OPPORTUNITY

Research Fellow - Industrial Logistics and Supply Chain Management

Reference: R220010

Salary: Grade 8, £34,304 to £40,927 per annum (pro-rata) depending on experience

Contract Type: Fixed Term (30/09/2022)

Basis: Full Time

European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

**MIDLANDS
ENGINE** | HM Government

UNIVERSITY
OF THE YEAR
2020 | The Guardian

TEF Gold | Teaching
Excellence
Framework

ECU GENDER CHARTER

Athena
SWAN
Silver Award

POSITIVE ABOUT
DISABLED PEOPLE

Job description

Aston University has been part funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) to support the delivery of a project called Agri-tech Growth and Resources for Innovation (AGRI). This project will support small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) based in Shropshire in the Marches Local Economic Partnership (LEP) area to innovate in order to exploit the growing market opportunities particularly in agri-tech/agri-food. The project will also support other SMEs seeking to enter the agri-food supply chain. It will deliver both short- and longer-term one-to-one assistance, workshops and innovation collaboration opportunities to regionally based SMEs.

The initiative will assist Shropshire SMEs to develop new products, services and processes as well as break into new agri-food and agri-tech markets. Longer term outcomes will include turnover increases and job creation. Support will be delivered at face to face at SME company premises as well as on-line and through workshops. The project will be delivered by Aston and Harper Adams universities. This specific post is situated in the Department of Engineering Systems & Supply Chain Management (ESSCM), working closely with colleagues from other areas, particularly the Aston Institute of Photonic Technologies (AiPT). You will be working with colleagues with expertise in a range of supply chain domains (including purchasing, enterprise resource planning, logistics and production operations). This is an opportunity to become a member of a vibrant team with a successful track record. It is a particularly exciting time as the group is extending its research activities in a number of areas, including supporting the food and agri-tech industries.

Undertake innovation reviews with SMEs
Visit SMEs to discuss the challenges facing their business. Investigate the innovation potential arising from expertise in the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences (EPS), reporting back to the company.

Lead and undertake collaboration projects with SMEs
Work with SMEs to develop new or improved products, services and supply chain processes. Where applicable, develop demonstrators of good supply chain practice for SMEs. Provide guidance on funding availability to enable longer term R&D activities beyond the AGRI project.

Develop material for use in delivering workshops
Assist in the generation of printed and web-based information resources describing the innovation capabilities within EPS. Generate presentations for workshops and SME visits.

Facilitate workshops
Assist in the organisation and planning of workshops for SMEs

Initiate and support collaboration between SMEs
Help SMEs to network, facilitating collaboration in complementary or pre-competitive R&D.

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.
- ► Ensure and promote the personal health, safety and wellbeing of staff, students and external partners.
- ► Carry out duties in a way which promotes fairness in all matters and which engenders trust.
- ► Promote equality of opportunity and support diversity and inclusion as well as working to support the University's environmental sustainability agenda and practices.

Person specification

	Essential	Method of assessment
Education and qualifications	Education to PhD level or professional equivalent is required.	Application form
Experience	Research in supply chain management Management of grant funded projects Collaborative research. Report and proposal writing Experience of collaborating with industry, particularly Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)	Application form, interview and presentation
Aptitude and skills	Strong verbal and written communication skills Excellent presentation skills Excellent attention to detail Excellent IT skills Willingness and availability to travel to meetings in the Shropshire area	Application form and interview

	Desirable	Method of assessment
Experience	Supply chain/logistics background Research and Development at high Technology Readiness Level (close to market) Analysis of business capabilities ('Innovation reviews') and provision of assistance with technology development or application Working and developing with open-source software systems including CRMs such as Hubspot and Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems such as Dolibarr.	Application form and interview

|	Desirable	Method of assessment
Aptitude and skills	Proven ability to work and build relationships with industrial partners Team player able to self-motivate and initiate projects	Interview and presentation

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 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.
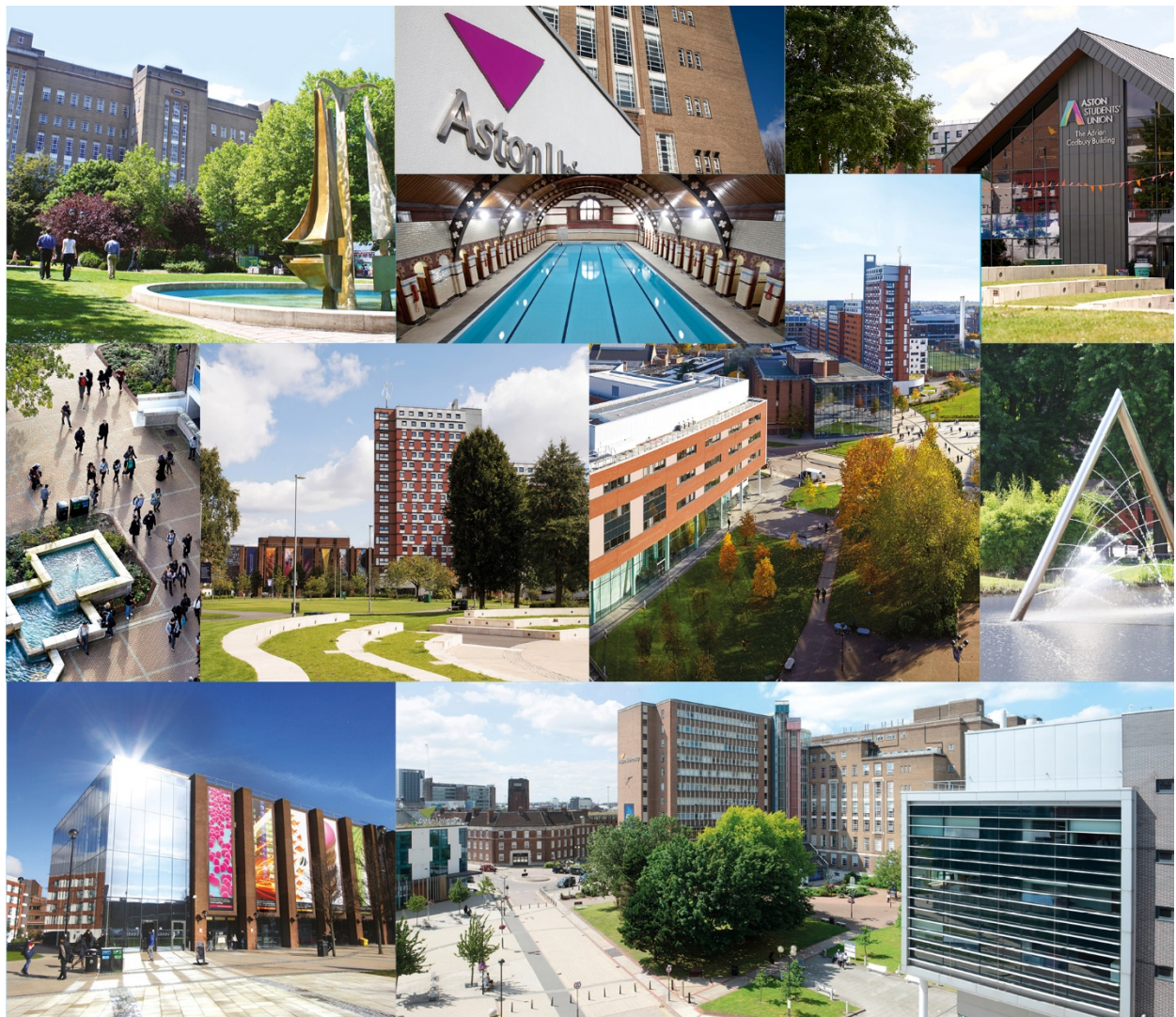
Contact information

Enquiries about the vacancy:

Name: Martin Grant
Job Title: Project Manager, AGRI
Email: m.grant3@aston.ac.uk

Enquiries about the application process, shortlisting or interviews:
Recruitment Team via jobs@aston.ac.uk or 0121 204 4500.

Additional information

Visit our website https://www2.aston.ac.uk/staff-public/hr for full details of our salary scales and benefits Aston University staff enjoy

Salary scales: https://www2.aston.ac.uk/staff-public/hr/payroll-and-pensions/salary-scales/index

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

Working in Birmingham: https://www2.aston.ac.uk/birmingham

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 applying for is listed 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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