

# OPPORTUNITY

## Research Associate

**Reference:** R220366

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

**Contract Type:** Fixed term up to one year

**Basis:** Full Time

# Job description

## **Job Purpose:**

We are seeking a research associate to join the Centre for Language and Law, to contribute to a research project for the family justice system.

Ability to work accurately with data, including extracting data fields in large volumes of web text. To enter this data into Excel spreadsheets, maintaining its organisational structure, suitable for post-processing into corpora for socio-linguistic analyses.

The candidate needs to be able to work on their own initiative with data and IT.

Please note we process sensitive data originating in legal contexts and exposure to potentially disturbing content may be an integral part of your work on some of the projects. Where this is the case, we provide appropriate support as part of our commitment to ethical research.

## ***Main Duties and Responsibilities***

### **Research**

▶ To make a substantial contribution to the Centre for Language and Law's research principally through the delivery of a specified project for the family justice system and related articles and bids.

### **Other Related Activities and Functions**

- ▶ Contribute to the running of the Centre for Language and Law as determined by the Director
- ▶ Contribute to the overall activities of the School as determined by its Executive Dean

### **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.

### **Citizenship**

- ▶ To carry out specific (School) roles and functions as may be reasonably required e.g. Centre Director, Head of Department, Programme Director, Personal Tutor, Admissions Tutor).
- ▶ To take part in the meetings and activities of the Academic Department and, on occasion, act as Chair of one or more of the School committees, these responsibilities being equitably distributed across the academic staff.
- ▶ 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.

## Person specification

	Essential	Method of assessment
<b>Education and qualifications</b>	A Masters Level qualification in corpus linguistics, data science, law or a cognate discipline, or equivalent experience.	Application form
<b>Experience</b>	Demonstrable ability of working with large datasets, including Excel, in a research context. Demonstrable ability to conduct large volume web data extraction with high levels of attention to detail. Demonstrable understanding of corpus linguistics and corpus building.	Application form and interview
<b>Aptitude and skills</b>	Ability to analyse and present data in both a clear and concise manner that is visually appealing.  Ability to prepare written communications to a high standard  Ability to harness IT as a research tool  A willingness to undertake further training as appropriate and to adopt new procedures as and when required.  Ability to liaise well with colleagues and to work as part of a team.	Application form and interview

	Desirable	Method of assessment
<b>Education and qualifications</b>	Ph.D. in corpus linguistics, data science, law or a cognate discipline.	Application form

	Desirable	Method of assessment
<b>Experience</b>	<p>Contributing to data analysis for research in legal contexts.</p> <p>Writing material contributing to applications for external research money.</p> <p>Writing publications for peer review</p> <p>Designing and working with online datasets.</p> <p>Experience of designing and implementing anonymization protocols.</p>	<p>Application form and interview</p>



# Contact information

## Enquiries about the vacancy:

Name: Professor Lauren Devine

Job Title: Director, Centre for Language and Law

Email: [l.devine@aston.ac.uk](mailto:l.devine@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.**