



IMPACT

Knowledge Exchange Associate – Bioproducts and Soil Science

Reference: R220023

Salary: £34,304 to £40,927 per annum. Grade 8, depending on experience

Contract Type: Fixed term until 30 June 2022 – likely extension for another 12 months

Basis: Full Time

Job description

Job Purpose:

The purpose of the role is to provide technical and scientific expertise and experience to local/regional companies to support a major bioenergy demonstration, research and knowledge exchange project. The role is required to work closely with academics and technologists in the European Bioenergy Research Institute (EBRI) and other Aston University departments as well as business development professionals in the University in order to support new industry related business and research projects. Specifically, the post will work on bioenergy, bioproducts and energy systems projects with businesses to provide technical support and develop collaborative funding opportunities. The focus will be on decarbonisation of business supply chains by means of tree growth/ planting, horticulture, soil amendment, land remediation, carbon sequestration in soil and by storage.

This is an exciting opportunity to play a role in developing the next generation of bioenergy as a practical technology for business. As part of the knowledge transfer technical team at EBRI you will help bridge the gap between science and industry to deliver lasting benefits to the regional economy.

The European Regional Development Funded (ERDF) project will require you to provide scientific and technical support to the team. You will be a source of practical and theoretical knowledge and expertise on feedstock characterisation and key biochemical processing for the preparation of biofuels and bioproducts. You will work with businesses and academics to carry out both experimental programmes within the EBRI laboratories and desk studies. The role will also require you to present to audiences and participate in collaborative funding applications with industry.

Experience in experimental research work involving application of materials such as biochar and other bioproducts to support practical applications with business is required, together with a competence in general bioenergy systems. You must have a first degree and ideally a higher degree in Chemical Engineering or a related topic.

Project description: The Energy and Bioproducts Research Institute (EBRI) has launched a new project to build a pyrolysis plant with an industrial collaboration to convert wastes from the Birmingham city area into valuable biochar and other by-products. The general scope of this project is to study the characteristics of biochar, bio-oil and gas as by-products from the pyrolysis of the biomass. This characterisation will lead to many potential applications. The next stage will be to explore the opportunities to use these by-products in different applications and one of them the use of biochar as a soil amendment.

Main Duties and Responsibilities:

- To carry out or contribute to focused industrial experimental research and development projects related to the needs of businesses in the project area as defined by the project team.
- To carry out or contribute to desk studies which will be used to support businesses, to conduct lab work with material such as biochar and produce reports as required.
- To develop and maintain knowledge of bioenergy technologies and relevant energy systems, in particular relating to biochar and other bioproducts. This may include carrying out and/or assisting with research projects in order to familiarise yourself with the relevant technologies.

- To provide technical and scientific support to the other members of the EBRI team as required.
- To create and deliver effective presentations to business audiences.
- To conduct site visits as required
- To support the development, writing and preparation of bids for collaborative research and development projects.
- To develop collaborative projects with businesses located in the West Midlands area supported by the ERDF/ESIF project ideally leading to future funded or commercially beneficial activities.
- To write up research work for publication.
- To participate in the dissemination of research findings.

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 and students.
- 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	Postgraduate level qualification in Chemical Engineering or a relevant area	Application form
Experience	<p>Industrial experience in a relevant area</p> <p>Experience of report writing in a business environment</p> <p>Experience of making presentations to a diverse audience</p> <p>Experience of working in a team to achieve collective goals</p> <p>Practical and scientific knowledge of biochar and related materials and their production and application.</p> <p>Experience of developing technical solutions</p>	Application form and interview and presentation
Aptitude and skills	<p>Excellent ability to present research outputs to different audiences including businesses, academics, policy makers and practitioners</p> <p>Ability to produce project reports to a high standard</p> <p>Excellent team working, communication and interpersonal skills</p> <p>Proficiency in using Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint</p> <p>Ability to understand the motivations of business</p> <p>Ability to work with a range of disciplines to develop solutions</p> <p>Willingness and ability to travel within the UK to undertake fieldwork and attend partnership meetings.</p> <p>Willingness to undertake training and development relating to the project if/when required</p>	Application form, interview and presentation

How to apply

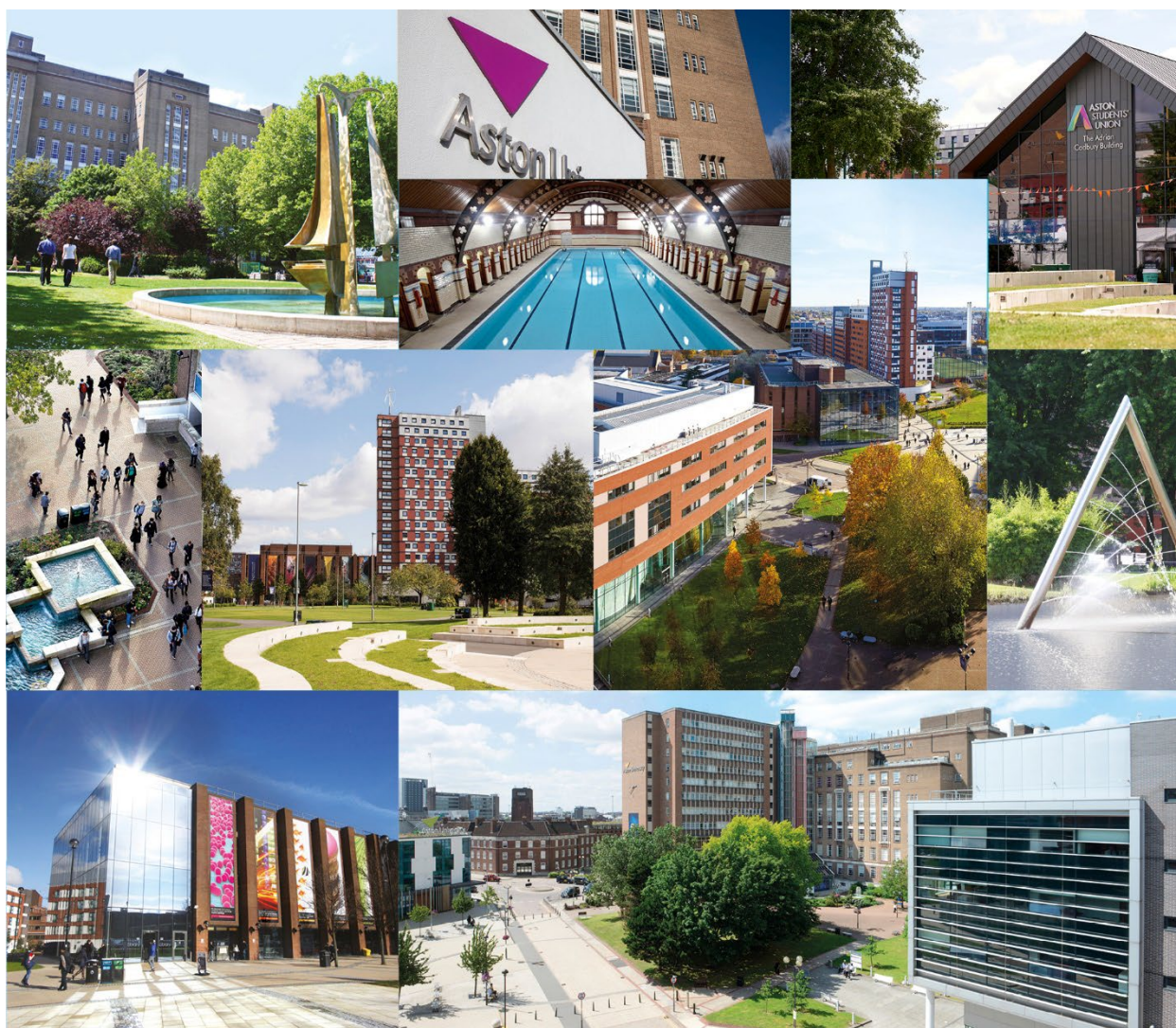
You can apply for this role online via our website <https://www2.aston.ac.uk/staff-public/hr/jobs>.

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: Tim Miller

Job Title: Government and Enterprise Engagement Manager

Email: t.miller1@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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