

**OPPORTUNITY**

Where change  
gets real.



**All about Aston University**  
**Information for candidates**

[www.aston.ac.uk](http://www.aston.ac.uk)

# Welcome

from Saskia Loer Hansen

Interim Vice-Chancellor & 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. In 2021 Aston was also shortlisted for the THE University of Year award.

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 University. We anticipate a similarly positive outcome in the 2021 REF, to be announced in May 2022.

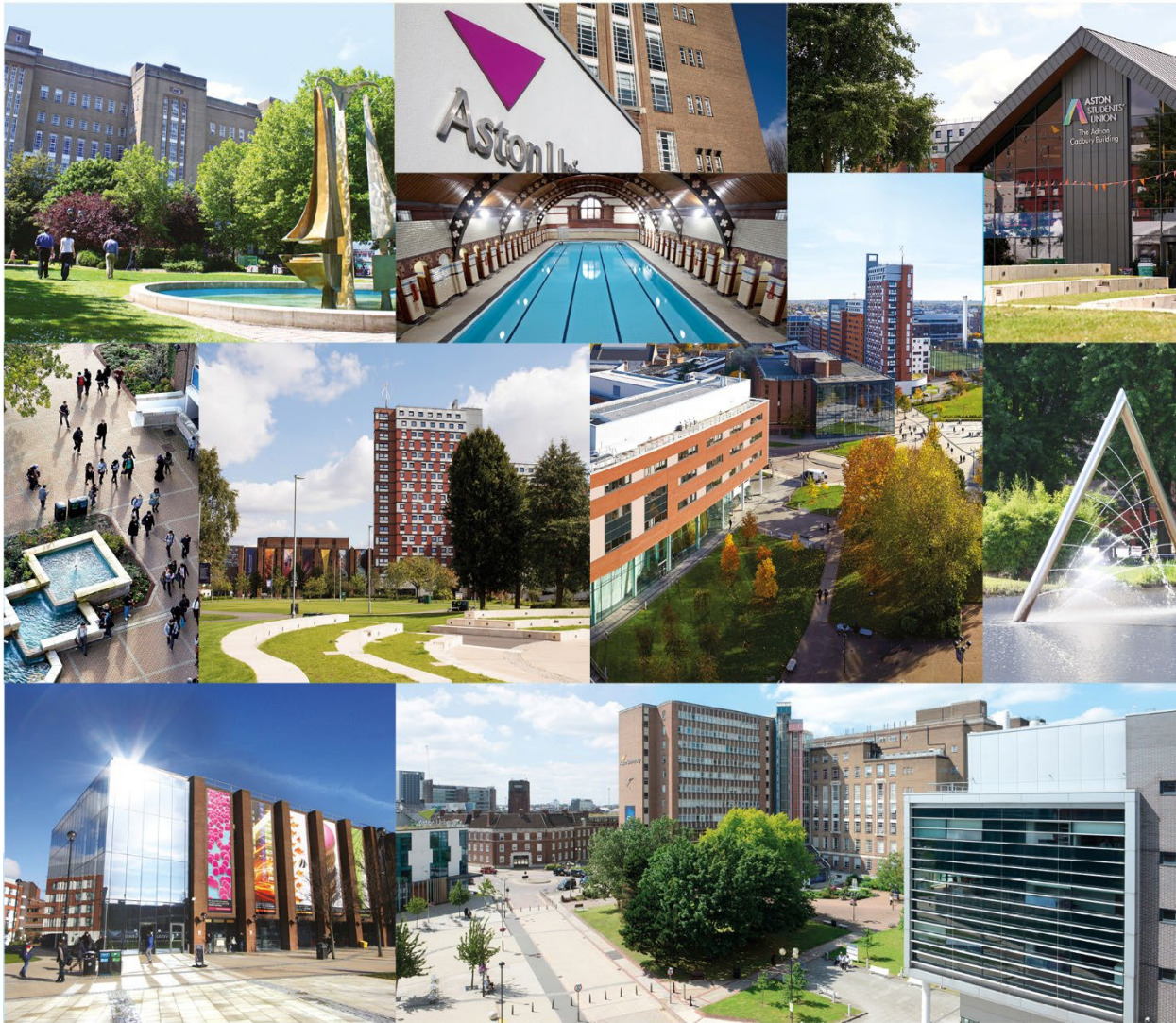
Teaching quality and the student experience are an important focus at Aston. We are committed to doing all we can to address the needs of students and to assisting them to achieve their career ambitions on graduation.

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 'Saskia Hansen'.

Saskia Loer Hansen  
Interim Vice-Chancellor & Chief Executive





## 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 University has been 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

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. Aston University 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



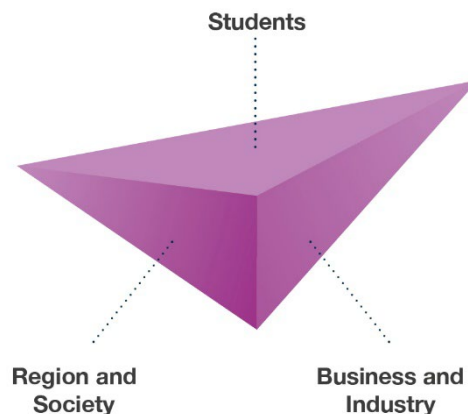
#### **College of Health and Life Sciences (HLS)**

- Aston Medical School
- Aston Pharmacy School
- School of Biosciences
- School of Optometry
- 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 University 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 strategy has an emphasis on the businesses and other external organisations who engage with us. Aston University is a market leader in industry-engaged research, as well as graduate employability. Our industry partners benefit from our work through our leading research and knowledge exchange, and from the quality of graduates we produce. Each student at Aston University 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 University 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.



# College of Engineering and Physical Sciences

Our mission in the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences (EPS) is one of real world application. We deliver practical, industry-relevant teaching alongside applied research that delivers solutions to real world problems. By embedding an innovative learning by doing ethos into all our courses, we aim to provide an inspirational education that delivers impact in UK industry and worldwide.

We engage with industry in many sectors and at all levels in order to inform our teaching, our research and to work collaboratively for the benefit of society. We are a lead partner in the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Institute of Technology. We run a student-led enterprise undertaking client projects and run innovative Industry Clubs, connecting staff, students and industry professionals.

Empowered by world-class research and flourishing links to the wider region, EPS is an open and engaged hub of interdisciplinary expertise.

## Schools of study

The College comprises of three distinct schools of study each led by a Head of School.

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

Underpinning this structure are departments, with considerable discipline-specific responsibilities, each with a Head:

School of Informatics and Digital Engineering

- Computer Science (CS)
- Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EE)
- Mathematics

School of Infrastructure and Sustainable Engineering

- Chemical Engineering and Applied Chemistry (CEAC)
- Civil Engineering
- Engineering Systems and Supply Chain Management (ESSCM)

School of Engineering and Technology

- Aston Foundation Centre
- Aston Professional Engineering Centre
- Mechanical, Biomedical and Design Engineering (MBD)

Each department has devolved responsibility for the design, delivery and operation of particular programmes through the Programme Management Committees. The bodies report through three key committees - Management Committee, Teaching Committee and Research Committee, ensuring that the individual disciplines are sustained and developed within the single integrated structure of the College.

## Organisation

The College is led by the appointed Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Executive Dean, Professor Stephen Garrett. The Executive Dean is supported by two Deputy Deans (Dr Kate Sugden and Dr Tony Clark) and six appointed Associate Deans with the following areas of overall responsibility. Research, International, Learning and Teaching, Undergraduate Programmes, Postgraduate Programmes and Degree Apprenticeship Programmes.



## Learning and teaching

Our courses, which align to our schools of study, are regularly highly placed in leading rankings and we achieve strong levels of satisfaction in student surveys. Many of our programmes are accredited, regulated, or approved by the leading accreditation/professional bodies in the field.

## Research

Aston University's College of Engineering and Physical Sciences works closely with a range of partners to help engineer a sustainable future for everyone. Our work takes place across three institutes that have achieved international recognition for research excellence. Key fields of research include photonics, low carbon energy sources, renewable bioproducts, and innovative technologies that will enhance urban life all over the world.

All College research is linked to one of three cross-College and interdisciplinary research institutes:

- The Energy & Bioproducts Research Institute (EBRI) focuses on overcoming the engineering and logistical challenges of realising a net-zero future;
- The Aston Institute of Photonic Technologies (AIPT) is one of the world's leading photonics research centres; while
- The Aston Institute of Urban Technology and the Environment (ASTUTE) is tackling urgent issues emerging around the future of city living.

Research at Aston has continued from strength to strength and recently we were ranked 35th in the UK by the REF, with 78% of our submissions to the Research and Excellence Framework being ranked as world leading or internationally excellent.



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