

**OPPORTUNITY**

Where change  
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**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 slanted 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

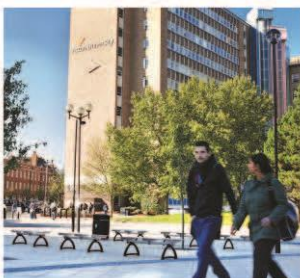
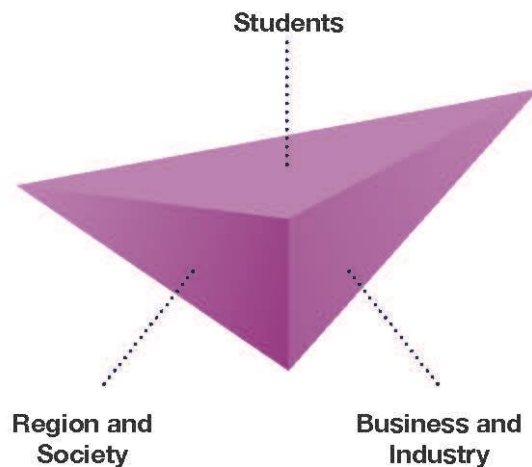


### College of Health and Life Sciences (HLS)

- 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



# Campus Safety

The Campus Safety department at Aston University ensure that the campus estate and our community are as safe as possible. For Aston to achieve its mission as the UK's leading university for students to succeed in business and the professions, staff and students need to feel safe and confident to achieve this.

The Campus Safety team are equipped with a range of innovative technology, systems and skills, along with significant experience of working not only in security and protection, but also in higher education.

Going to university is an incredibly rewarding and enjoyable experience. For some, it can be a daunting experience and the team offer help and assistance, so students, staff and visitors have a safe and enjoyable experience. Campus Safety protect one of the most multicultural and diverse communities in the UK and welcome students from over 120 countries every year. Security and safety have different meanings depending on where our students originate therefore different approaches will be required to build trust and confidence with these students.

Being positioned in the centre of Birmingham provides opportunities to support Aston's beneficiaries and key stakeholders. Campus Safety have superb relationships with the police, neighbouring education providers, Birmingham City Council and other key stakeholders. As members of the Association of University Chief Security Officers (AUCSO), Campus Safety achieved the award for 'Security Team of the Year' in 2018.

## Mission

To be the UK's safest destination university where our beneficiaries are supported and protected to achieve the best possible outcomes.

## Vision

In 2023, Aston will have an international reputation for being one of the safest universities to work and study. People will come here not only because of our world-class education, but because they feel safe while they are here and confident that we can enhance the student experience.

## Security strategy

The security strategy is divided into three elements: **control** - what is within our reach; **partner** - with those who sit on the periphery and **influence** - upon those who can help make a difference

## Control

As we aspire to create a destination campus for our beneficiaries, we must create an open, permeable campus, which welcomes students, staff and the wider community, and encourages them to stay. Whilst it is important that access to the campus is welcoming and user-friendly, this must be balanced with a safe and secure environment, promoting a sense of security and wellbeing for beneficiaries during their time on campus.

To create a safe and secure yet open environment the strategy will build on the emerging theme of a smart campus, by using technological security solutions to ensure that the balance of permeability and security are fully realised.

This will be achieved by:

- effective zoning of the campus to ensure the physical campus remains open and welcoming to the public, whilst discrete buildings/areas of buildings can only be accessed by students/staff.
- Secure by design with effective lighting, wide passages and visible CCTV.
- App-based technology continued roll out of the SafeSmart app to enable fast reporting of issues to security.

We will drive an effective awareness campaign to promote within students, staff and beneficiaries a clear understanding of the security provision and expectations for their behaviour when on campus.

### **Partner**

We will partner and work with neighbouring Universities, businesses and third party university suppliers (eg. Unite) to promote a safe and secure 'Knowledge Quarter', which spans a small geographical area. By pooling resources where possible, and information-sharing, there will be more awareness around risks, promoting improved mitigation and a safer Knowledge Quarter.

### **Influence**

We will work with local bodies to build a safe and secure environment both on campus and within the sphere of influence of the campus. We have a duty of care to our beneficiaries on their journey to the campus and whilst they are on campus. We will ensure an appropriate, flexible and scalable police presence on site and within the local area.

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