

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)

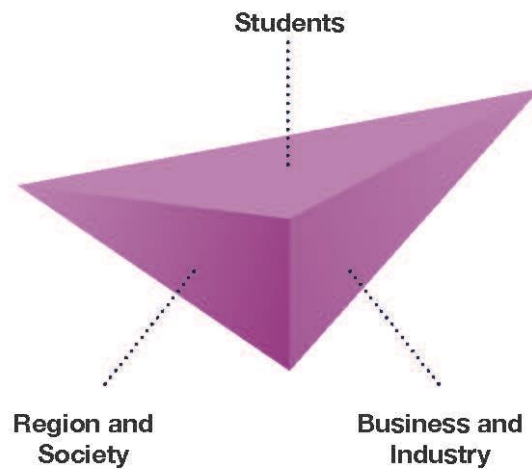
- School of Informatics and Digital Engineering
- School of Infrastructure and Sustainable Engineering
- School of Engineering and Technology

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



The Education Department

The Education Department provides leadership in all aspects of learning & teaching, academic support, and quality assurance & enhancement, across the University. It is comprised of the following teams:

- Academic Practice
- Technology-Enhanced Learning (TEL)
- Academic Quality
- Library
- Learning Development Centre (LDC)
- Centre for English Language & Communication at Aston (CELCA).

The Academic Practice and TEL teams work with academic staff to develop, enhance and innovate their pedagogic practice. This is achieved through a range of activities which include a suite of postgraduate programmes in Learning & Teaching in Higher Education accredited by Advance HE; a central CPD programme; and bespoke work with Colleges, Programme Teams and individual members of staff.

The Academic Quality team has responsibility for quality assurance and enhancement across the University; and the Library team provides support to both staff and students for learning, teaching and research activities.

The LDC and CELCA work mostly with students: The LDC helps students with all aspects of their academic study skills; and CELCA provides support for international students in improving their English language and communication skills, and becoming more confident about studying in another country.

TEF; support for academic staff in curriculum development and review; the sharing of good practice; reward and recognition for excellence in learning and teaching; and the creation of institutional policies and strategies designed to enhance the Aston student learning experience are other key responsibilities for the Department.

Aston is launching its new Education Strategy in September 2021, and the Education team will be responsible for leading its implementation.

Aston's 'Education Strategy 2021 - 2025' objectives are:

- Put Aston at the forefront of learning, teaching and student experience, so that the institution is recognised as a leader in blended and hybrid learning
- Provide all learners, whatever their background or mode of study, with a distinctive, innovative and consistently high quality academic learning experience that utilises flexible pedagogies designed to meet diverse learner needs and build social capital and citizenship skills
- Develop high quality, strongly employable graduates and postgraduates equipped with the knowledge, skills and ability to excel in the global workplace
- Offer attractive, research-led and employer-informed curricula that meet the needs of our beneficiaries, and enable our graduates and postgraduates to realise their full academic potential as part of their lifelong learning journey.

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