

OPPORTUNITY

Where change
gets real.



All about Aston University
Information for candidates

www.aston.ac.uk

Welcome

from Professor Alec Cameron
Vice-Chancellor and
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.

In November 2020, Aston University was delighted to be announced as the Guardian's University of the Year 2020. The Guardian's decision to award this prestigious accolade to Aston University is based on their objective assessment of the 121 UK universities against numerous criteria. These include: graduate employability and earnings, student retention, closing attainment gaps and embedding sustainability.

Aston University was announced as the winner of the Times Higher Education's (THE) 2020 Outstanding Entrepreneurial University in recognition of our support for student entrepreneurship, small businesses, and the West Midlands region.

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. Aston University holds the award of Gold from the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF), which found that students from all backgrounds achieve 'consistently outstanding outcomes' at Aston and confirms our outstanding teaching quality and student satisfaction

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 black ink that reads "Alec Cameron." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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 is 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. 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 choose to 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 recognised as a leader in leisure, entertainment, shopping and sport and is an international centre for business, commerce and industry. Birmingham is home to world-class companies, innovative entrepreneurs and has one of the youngest populations in Europe. It is a dynamic, business-focused region 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 15,000 students. All staff have the opportunity to contribute to our sustainability agenda and practices.

Academic colleges and schools



College of Business and Social Sciences (BSS)

- Aston Business School
- Aston Law School
- School of Social Sciences and Humanities



College of Engineering and Physical Sciences (EPS)

- School of Informatics and Digital Engineering
- School of Infrastructure and Sustainable Engineering
- School of Engineering and Technology

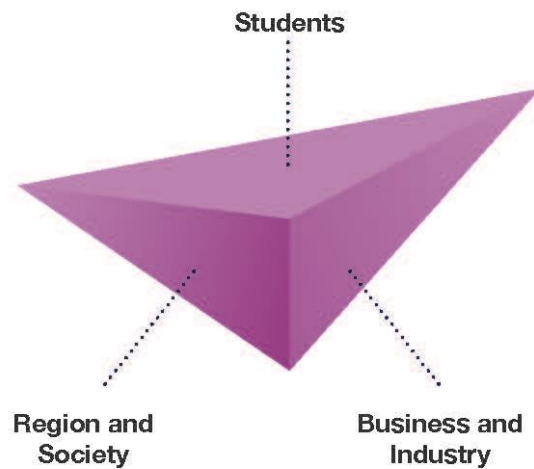


College of Health and Life Sciences (HLS)

- School of Biosciences
- School of Pharmacy
- School of Optometry
- Aston Medical School
- School of Psychology

Our beneficiary groups

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. Through our industry placements, students are at the coalface of our interaction with industry.



Business and Industry

Our new strategy has an emphasis on the businesses and other external organisations who engage with the University. Aston 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 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.

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.

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



Student and Academic Services

Student and Academic Services consists of a range of teams that support our students and deal with any issues that may affect their learning. The teams offer professional advice and help on finance issues, support for international students, mature students, care leavers, as well as counselling and mental health support. Student and Academic Services help thousands of new students navigate the transition to becoming a successful university student.

The majority of student services are located in The Hub, which is a physical space on the Upper Ground Floor of Aston University's Main Building).

For more information visit: www.aston.ac.uk/current-students/hub

Teams in the Directorate include:

The Enabling Team

The Enabling Team can help students with disabilities, ongoing health conditions and specific learning differences. Support includes advising students on teaching and learning, assessment and exams, physical access, inclusive resources, advice on funding including the Disabled Students' Allowances, and links to other related services internal and external to Aston.

For more information visit: www.aston.ac.uk/current-students/hub/the-enabling-team

The Chaplaincy Team

The Chaplaincy Team is based in the Martin Luther King Multi-Faith Centre, situated in the centre of campus. The Chaplaincy Team is experienced at listening and offering pastoral and spiritual guidance, prayer and support to all, regardless of background. The team offers a confidential service and is here for those of all faiths or none.

The Martin Luther King Multi-Faith Centre rooms are available for student societies and Aston staff to hold meetings and events.

For more information visit: www.aston.ac.uk/current-students/health-wellbeing/chaplaincy

Student Counselling and Mental Wellbeing Team

The Counselling and Mental Wellbeing Team provide a professional and confidential service to all students of the University. Qualified Counsellors and Psychotherapy Practitioners offer a range of approaches including Psychodynamic Counselling, Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) and Solution Focused Therapy. The team offer email or Skype counselling (as an alternative to face-to-face engagement) to distance learners and students on placement. They also provide workshops on a range of issues relevant to students, and act as a point of reference within the University for those who have concerns about the wellbeing of students.

Mental Health Specialists (who are registered Mental Health Nurses) coordinate specialist support for students with longer term mental health conditions. They offer drop-in sessions to all campus-based Aston students.

For more information visit:

www.aston.ac.uk/current-students/health-wellbeing/counselling-and-mental-wellbeing-service

Student Funding and Advice Team

The Student Funding and Advice Team offer professional support on a range of issues, including routine and complex student finance queries. The team advise on all Student Finance England queries, University fee payments and provide support for students with caring responsibilities, care leavers and students estranged from their families.

For more information visit: www.aston.ac.uk/current-students/hub

International Student Services

International Student Services consists of two groups: International Student Advice and Visa Compliance. The teams offer general support for international and EU students who are studying and living in the UK. This includes advice on banking, finance, healthcare, working in the UK and landlord checks. Qualified team of advisers can offer advice on a range of visa and immigration queries, and help students apply for a Tier 4 General Student Visa.

The team also carry out enrolment and engagement monitoring to ensure that students are actively studying with Aston University and work closely with the Home Office to create students' Confirmation of Acceptance of Studies (CAS) number.

For more information visit: www.aston.ac.uk/current-students/hub/iss

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