



## Senior Research Scientist – KTP Associate

**Reference:** R210456

**Salary:** up to £35,000 per annum depending on experience with up to £4000 dedicated training budget

**Contract Type:** Fixed term (24 months)

**Basis:** Full Time

## Job description

This 24-month project takes the form of a Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) (<http://www.ktponline.org.uk>), which provides you with practical and formal training and the availability of support from experienced mentors from [BCL2020 Ltd](#), Aston University and Innovate UK.

### **Job Purpose:**

This project aims to develop the capacity of BCL2020 to express membrane-associated proteins to commercial scale at costs that are competitive, opening new avenues for income generation and business growth as well as providing research tools for societal benefit. BCL2020, (trading as biocleave), are a highly innovative SME with unique capabilities in engineering and exploitation of the non-pathogenic clostridia for production of high value, commercially sought after research proteins. The team is based within Oxfordshire and comprises molecular biologists, fermentation engineers and protein biochemists. The Aston Membrane Proteins and Lipids Research group (AMPL) has significant expertise of expression and purification of a wide variety of membrane proteins in a range of host systems.

In partnership with Aston University, the successful candidate will be responsible for embedding the knowledge of membrane-associated protein manufacturing within BCL2020. The range of proteins tested during this project will allow transfer of significant expertise from Aston for expression of a representative range of future high-value targets. This role includes the production of bespoke resources detailing the processes and protocols developed, as well as training other BCL2020 staff, ensuring the knowledge developed is retained post-KTP. This approach will establish BCL2020 as leaders in the commercial production of membrane-associated proteins, giving them access to a significant market which is currently underpopulated.

This role is an exciting opportunity for candidates with PhD in Biochemistry or a relevant subject. Prior knowledge of Clostridial growth and manipulation and/or protein purification processes as well as familiarity with relevant equipment is essential. It would be beneficial if the candidate has experience of working within industry, especially in a developing business, or on intersectoral projects.

This is multi-disciplinary project, which will challenge the associate to develop new skills, work as part of a multifunctional team and be able to communicate and champion ideas to colleagues at all levels and functions in the business. They should be cognizant of the commercial imperatives of the company and the business outcomes of the project. They should have well-developed interpersonal skills that will enable the Associate to work alongside sales, technical and engineering staff effectively. The KTP Associate will also develop a broad set of skills in project and stakeholder management, working on a strategic project in an innovative business. The skills developed during the course of the project will enable the successful candidate to broaden their future career opportunities.

### **Main duties and responsibilities**

- ▶ Embed the substantial expertise in expression (production) and purification of membrane-associated proteins from Aston University into BCL2020, through:

- enhancing production of existing protein targets.
- developing bespoke manufacturing processes integrating membrane-associated protein expression and existing processes.
- developing a robust commercialisation and pricing strategy.
- establishing a legacy capability for protein expression at BCL2020
- ▶ Establish KPI's, track the benefits and report to firm's management through reports and presentations.
- ▶ Compile and analyse quantitative and qualitative data and write up results of tests and experiments undertaken.
- ▶ Prepare reports and present results to summarise main findings and conclusions to a diverse range of audiences.
- ▶ Understand the commercial context of the project

### **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.
- ▶ Work safely to ensure the wellbeing of themselves and others.
- ▶ Carry out duties in a way which promotes fairness in all matters and which engenders trust.

## Person specification

	Essential	Method of assessment
<b>Education and qualifications</b>	PhD in Biochemistry or a relevant discipline	Application form
<b>Experience</b>	Prior knowledge and practical experience of working with Clostridia and / or producing membrane proteins.	Application form and interview
<b>Aptitude and skills</b>	<p>Excellent technical ability, IT skills for data analysis and presentation and the aptitude to learn new laboratory techniques quickly.</p> <p>Ability to manage time and workload to meet deadlines.</p> <p>Willingness to take ownership of the project – management of day-to-day tasks, resourcing and reporting</p> <p>Understanding of commercial nature of project and desire to engage with commercial aspects to define KPIs and pricing strategy</p> <p>Enthusiasm for training others and exchanging knowledge.</p>	Application form, presentation and interview

	Desirable	Method of assessment
<b>Experience</b>	Experience of working within industry or on intersectoral projects and / or experience of working in a developing business.	Application form and interview

	Desirable	Method of assessment
	At a minimum, it would be expected that the associate has an understanding of the challenges and benefits of intersectoral projects.	

## 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 BST 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).



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

**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 are applying for is listed as 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>

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gets real.**