

**Reference:** R210118

**Salary:** Grade 10 to Band 1, up to £91k per annum

**Contract Type:** Permanent

**Basis:** Full Time

**Closing Date:** 23.59 hours BST on Tuesday 01 June 2021

**Interview Date:** Monday 21 June 2021

# Professor/ Reader in Bio-Energy and Bio-Products

Candidate brief



# Job description

## Job Purpose:

To lead research, scholarship and teaching activities in the Energy and Bioproducts Research Institute (EBRI) and College of Engineering and Physical Sciences. Furthermore, to exploit external links with regional, UK and international bodies such as government agencies, schools, colleges, professional bodies, business and industry in support of EBRI, College and University strategies.

The postholder is expected to undertake a balance of research and teaching and learning activities. This balance will be discussed and agreed in the annual Performance and Development Review in line with operational needs, Institute, College and University strategy and with consideration of the individual's career goals and development plans. However, for this post we are interested in candidates whose primary interest and focus is research and external engagement.

Appointees at chair level will have established and maintained international recognition through original, innovative and distinguished contributions to scholarship and research. Postholders at reader level will be recognised as outstanding nationally and known internationally for their expertise in their discipline and with a strong upward trajectory.

## Main Duties/Responsibilities:

### Research

- ▶ To pursue and lead an internationally recognised research programme which both informs and is consistent with the Institute's research priorities.
- ▶ To publish the outcomes of research, with a record of securing publications in internationally rated journals of high standing.
- ▶ To have proven experience of securing significant external funding from prestigious funders including research councils, charities and industry and a record of successfully leading and managing research projects, people and resources.
- ▶ To establish partnership links with external organisations to enhance EBRI and Aston's research and industry profile.
- ▶ To provide strong leadership and team building in the management of research projects.
- ▶ To successfully supervise postgraduate students at Doctoral level. To foster an environment which encourages research among students at postgraduate level.
- ▶ To lead research initiatives with colleagues and a wide range of external collaborators including internationally funded research projects.
- ▶ To conduct research capable of demonstrating significant impact e.g. research which has the potential to benefit the economy, society, culture, public policy or services, health, the environment or quality of life.
- ▶ To mentor peers and colleagues in research as required.
- ▶ To play an active role in the management and development of EBRI.
- ▶ To build critical mass and promote excellence in the College's research priority areas.

### Teaching and Learning

- ▶ To identify strategic areas for new teaching provision
- ▶ To teach students at different levels as appropriate including foundation, undergraduate and postgraduate students, and to carry out the associated examining processes

- ▶ To provide academic support, pastoral care and advice to foundation, undergraduate and postgraduate students.
- ▶ To cooperate with colleagues across disciplines in the continuous review and development of programmes and the curriculum.
- ▶ To use and promote the use of a range of methods and techniques in teaching, learning and assessment including pursuing digital and modern methods of delivery.
- ▶ To innovate in teaching, demonstrating continuous professional development and critical reflective practice.

### **External Engagement**

- ▶ To develop student placement schemes with companies and research institutions both in the UK and overseas.
- ▶ To demonstrate research impact and secure commercialisation, identifying and pursuing opportunities for translational research where appropriate to role and discipline.
- ▶ To establish or continue to build on a record of invited international keynote conference presentations and prestige lectures.
- ▶ To establish and lead partnerships for commercialisation including patents, inventions and other exploitable intellectual property as applicable to subject area and/or to lead to improved practice, policy development or professional development.
- ▶ To engage with translational research with a view to external collaboration and establishing partnerships with outputs such as commercialisation, improved practice and policy.
- ▶ To develop research and development collaborations with industry partners to secure additional direct funding.
- ▶ To contribute to businesses, the public sector and communities e.g. through innovation, knowledge transfer, cultural enrichment, advising government bodies, contributing to and influencing government (UK or overseas) policy-making and standards.
- ▶ To take the lead in community engagement activities to raise the regional and national profile of the Institute and College.
- ▶ To enhance the University's reputation with professional/scholarly bodies e.g. by promoting public understanding of the subject.

### **Citizenship**

- ▶ To have a sustained record of effective leadership of research, staff management and supervision.
- ▶ To actively contribute to the leadership, management and development of EBRI as a University Research Institute
- ▶ To make a significant contribution to governance and collegial life within and outside the University, for example by chairing college committees, undertaking significant administrative positions, or participating in or chairing University-level committees.
- ▶ To participate in continuing professional development e.g. through seminars or conferences and by engaging in training programmes run by the University which are consistent with the needs and aspirations of the academic and the School.
- ▶ To manage staff seminars, staff training and coaching activities, cross-departmental activities and events e.g. Open Days, Sixth Form Conferences, attendance at Degree Ceremonies etc.
- ▶ To demonstrate the University's leadership values through own actions and behaviour
- ▶ To undertake such other duties as may be reasonably requested and that are commensurate with the nature and grade of the post.

**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
<b>Education and qualifications</b>	<p>A good first degree in a relevant discipline</p> <p>A doctorate in a relevant academic discipline.</p> <p>A recognised teaching qualification /membership or commitment to obtain membership of the Higher Education Authority (HEA) at Fellow level as a minimum.</p> <p>Current membership of relevant professional body.</p>	Application form
<b>Experience</b>	<p>Experience of initiating an independent line of research, applying for, and securing external research funding with a strong ongoing pipeline.</p> <p>A significant track record of publications in high-quality international/peer-reviewed journals.</p> <p>Experience of PhD supervision through to successful completion.</p> <p>Experience of teaching and assessment on relevant undergraduate and postgraduate programmes and of professional examining.</p>	Application form, interview and presentation
<b>Aptitude and skills</b>	<p>Ability to lead the development and implementation of research strategy and/or teaching.</p> <p>Highly developed communication and presentation skills to present research findings at national and international conferences.</p> <p>Ability to develop internal and external networks that will raise the profile of the subject/University.</p> <p>Ability to develop and maintain a research programme and to publish in international journals.</p> <p>Ability to harness IT as a research and teaching tool.</p> <p>Ability to provide mentoring to early career researchers and academics who have yet to make an impact</p> <p>Ability to provide tutorial and counselling advice to undergraduate and postgraduate students.</p> <p>Ability to take on leadership role at subject group/School/University level.</p> <p>A willingness to undertake further training as appropriate and to adopt new procedures as and when required.</p>	Application form, interview and presentation

	Desirable	Method of assessment
<b>Education and qualifications</b>	A Postgraduate Certificate in Professional Practice (PGCPP), or equivalent qualification	Application form
<b>Experience</b>	<p>Track record of innovation in the design and delivery of taught programmes at undergraduate or postgraduate level, where teaching is the focus.</p> <p>Experience of course management at module or programme level.</p>	Application form, 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 [jobs@aston.ac.uk](mailto:jobs@aston.ac.uk).

## Contact information

### Enquiries about the vacancy:

Name: Patricia Thornley

Job Title: Director: Energy and Bioproducts Research Institute

Tel: 07798 858295

Email: [p.thornley@aston.ac.uk](mailto:p.thornley@aston.ac.uk)

### Enquiries about the application process, shortlisting or interviews:

Recruitment Team via [jobs@aston.ac.uk](mailto:jobs@aston.ac.uk) or 0121 204 4500.

## Additional Information

Visit our website <https://www2.aston.ac.uk/staff-public/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-and-pensions/salary-scales/index>

**Benefits:** <https://www2.aston.ac.uk/staff-public/hr/Benefits-and-Rewards/index>

**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:

#### Post-Brexit transition period / EU Settlement Scheme

The post-Brexit transition period ended on 31 December 2020. If you are an EU/EEA citizen and you were a resident in the UK before 31 December 2020, you and your family members (including non-EU citizens need to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme to continue to live, work and study in the UK beyond 30 June 2021. The deadline for applying to the EU settlement scheme is 30 June 2021. You can apply via the Government webpage <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

Irish Nationals do not need to apply for settlement as they retain the right to work in the UK.

## **New immigration system for EU/EEA and Swiss Nationals who were not resident in the UK before 31 December 2020**

A new immigration system has been introduced for people arriving in the UK from EEA countries with effect from 1 January 2021. In addition to those who have always required a visa, EU citizens moving to the UK to work will need to get a visa in advance. You can find more information on the following website. Candidates should check their eligibility to enter or remain in 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. If you do not meet the eligibility criteria, any application for a work visa would be unsuccessful.

If you require a visa to work in the UK the most common types of visa are:

### **Skilled Worker Visa**

<https://www.gov.uk/skilled-worker-visa>

### **Global Talent Visa**

If you are a leader or potential leader in one of the following fields you may be eligible to apply for a Global Talent Visa:

- Academia or Research
- Arts and Culture
- Digital Technology

Please click the following link for further information and to check your eligibility for this visa.

<https://www.gov.uk/global-talent>

**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:** Your personal data will be processed in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation ((EU) 2016/679) ("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-public/hr/policies>

