



Technical Specialist – KTP Associate

Reference: R220361

Salary: £32,000 per annum with up to £4000,00 budget for the duration of the project for personal and professional development

Contract Type: 24 months (fixed term)

Basis: Full Time

Job description

This 24-month project takes the form of a Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) (<https://www.ktp-uk.org/>), which provides you with practical and formal training and the availability of support from experienced mentors from [Briar Chemicals Ltd](#) [Aston University](#) and [Innovate UK-KTN](#).

Job Purpose:

This KTP project aims to overcome the current limitations in herbicides organic chemistry synthesis by embedding novel R&D capabilities, based on a combinatorial chemistry approach. The proposed KTP will help Briar address the need to:

- Debottleneck the synthesis process for a herbicide manufacture to increase production capacity.
- Address the increasing demand for a herbicide manufacture as current plant/process capacity is insufficient;
- Embed novel organic chemistry synthesis capabilities based on a combinatorial chemistry approach;
- Extend the new techniques to improve the efficiency of other products syntheses.

The KTP is innovative as it will apply novel parallel chemistry techniques originating in the field of combinatorial chemistry, predominantly used in the pharmaceutical industry, to the new application area of agrochemical development. Novel eco-friendly solutions for managing waste-stream contaminants will also be trialled.

The role:

This role is an exciting opportunity for candidates qualified to PhD standard in a field related to organic chemistry, with a strong chemical engineering understanding. They will have a demonstrated track record of experimental work/ laboratory results relevant to the field of chemical synthesis with an aptitude for problem solving. The applicant will be expected to show a significant willingness to expand their knowledge into new areas and be open to work in an industrial environment.

Main duties and responsibilities:

- Review of Products & Markets: to undertake review of the business sector to understand the background to the project and Briar's existing product portfolio including;
- Establish Technical Repository (TR) to record, store and disseminate transferred knowledge as legacy capability;
- Evaluation of Briar process at lab-scale;
- Lab-scale, high-throughput evaluation and optimisation of the established cyanation reaction;
- Scale-up of optimised cyanation reaction;
- Assessment of alternative feedstock;
- Improve various waste stream processing and efficiency.

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
- ▶ Establish Project Steering Group (PSG);
- ▶ Ensure and promote the personal health, safety and wellbeing of staff.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ The associate is expected to work on site for the most part of employment.

Additional Benefits

- ▶ Up to £4000 for personal and professional development for the duration of the project.
- ▶ 25 days of annual leave p/a

Person specification

	Essential	Method of assessment
Education and qualifications	PhD in a field related to organic chemistry/ chemical engineering.	Application form
Experience	Experimental work/ laboratory results relevant to the field of chemical synthesis/ engineering with an aptitude for problem solving	Application form and interview
Aptitude and skills	Some knowledge of parallel/ high-throughput synthesis (combinatorial chemistry) and scaling-up from lab-based experiments to industrial scale manufacturing	Application form and interview

	Desirable	Method of assessment
Aptitude and skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Catalysis, especially for large-scale/ industrial applications- Coagulation and adsorption techniques and related materials- Techno-commercial awareness	Application form and interview

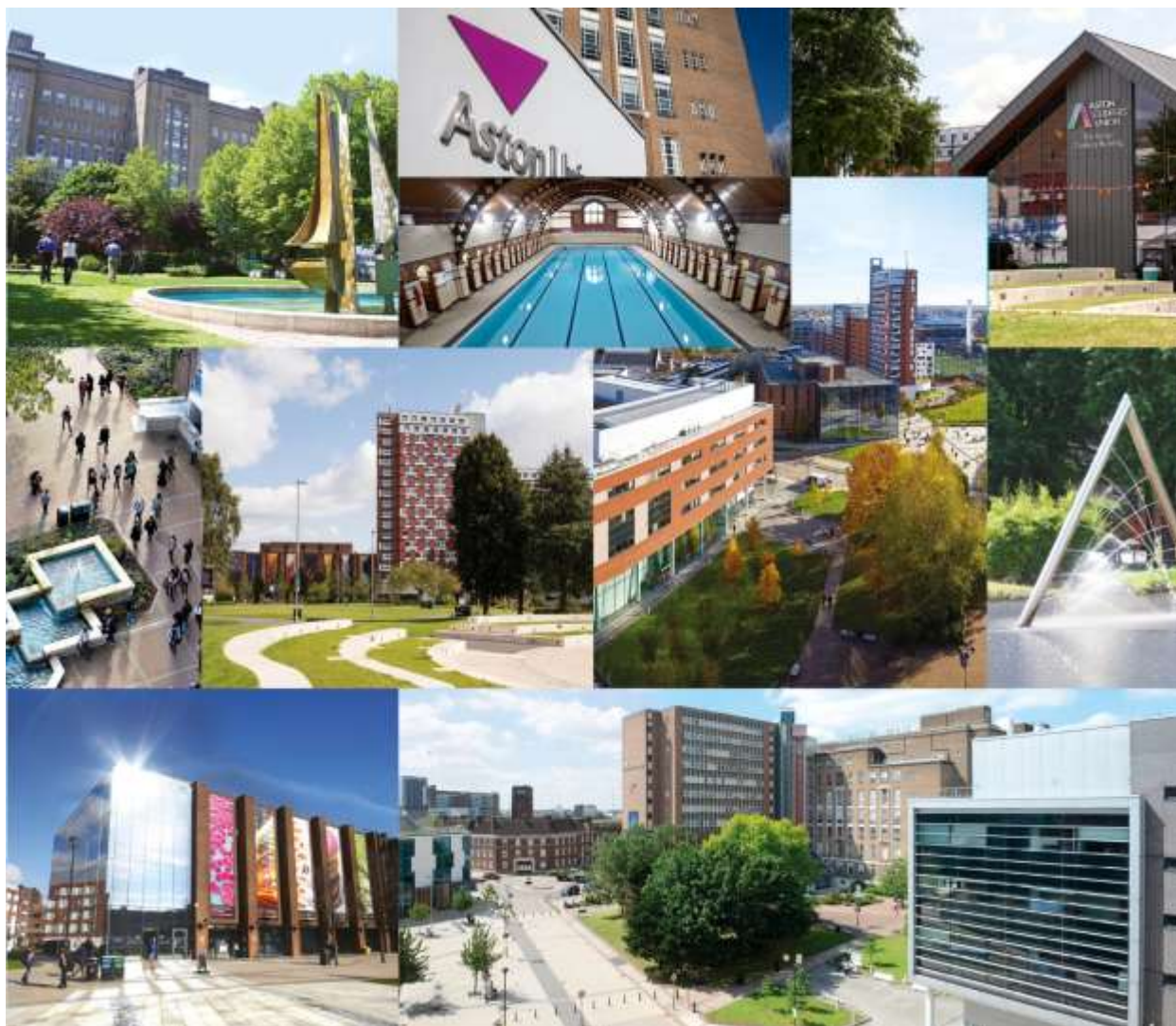
How to apply

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 BST 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: Dr Andrew Sutherland

Job Title: Reader, Infrastructure and Sustainable Engineering

Email: a.j.sutherland@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>

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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**Where change
gets real.**