

# OPPORTUNITY

## Research Associate

**Reference:** R220192

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

**Contract Type:** Fixed term until 30 June 2024

**Basis:** Full Time

# Job description

## Job Purpose:

To contribute to, develop and lead research activities of the Cyber Security Innovation Centre independently and as part of a team, through professional practice and expertise. The Role is primarily linked to the research activity and software development for the Horizon project [TRACE – tracking illicit money flows](#).

In addition, to exploit external links with regional, UK and international bodies such as government agencies, schools, colleges, professional bodies, business and industry as appropriate to the CSI Centre and University strategy.

## **Main Duties and Responsibilities**

This role will support research activities of the Cyber Security Innovation Centre, which has a portfolio of research projects across the following areas: **cybersecurity risk management, FinTech and cryptocurrency forensics, AI applications in NLP and AML, blockchain and identity management**. The Role will support the growth and further portfolio development of the Centre and work in collaboration with the Aston Institute of Forensic Linguistics.

## Research

- ▶ To identify, develop and apply technology solutions to a research problem required by the project scope. In particular cryptocurrency forensics, AI applications in AML and evidence processing, OSINT gathering and management in conjunction with forensic linguistics applications.
- ▶ To collaborate in research initiatives with colleagues in and beyond the CSI Centre as appropriate.
- ▶ To identify sources of funding, develop and submit funding applications, securing external research funding.
- ▶ To write up and publish the outcomes of research in good quality publications.
- ▶ To supervise PhD and other postgraduate students to completion.
- ▶ To coordinate business development activities, including communications, stakeholder partnerships and new funding proposal preparation.

## Teaching

- ▶ To undertake a limited amount ( 6 hours per week) of teaching with students at a range of levels, achieving good student feedback through critical reflective practice,
- ▶ To contribute to the assessment of student knowledge and the supervision of student projects.
- ▶ To assist in the development of student research skills.

## External engagement

- ▶ Maintain the Centre website with regular updates and social media posts.

- ▶ To build partnerships and participate in external networks to promote growth of the CSI Centre.
- ▶ Support the organisation of stakeholder engagement events.
- ▶ To represent the interests of the subject and School via activities to raise the regional, national and international profile, particularly with the professions, schools and businesses.
- ▶ To forge relationships with the professional bodies and other bodies representing relevant professional interests.

### **Citizenship**

- ▶ To demonstrate the University's leadership values through own actions and behaviour.
- ▶ To undertake such other duties as may be reasonably requested and that are commensurate with the nature and grade of the post.

### **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
<b>Education and qualifications</b>	A PhD in a relevant subject, including but not limited to Computing Science, MIS, AI, FinTech and innovation.	Application form
<b>Experience</b>	<p>Experience of initiating and conducting research up to doctoral level</p> <p>Experience of writing up/contributing to the write up of reserch for high quality publications.</p> <p>Experience of producing papers, posters, reports presenting at seminars, conferences etc.</p> <p>Experience of positive collaboration within and outside of candidate's immediate research team.</p> <p>Supervising other personnel involved in the project</p>	Application form and interview
<b>Aptitude and skills</b>	<p>Ability to harness IT as a research tool</p> <p>Ability to present data in both a clear and concise manner that is visually appealing.</p> <p>Ability to prepare written communications to a high standard</p> <p>Ability to develop and maintain a research programme and to publish in high quality publications.</p> <p>A willingness to undertake further training as appropriate and to adopt new procedures as and when required.</p>	Application form and interview

	<b>Desirable</b>	<b>Method of assessment</b>
<b>Education and qualifications</b>	We welcome candidates from a range of disciplines with an interest and experience in cybersecurity management, information systems, emergent technologies, social science, economics, psychology and policy backgrounds and an ambition to grow.	Application form
<b>Experience</b>	<p>Experience of applying standard research techniques to gather and analyse data, undertaking data analysis and interpreting results.</p> <p>Experience of writing reports to publishable standards.</p> <p>Light touch website development and social media footprint maintenance.</p>	Application form and interview
<b>Aptitude and Skills</b>	Working effectively in an international team environment.	



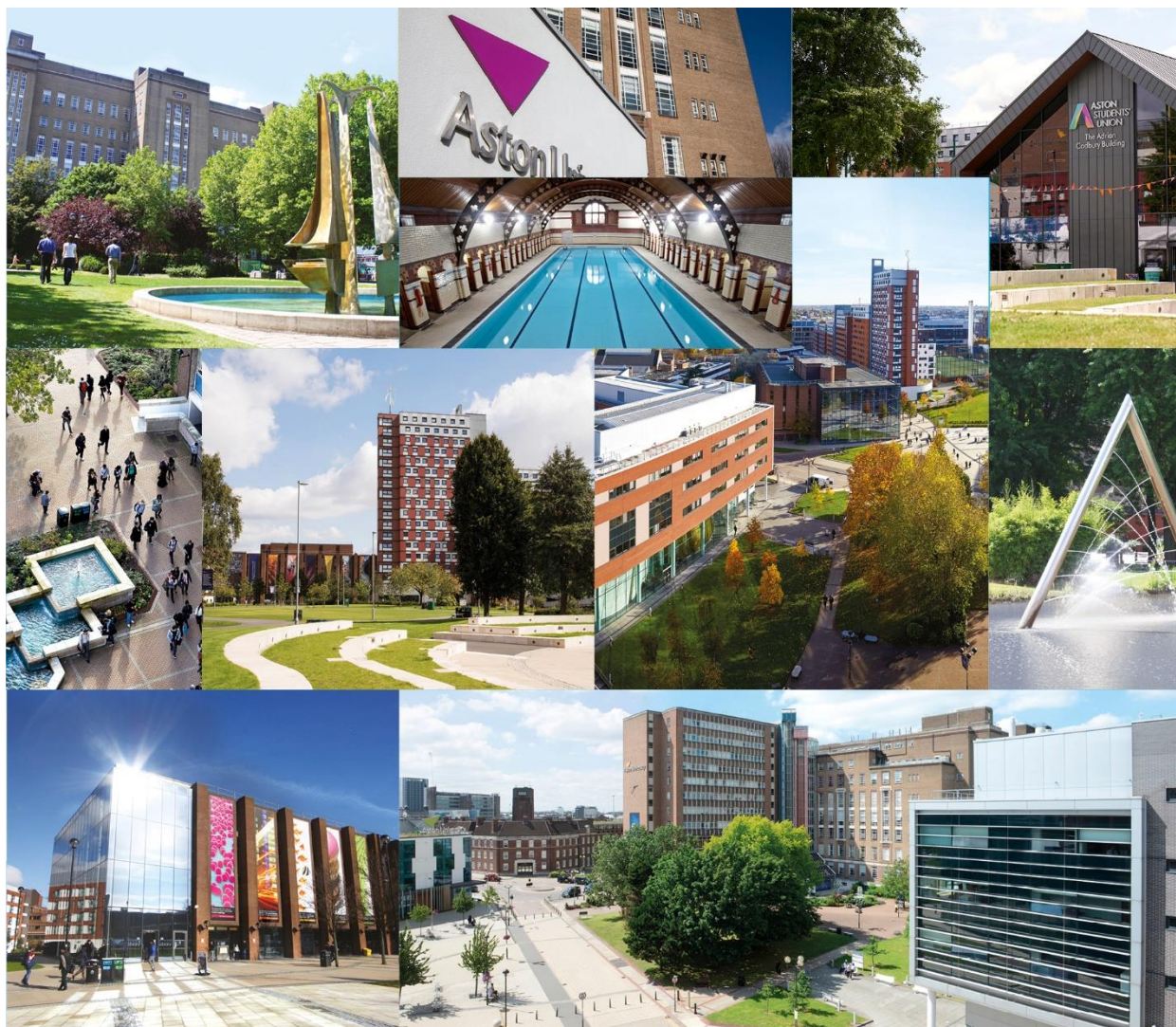
# How to apply

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

Applications should be submitted by 23:59pm 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](mailto:jobs@aston.ac.uk).



# Contact information

## Enquiries about the vacancy:

Name: Prof. Vladlena Benson

Job Title: Director, CSI Centre

Email: [v.benson@aston.ac.uk](mailto:v.benson@aston.ac.uk)

## Enquiries about the application process, shortlisting or interviews:

Recruitment Team via [jobs@aston.ac.uk](mailto: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:

### New immigration system from 1 January 2021

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 who were not resident in the UK before 31 December 2021 will need to get a visa in advance.

You can find more information [here](#)

Candidates should check their eligibility to enter or remain in the UK in advance of making any job application via the [UKVI website](#). 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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**Where change  
gets real.**