

Welcome to Aston University and CLIPP

EXCELLENT
DIFFERENT
DISTINCTIVE
ASTON



Contents

- ▶ About Aston University
- ▶ Welcome from Professor Alec Cameron, Vice Chancellor & Chief Executive
- ▶ University values and staff expectations
- ▶ About CLIPP

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

► Centre for Learning Innovation and Professional Practice (CLIPP)

The Centre for Learning Innovation and Professional Practice (CLIPP) was established at Aston University in 2008 to provide leadership in: teaching and learning innovation; technology enhanced learning; the development of flexible and work-based curriculum delivery; and to encourage pedagogical research. CLIPP builds on existing good practice and seeks to align staff engaged in similar activities in partnership for the benefit of the staff and students of the University, whilst raising the internal and external profile of learning and teaching. Aston's Learning and Teaching Strategy Objectives are:

- Access: ensuring high potential students from all backgrounds can gain the benefits of university education and the social mobility that comes from professional careers.
- Success: for all our students and alumni regardless of the background
- Global Citizenship: a differentiator for employers in a competitive graduate marketplace, through language skills, intercultural training and international placements
- Employability and Entrepreneurship
- Quality Learning: developing independent critical thinkers who are investing in themselves and society
- A Great Student Experience: inspirational and supportive, delivering high student satisfaction and excellent performance
- Sustainability and Social Responsibility

In relation to Quality Learning, our Learning and Teaching Strategy sets out our overall aspiration to empower our students to become independent critical

thinkers with a passion for learning and to enable our staff to develop their learning and teaching expertise to enhance the student learning experience.

The strategy also states that our staff will develop inspiring, research-informed and professionally-focussed programmes that incorporate quality teaching, research-inspired teaching excellence, inspiring learning which promotes critical thinking, enquiry and lifelong learning, as well as integrated work experience in the UK and overseas. We encourage all students to reflect on their learning and become reflexive in order to integrate their work experience and their academic knowledge. As part of this we encourage students to reflect on the feedback they are given, and make recommendations as to how their experience might be improved. Our aim is to continue to listen carefully to the student voice and work collaboratively with the Students' Union and our diverse student body continuously to improve the quality of their experience. Our successful peer and professional mentoring schemes will be expanded so they are available to everyone.

The postgraduate experience at Aston will continue to be offered in a number of different ways – on campus, off campus, through blended learning, in company or through distance learning options. Professionally relevant cross-disciplinary Masters programmes enhance career progression and enable professionals to widen their skills. At undergraduate level the use of project based and work based learning methods will be encouraged.

Relevant professional development, continuing professional development, including our Postgraduate Certificate in Learning and Teaching in Higher Education for our academics, and the Aston Certification for the academics of tomorrow, will continue to be available to all staff to enable them to use a wide variety of approaches to deliver and access learning as well as providing timely feedback. For more information, visit our website <http://www.aston.ac.uk/clipp/>

Aston University
Employable Graduates
Exploitable Research

Aston University
Birmingham B4 7ET

www.aston.ac.uk