategic goals of the Institute.
- ▶ Fully support the development of further research proposals, contributing novel ideas, concepts and background material.
- ▶ To assist in the supervision of PhD students and MSc research projects, and provide reasonable support to the delivery of undergraduate modules as requested by your group leader.
- ▶ Engage fully in Aston Universities Open Access and Open Data initiatives and maintain an appropriate presence on the AIPT web pages and other electronic communication tools.
- ▶ Fully engage in all relevant safety protocols, taking responsibility for your own safety and highlighting risks which may impact others.
- ▶ 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   |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Education and qualifications</b> | <p>1st class or upper second in Electronic Engineering, Applied Physics or equivalent.</p> <p>PhD in, or &gt;4 years industrial experience in, optical communications or closely related field.</p>  | Application form   |
| <b>Experience</b>                   | <p>Excellent recent publication record in international journals and high impact conferences in a directly relevant field with an identifiable personal contribution (principle authorships).</p> <p>Experience of experimental optical communication system performance and characterisation.</p>   | <p>Application form</p> <p>Application form, interview and presentation</p>  |
| <b>Aptitude and skills</b>          | <p>High level of skill and knowledge, evidenced by high quality publications, in at least two of the following detailed technical areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• four wave mixing based devices applied to telecommunications systems,</li> <li>• numerical modelling of high capacity long haul optical transmission systems,</li> <li>• measurement and analysis of high speed coherent signals.</li> </ul> <p>Creative problem solving skills.</p> <p>Highly motivated.</p> <p>Demonstrable track record of commitment to team working.</p> <p>Good English language communication skills to relay work in spoken and written media.</p> <p>Ability to contribute to and coordinate collaborative project reports and deliverables.</p> <p>Knowledge of the protection of intellectual property.</p> | <p>Interview and presentation</p> <p>Interview</p> <p>Interview</p> <p>Interview</p> <p>Application form, interview and presentation</p> <p>Application form and interview</p> <p>Application form and interview</p> |

|                   | Desirable   | Method of assessment                         |
|-------------------|---|--|
| <b>Experience</b> | Additional technical areas of experience beyond the minimum number (list as above). | Application form, interview and presentation |

|                            | Desirable  | Method of assessment       |
|----------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| <b>Aptitude and skills</b> | <p>Demonstrated aptitude for writing collaborative research proposals.</p> <p>Record of coordination of scientific events, outreach programmes and/or scientific meetings.</p> <p>Record in participation in outreach.</p> | Interview and presentation |

## How to apply

You can apply for this role online via our website [www.aston.ac.uk/jobs](http://www.aston.ac.uk/jobs). Applications should be submitted by 23.59pm on the advertised closing date. All applicants must complete an application form, along with your CV.

Any CV sent direct to the Recruitment Team and Recruiting Manager will not be accepted. If you require a manual application form then please contact the Recruitment Team via [recruitment@aston.ac.uk](mailto:recruitment@aston.ac.uk).

## Contact Information

### Enquiries about the vacancy:

Name: Professor Andrew Ellis

Job Title: Professor

Tel: 0121 204 3075

Email: [andrew.ellis@aston.ac.uk](mailto:andrew.ellis@aston.ac.uk)

### Enquiries about the application process, shortlisting or interviews:

Recruitment Team via [recruitment@aston.ac.uk](mailto:recruitment@aston.ac.uk) or 0121 204 4500.

## Additional Information

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

**Salary Scales:** <http://www.aston.ac.uk/staff/hr/payroll-pensions-and-benefits/salary-scales/>

**Benefits:** <http://www.aston.ac.uk/staff/hr/payroll-pensions-and-benefits/>

**Working in Birmingham:** <http://www.aston.ac.uk/birmingham/city-living/>

**Employment of Ex-Offenders:** Under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974, a person with a criminal record is not required to disclose any spent convictions unless the positions they applying for is listed an exception under the act.

**Eligibility to work in the UK:** Candidates who are not citizens of the United Kingdom, or another EEA member country, should check their eligibility to enter or remain 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

**Equal Opportunities:** 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.



The University will endeavour not to discriminate unfairly or illegally, directly or indirectly, against student 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.

An Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form is included within the application form.

**Data Protection Act 1998:** 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.

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, Codes of Practice and Guidelines on Equal Opportunities in Employment. Individuals will not be identified by name



Full details of our terms and conditions of service and associated policies and procedures are available online at [www.aston.ac.uk/hr](http://www.aston.ac.uk/hr)