

Candidate Brief

Research Fellowship for Industrial Photonic Projects applied to Agri-tech

Reference: R190216

Salary: £33,199 to £39,609 per annum [Grade 8]

Contract Type: Fixed Term (to 28 February 2020 with the possibility of an extension)

Basis: Full-time

Closing Date: 23.59 hours BST on Wednesday 10 July 2019.

Interview Date: To be confirmed

EXCELLENT
DIFFERENT
DISTINCTIVE
ASTON



Job description

Job Purpose:

Aston University has been part funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) to support the delivery of a project called Agri-tech Growth and Resources for Innovation (AGRI). This project will support small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) based in the Marches Local Economic Partnership (LEP) area to innovate in order to exploit the growing market opportunities particularly in Agri-tech/agri-food. The project will also support other SMEs seeking to enter the Agri-food supply chain. It will deliver both short and longer term one-to-one assistance, workshops and innovation collaboration opportunities to ninety SMEs.

The initiative will assist Marches SMEs to develop new products and services and break into new Agri-food markets. Longer term outcomes will include turnover increases and job creation. Support will be delivered at SME company premises as well as from the National Centre for Precision Farming. The project will be delivered by Aston and Harper Adams universities.

This specific post is situated in the world-renowned Aston Institute of Photonic Technologies where you will be working at the cutting edge of the industrial applications of photonic technologies. This is an opportunity to become a member of a vibrant team with a successful track record in photonics. It is a particularly exciting time as the group is extending its research activities in a number of areas, including supporting the food and Agri-tech industries.

Main Duties/Responsibilities:

The academic expert in photonics will help to facilitate the workshops and assist individual beneficiaries. Key tasks include:

- ▶ **Undertake innovation reviews with SMEs**
- ▶ Visit SMEs to discuss the challenges facing their business. Investigate the innovation potential arising from expertise in the School of Engineering and Applied Science (EAS), reporting back to the company.
- ▶ **Lead and undertake collaboration projects with SMEs**
- ▶ Work with SMEs to develop new or improved photonics products or processes. Where applicable, develop photonics technology demonstrators or prototypes for SMEs. Provide guidance on funding availability to enable longer term R&D activities beyond the AGRI project.
- ▶ **Develop material for use in delivering workshops**
- ▶ Assist in the generation of printed and web based information resources describing the innovation capabilities within EAS. Generate presentations for workshops and SME visits.
- ▶ **Facilitate workshops**
- ▶ Assist in the organisation and planning of workshops for SMEs
- ▶ **Initiate and support collaboration between SMEs**
- ▶ Help SMEs to network, facilitating collaboration in complementary or pre-competitive R&D.

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	Education to PhD level (or equivalent experience) is required	Application form
Experience	Research in photonics Management of grant funded projects Collaborative research Report and proposal writing	Application form, interview and presentation
Aptitude and skills	Strong verbal and written communication skills Excellent presentation skills Excellent attention to detail Willingness and availability to travel to meetings in the Marches area Clean driving license.	Interview and presentation

	Desirable	Method of assessment
Experience	Engineering background Experience of collaborating with industry Research and Development at high Technology Readiness Level (close to market) Analysis of business capabilities ('Innovation reviews') and provision of assistance with technology development or application	Application form, interview and presentation
Aptitude and skills	Proven ability to work and build relationships with industrial partners	Interview and presentation

How to apply

You can apply for this role online via our website <https://www2.aston.ac.uk/staff-public/hr/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: David Webb
Job Title: Professor
Email: d.j.webb@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 <https://www2.aston.ac.uk/staff/hr> for full details of our salary scales and benefits Aston University staff enjoy

Salary Scales: <https://www2.aston.ac.uk/staff-public/hr/payroll-pensions-and-benefits/salary-scales>

Benefits: <https://www2.aston.ac.uk/staff-public/hr/payroll-pensions-and-benefits>

Working in Birmingham: <https://www2.aston.ac.uk/birmingham>

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 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.

Data Protection Act 1998: Your personal data will be processed in compliance with the DPA and from 25 May 2018 with the GDPR. The University's Data Protection Policy and Privacy Notices, including the Job Applicant Privacy Notice can be found at <https://www2.aston.ac.uk/data-protection>. 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.

Full details of our terms and conditions of service and associated policies and procedures are available online at <https://www2.aston.ac.uk/staff/hr>



