



# OPPORTUNITY

## Research Fellow

**Reference:** R210164

**Salary:** £33,797 per annum Grade 8

**Contract Type:** Fixed term until 21<sup>st</sup> October 2022

**Basis:** Full Time

# Job description

## Job Purpose:

The postholder will carry out socio-economic and social analysis and policy assessment of bioenergy systems in the UK and the Philippines. This will be done as part of two projects: Supergen Bioenergy Hub (SGBH) and Enhanced Rice Straw Biogas. This position offers the unique opportunity to work in a highly interdisciplinary environment and apply social science in an engineering focused research area.

The EPSRC/BBSRC funded Supergen Bioenergy Hub works with academia, industry, government, and societal stakeholders to develop sustainable bioenergy systems that support the UK's transition to an affordable, resilient, low-carbon energy future. This work will be carried out as part of the SGBH Topic Group Systems.

Enhanced Rice Straw Biogas is funded is under Energy catalyst round 7 by Innovate UK, EPSRC and FCDO as part of the Global Challenges Research Fund and Transforming Energy Access programme to support highly innovative, market-focused energy solutions in the Global South. The project's pilot plant and main project activities are based in the Philippines. The postholder will be required to conduct remote or in-person fieldwork, depending on the development of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The postholder will regularly meet and liaise with colleagues and project partners from both projects to ensure appropriate input and sharing of data and effective dissemination of results. The postholder will work with colleagues in EBRI to share knowledge, skills and results in oral and written form and engage with a wide variety of external stakeholders in relation to project activities via meetings, social media, and publications.

## Main duties and responsibilities

### As Part of Supergen Bioenergy Hub:

- ▶ Work with colleagues in the Topic Group Systems and partners in SGBH to identify sustainability impacts of the UK's bioenergy sector in the wider energy system and with interfacing sectors.
- ▶ Support the sustainability assessment of bioenergy systems using the SGBH Case Studies.
- ▶ Conduct socio-economic and social analysis of the SGBH Case Studies using advanced system assessment methods to analyse network and system dynamics.
- ▶ Support the system assessment to identify possible barriers, disruptions, and enablers for bioenergy in the transition to a low-carbon energy future.
- ▶ Support the policy assessment and legal framework assessment relevant for the SGBH Case Studies.

### As part of Enhanced Rice Straw Biogas:

- ▶ Cooperate and engage with project partners to improve the biogas production and utilisation from rice straw and related business model of the existing biogas facility in the Philippines.
- ▶ Plan (including obtaining ethical approval), prepare and conduct fieldwork and interviews in the Philippines with local project partners and local communities to assess energy use, demand, impacts and trade-offs for farmers and other

stakeholders from biogas utilisation and their attitudes towards the rice straw biogas business model. Depending on the development of the Covid-19 pandemic the fieldwork will be remotely or in-person.

- ▶ Developing a framework for analysis and analyse the data collected in interviews and during fieldwork.
- ▶ Quantify and validate the non-monetized social benefits of the business model.
- ▶ Make recommendation to the industrial project lead (Straw Innovations) for the improvement of their business model.

Both projects:

- ▶ Communicate findings to national and international audiences, industrialists, policy makers, NGO's and other stakeholders by publishing academic papers, project reports for different stakeholder audiences and disseminating via social media and other channels.
- ▶ Become a part of the EBRI team, working interdisciplinarily with others to develop new, sustainable approaches to low carbon energy and bioproducts
- ▶ Engage with the SGBH early career researcher network SHARE
- ▶ To travel to project meetings in the UK, the Philippines and to Supergen Bioenergy Hub events
- ▶ To represent the project teams and present research results at national and international meetings and conferences.

### **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.
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## Person specification

	Essential	Method of assessment
<b>Education and qualifications</b>	<p>First degree (or equivalent) in social science, human geography, policy, economy, environmental science or engineering.</p> <p>PhD in a relevant area (ideally in energy, social science, economics, policy, sustainability, environmental studies. other subjects would be considered if appropriate specialisation/experience can be demonstrated).</p>	Application form
<b>Experience</b>	<p>Knowledge in bioenergy systems, sustainability, and renewable energy policy.</p> <p>Experience of socio-economic or social assessment and relevant methods.</p> <p>Experience of policy and governance assessment and relevant methods.</p> <p>Experience of stakeholder engagement qualitative and quantitative techniques.</p> <p>Experience of reporting scientific outputs.</p> <p>Experience of publishing scientific journal papers.</p> <p>Experience of presenting scientific findings at conferences and seminars.</p> <p>Working with industrial and non-academic partners.</p> <p>Experience of successfully working as part of an interdisciplinary team.</p>	Application form and interview

	Essential	Method of assessment
<b>Aptitude and skills</b>	<p>Demonstrable aptitude for conducting remote and in-person fieldwork in overseas locations.</p> <p>Ability to autonomously progress project research and proactively engage with partners.</p> <p>A demonstrated track record of independent working, time management and successful delivery of objectives.</p> <p>Well-developed IT skills with demonstrated aptitude for qualitative systems and network modelling.</p> <p>Very well-developed interpersonal and team-working skills.</p> <p>Excellent written and oral communication skills.</p>	Application form and interview

	Desirable	Method of assessment
<b>Education and qualifications</b>		Application form
<b>Experience</b>	<p>Knowledge of the renewable energy sector, climate change, environment and international development.</p> <p>Experience of social science based multi-criteria assessment.</p> <p>Experience of using advanced system assessment methods to analyse network and system</p>	Application form and interview

	Desirable	Method of assessment
	<p>dynamics and connections in networks and systems.</p> <p>Experience of assessment of non-monetised social benefits.</p> <p>Working internationally.</p> <p>Working with stakeholders from a different cultural and social background.</p> <p>Experience of presenting scientific outputs internationally.</p> <p>Experience of organising and facilitating stakeholder and research workshops.</p>	
<b>Aptitude and skills</b>	<p>Stakeholder engagement techniques for organising and evaluating workshops.</p> <p>Communicating scientific concepts to a wide variety of different (technical and non-technical) audiences.</p>	Interview



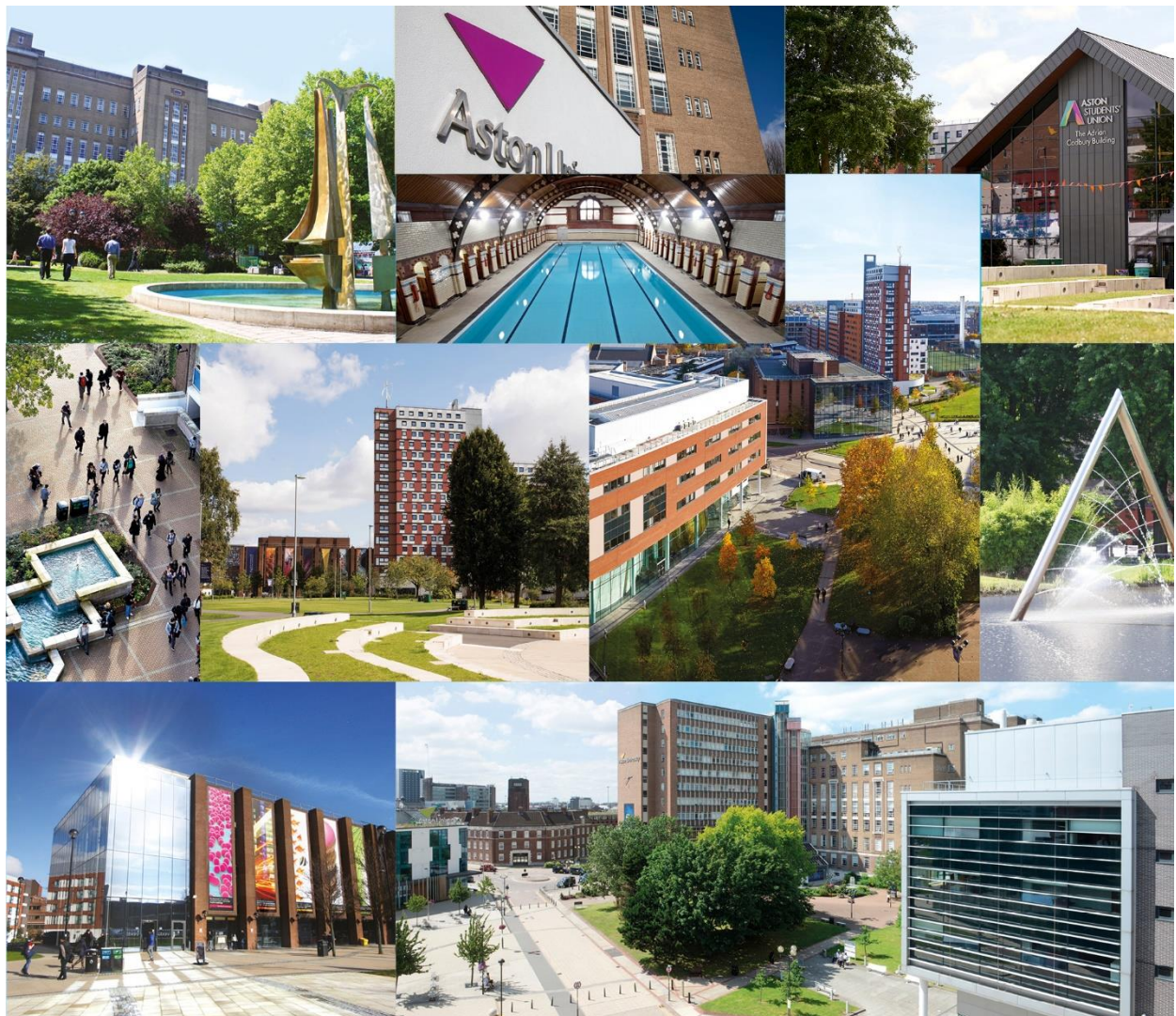
## How to apply

You can apply for this role online via our website <https://www2.aston.ac.uk/staff-public/hr/jobs>.

Applications should be submitted by 23:59 GMT 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: Mirjam Roeder

Job Title: Senior Research Fellow

Email: [m.roeder@aston.ac.uk](mailto:m.roeder@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, including meeting the English Language 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>

**Aston University**

**Birmingham**

**B4 7ET, UK.**

**+44 (0)121 204 3000**

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