

**OPPORTUNITY**

Where change  
gets real.



**All about Aston University**  
**Information for candidates**

[www.aston.ac.uk](http://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, slightly informal 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

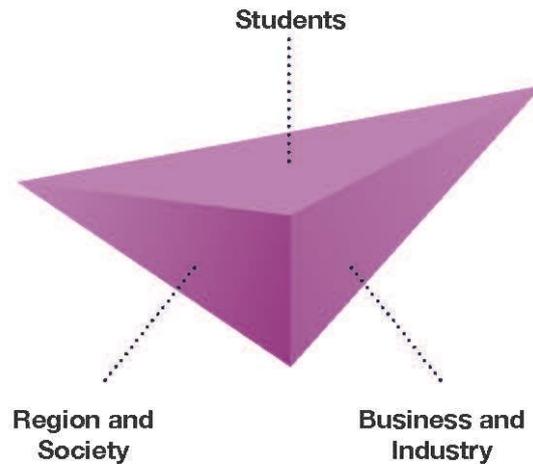


### College of Health and Life Sciences (HLS)

- 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



# Careers and Placements

Employability and the continuing success of our students is of the upmost importance at Aston and a key element of our University strategy. We are ranked Top 30 in the UK for Graduate Prospects (Times/Sunday Times Good University Guide 2021) and Top 250 in the World (QS Graduate Employability World Rankings 2020).

Our award-winning Careers and Placements department are instrumental in delivering Aston's mission to create highly employable graduates. The team are on hand to support students with friendly and professional advice throughout their time at University, and up to three years after they graduate. They help students develop the skills and experience they need to choose the right career path and stand out in a competitive job market through a combination of one-to-one support, group sessions, and events.

The team are dedicated to giving students access to practical experience. We were the first University to include an integrated placement year as standard in our degree programmes. The majority of our students now complete a placement year. It's a compulsory element of many of our courses, and something both students and employers really value. Students who complete a placement gain up to twelve months of professional experience as well as important employability skills; both of which give them a competitive edge when they graduate. The team are responsible for supporting students through the placement journey.

Significant employer relationships are part of the equation when it comes to successful employability, so the team also work closely with industry professionals and employers from across the globe to source placement and graduate opportunities for our students. They also manage and administer funding grants to support businesses with their recruitment needs.

Your role will contribute to the key performance indicators for the Careers and Placements service which focus on increasing graduate employability, supporting placement participation and enhancing the student experience.

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