

Candidate Brief

Clinician Scientist in Optometry

Reference: R180265

Salary: Grade 7, £28,098 to £30,688
per annum

Contract Type: Fixed Term (6
years)

Basis: Full Time

Closing Date: 23.59 hours BST on
Wednesday 11 July 2018

Interview Date: To be confirmed

EXCELLENT
DIFFERENT
DISTINCTIVE
ASTON



Job description

Job Purpose:

The role of a Clinician Scientist in Optometry is to enhance the clinical teaching on the optometry programme by supervising undergraduate student clinics, mentoring students as a personal tutor, and supporting the general administration of the programme. In addition, the post holder is expected to register for a PhD in a related area and carry out a programme of research under supervision. Postgraduate tuition fees associated with the PhD will be paid by Aston Optometry School. The post is for a fixed period for the duration of studying for a PhD (no more than 6 years).

If a suitable teaching qualification is not already held, the successful candidate will be expected to register for the PgCert L&T at Aston University.

Main Duties/Responsibilities:

- ▶ To undertake supervised research leading to the submission of a PhD thesis in the Ophthalmic Research Group
- ▶ To promote high professional standards within Aston Optometry School and Aston Eye Clinic
- ▶ To supervise undergraduate student clinics
- ▶ To provide clinical supervision of undergraduate Optometry students providing eye examination and contact lens appointments to the general public as necessary
- ▶ To assist in the preparation of learning resources and materials
- ▶ To assess students' performance and to enhance their learning
- ▶ To enhance the clinical teaching of the optometry programme

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.

PhD project

Development of a new strategy for sustained release of ocular drugs based on patients and health professionals acceptance

Supervisors: Dr Raquel Gil Cazorla and Dr Gurpreet Bhogal-Bhamra

Summary: Topical administration, mostly in form of eye drops, is employed to treat anterior and some posterior segment diseases. Ocular drug delivery has been a major challenge to pharmacologists and drug delivery scientists due to its unique anatomy and physiology. Upon administration, precorneal factors and anatomical barriers negatively affect the bioavailability of topical formulations. This results in only 1-7% of the medication within an eye drop reaching the target tissue and exerting a therapeutic effect, with the remainder being either spilled onto the external ocular surface or absorbed systemically. High turnover and poor absorption leads to the need for multiple dosing over extended periods to achieve therapeutic drug concentrations, leading to problems relating to the potential for drug overdosing as well as patient compliance. Regarding patient compliance, it is widely acknowledged that between a third and a half of all medicines prescribed for long-term conditions are not taken as recommended. In addition, several patients

use excessive drops unnecessarily purely due to poor administration techniques, which adds to the burdens of repeat prescribing and national medication costs. It is estimated that there are over a million glaucoma-related outpatient visits in the hospital eye service annually, which could potentially be avoided with a better patient compliance and drug administration, resulting in improved treatment outcomes and preventing unnecessary appointments at the NHS.

These limitations suggest that there is considerable room for the development of more efficient and effective ocular drug delivery systems which potentially could improve treatment outcomes and quality of life, but also help to reduce pressures across the NHS by saving time and money.

In light of this unmet need and the growing interest in the field of ocular drug delivery, our study aims to examine patients' acceptance and perception toward their current ocular medication and evaluate patients' receptiveness toward and insights of a different or new ocular drug delivery, and to determine the characteristics of subgroups of patients and health professionals who are willing to accept a new treatment or technology. Based on patients and health professional's acceptance we will design a new system to sustained delivery ocular drug in the anterior segment.

Person specification

	Essential	Method of assessment
Education and qualifications	1st or 2.1 honours degree in Optometry, Orthoptics or Ophthalmic Dispensing. Registration with the General Optical Council (GOC) or equivalent registrant body.	Application form
Experience	Clinical experience following GOC (or equivalent) registration.	Application form and interview
Aptitude and skills	Interest in undergraduate teaching and research. Ability to support learning and teaching. High professional standards. Familiar with a wide range of investigative techniques. Excellent interpersonal and communication skills. Evidence of training and development since registration. Excellent spoken and written communication skills. Strong interpersonal and teamwork skills.	Application form and interview
Other	Commitment to observing the University's Equal Opportunities Policy at all times. Ability to attend the University as and when required for scheduled teaching, relevant meetings and student support.	Interview Application form and interview

	Desirable	Method of assessment
Education and qualifications	MSc in relevant discipline. Fellowship of learned societies. Independent prescribing rights.	Application form
Experience	Teaching experience in HE. Previous research experience in an ophthalmic related area. Experience of publishing scientific findings in scientific and/ or professional journals.	Application form and interview

How to apply

You can apply for this role online via our website 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.

Contact Information

Enquiries about the vacancy:

Name: Professor Leon Davies

Job Title: Head of Optometry

Tel: 0121 204 4152

Email: l.n.davies@aston.ac.uk

Enquiries about the application process, shortlisting or interviews:

Recruitment Team via recruitment@aston.ac.uk or 0121 204 4500.

Additional Information

Visit our website 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