

Welcome to Aston University and Aston Medical School



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." The signature is fluid and cursive, with a period at the end.

Professor Alec Cameron

About Aston University

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.

Outstanding graduate employability

Aston has been a leading university for graduate employment success. With placements integrated into our degree programmes, students develop essential work skills, build industry connections and a professional profile. The majority of Aston graduates go on to graduate level jobs or further study within six months. 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 focused programmes

Aston's close and established links with business, the public sector and the professions ensure that our career focused 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. Awarded TEF Gold in June 2017, the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) found that students from all backgrounds achieve 'consistently outstanding outcomes'.



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.

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.

Birmingham – one of Europe's liveliest cities

Birmingham has a rich history which makes the city a unique and inspiring place to visit. It is internationally recognised as a leader in leisure, entertainment, shopping and sport and is an international centre for business, commerce and industry, housing numerous UK and overseas banks and law firms. Birmingham is home to world-class companies, innovative entrepreneurs and has one of the youngest populations in Europe. It is a dynamic, thriving and business-focused region and one that is well connected and centrally located in the UK.

A green, sustainable campus

Located in the centre of Birmingham our green, 40 acre campus houses all the University's academic, social and accommodation facilities for our 15,783 students. All staff have the opportunity to contribute to our sustainability agenda and practices.

University values

All staff are expected to demonstrate/promote the University's values and expectations, which are an integral part of our strategy and underpin the culture of the University.

In addition, our leaders are expected to be accountable, help to execute strategic visions of the University and share and set clear expectations that inspire those around them.

Our mission is to be the UK's leading university for students aspiring to succeed in business and the professions, where original research, enterprise and inspiring teaching deliver local and global impact.

In 2022 Aston University will have an international reputation for delivery of outstanding graduate outcomes and equipping business and communities with the skills for future success.

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

Our beneficiaries

The University's beneficiaries are identified as three groups:

Students

The first and primary beneficiary of Aston University are the individuals who form our student body and who progress to become our alumni. Aston places students at the heart of our academic and professional endeavour.

Business and Industry

Our new strategy also has an emphasis on the businesses and other external organisations who engage with the University. Aston University is a market leader in industry-engaged research, as well as graduate employability. Our industry partners benefit from Aston's work both through our leading research and knowledge exchange, and from the quality of graduates we produce. Each student at Aston is offered the opportunity for a year-long work placement; these placements not only cement our relationships with industry but ensure businesses have access to work-ready graduates.

Region and Society

We are committed to having a positive and transformative impact on Birmingham and the West Midlands. Birmingham is one of the youngest cities in Europe and Aston University plays an important civic role by educating the leaders of the future. By emphasising research that has a regional impact, engaging with local businesses to develop a strong economy and educating top graduates, we are helping to shape our society around us.

Aston Medical School

Aston Medical School (AMS) aims to train tomorrow's doctors for a global community to meet the increasing demand in the UK and abroad for highly skilled medical practitioners and clinician scientists. AMS forms the fifth school of study within Aston University and complements the excellent expertise existing in the other four schools of the university. AMS is working in close partnership with a number of the regional NHS Hospital Trusts and many of the Primary Care practices to deliver a modern 21st century medical education.

Having successfully completed several stages of the rigorous General Medical Council (GMC) approval process Aston Medical School have been approved for undergraduate recruitment starting in 2018. The GMC has now committed to undertaking a programme of further quality assurance, including annual visits and following the first cohort of students as they progress through their course until they graduate in 2023.

Once open in 2018, the five year undergraduate MBChB programme will take an initial small cohort of 60 students for the first year. All our graduates, in addition to obtaining an MBChB qualification, will have the opportunity to gain a postgraduate certificate in leadership and management as part of their medical degree, providing them with the business acumen for their future career. Aston Medical School is working in close partnership with Aston Business School, which is one of only 1% of business schools worldwide to hold triple accreditation.

The school has adopted a funding model that will allow it to provide a medical education to students that may otherwise struggle to access this opportunity and who come from widening participation backgrounds. The low cost to the public purse approach taken by Aston Medical School is backed by Trusts and Clinics throughout the region to encourage social mobility within the West Midlands. A number of places on the course will be specifically earmarked for students within Birmingham and the Black Country from disadvantaged communities via our Sir Doug Ellis Pathway to Healthcare programme. The remainder will be open to international students. As a new school we are able to fully implement clinically oriented team-based and research-led teaching methods to meet the recommendation of The Shape of Training review and in line with the GMC's Promoting Excellence.

Aston Medical School is also developing postgraduate programmes to sit alongside the undergraduate programme. This includes a Masters in Orthopedics aimed at professional medics. The School also has a growing cohort of PhD students who are working on the areas of research the School is focused on.

All the activities within the school affirm the mission of Aston University to be an international centre of excellence in learning & teaching, research and community engagement.

A university-wide Aston Medical Research Institute (AMRI) has been established to create a culture of discovery based exploitable research that transforms lives, and addresses global health challenges. The research theme of the School is translational medicine. The initial focus is on women's health and vascular complications of diseases such as dementia and diabetes. Aston Medical School is working in close partnership with the School of Life and Health Sciences whose primary focus is in subjects allied to medicine. Aston is ranked 1st in the UK for subjects allied to medicine in the 2014 Sunday Times University Guide.

Aston Medical School is committed to translational research and entrepreneurship ("from bench to bedside to business") with a view to take discoveries from invention through to practical application. At this stage of school's development, research interests are focused on the vascular basis of diseases, particularly in the areas of angiogenesis (how new blood vessels form from pre-existing vessels) and vascular protection. One area in which our academics have established world prominence is in developing new therapies for preeclampsia (StAmP Trial). Our current research projects are focused particularly on preeclampsia, taking a multi-dimensional approach to evaluating potential causes of the disorder and developing new therapies based on scientific discoveries.

Organisation

The School is led by an appointed Executive Dean, Professor Asif Ahmed, Professor of Vascular Biology and Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Health at Aston University.

For more information, visit our website www.astonmedicalschoo.com

