

Welcome to Aston University and Estates and Capital Development

EXCELLENT
DIFFERENT
DISTINCTIVE
ASTON



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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."

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

► Estates and Capital Development

The Estates mission statement is “To deliver and maintain a sustainable campus and infrastructure that enhances the student experience and provides high quality accommodation and space that is accessible, efficient, flexible and responsive to the needs of all our customers.”

Over the past few years the University has embarked on an aggressive ten year campus redevelopment plan which includes new builds, demolitions as well as major refurbishments in order to ensure that Aston University adapts to the ever changing environment it operates in and deliver its 2020 objectives.

Led by the Director of Estates & Capital Development Ian Oldacre Estates are responsible for delivering the redevelopment program as well as the day to day maintenance of the campus.

The department is made up of a number of specialist teams and covers a wide range of disciplines, below is a brief summary of each team.

Space and Capital Projects – headed up by the Head of Space Strategy & Refurbishments Claire Evans, manage all the small to medium sized capital projects on campus, delivering cost effective, efficient, accessible and aesthetically motivational learning & working environments, considerate of all users, their needs and enhancing the University experience. The section also includes a dedicated Space Management Team responsible for ensuring all current and future spaces are designed in line with University policy and best practice. In addition, the team manages the record drawings and space management database, containing details on all space uses and occupiers, for the entire property portfolio.

The Deputy Director of Estates as well as deputising for the Director when required, leads the financial and business aspects of the department is also responsible for all the soft services within Estates which include cleaning of the campus both inside and out, provide a porters service who amongst other things assist in office moves and room set up for lectures and exams etc. In addition there is a dedicated help desk team who answer calls from internal users reporting issues on the campus and logging them using a specialist software package.

The Central Teaching Operations Team are in charge of the annual and on-going scheduling of central teaching space. They work closely with all areas of the University to ensure everyone has access to this central resource and a fair allocation is made. The team also works closely with the Student Union to ensure societies are also able to use this resource as well as Conference Aston, in the provision of campus accommodation for summer schools and conferences. The team hire out teaching accommodation to external organisations and work with areas of the community to ensure their events run smoothly.

Engineering – headed up by the Estates Maintenance

Manager who ensures that the site infrastructure is maintained and developed to ensure maximum efficiency and availability; this includes a District Heating System and Private High Voltage and Water Distribution Systems. The team includes Electrical Engineering and Building Services specialists. Heating and Ventilation systems are controlled by two Building Energy Management Systems.

In addition day to day maintenance of buildings and services are maintained through a dedicated maintenance team including Electrical and Mechanical tradesman, Carpenters and Decorators. The team provides a reactive and planned maintenance service, all of which is coordinated by specialist supervisors.

The Environment is at the forefront of everything we do at Aston and we have a dedicated Environmental & Sustainability team who are actively seeking to reduce energy emissions and improve our carbon footprint year on year. Aston aspires to maintain an exemplar role in this area within the higher education and local community and is proud to have maintained an impressive first class position in the People & Planet Green League since 2010.

Safety is coordinated by a dedicated Health and Safety advisor within the Estates team ensuring compliance with all relevant statutory requirements.

Gardens and Ground are maintained to a high standard by a specialist team who report directly to the Maintenance Officer.

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

Aston University
Employable Graduates
Exploitable Research

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www.aston.ac.uk