



OPPORTUNITY

Research Fellow (KTP Associate) Formulation and process development scientist

Reference: R230013

Salary: £32,000 per annum

Contract Type: Fixed Term for 30 months

Basis: Full Time

Job description

This 30-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 [Catalent Pharma Solutions](#), [Aston University](#) and [Innovate UK-KTN](#).

Job Purpose:

The objective of this KTP is to define how processing parameters influence the introduction of functional excipients using a range of different drugs to develop formulations for Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) with poor bioavailability characteristics.

The focus is on orally disintegrated tablets (ODT), where drug disintegrates in the mouth and is further absorbed through local oromucosal tissues and through the pregastric route (oral cavity, pharynx and oesophagus), avoiding the first pass metabolism in the liver.

This benefits the patient because absorption is faster, a lower dose is needed and there are reduced side effects.

The company need to develop an understanding of the science and processes to develop a robust, reliable freeze dried ODT manufacturing platform that:

- ▶ is founded on fundamental pre-formulation principles
- ▶ enables better prediction of which formulation approach and manufacturing processes will offer the most viable option
- ▶ best promotes the successful production of clinically efficacious products

The role:

This role is an exciting opportunity for candidates holding MSc/MRes, preferably a PhD in Pharmacy or related discipline. The candidate should have a strong understanding of pharmaceutical formulations and process development. Experience in characterisation of excipients, formulation of particulate systems, analytical method development, in-vitro cell line permeability assessment, manufacturing processes such as mixing and freeze drying, process design and optimisation for tech transfer would be an advantage.

Key skills/ experience required include:

- ▶ Strong understanding of pharmaceutical formulations and process development.
- ▶ Experience in characterisation of excipients, formulation of particulate systems, analytical method development, in-vitro cell line permeability assessment and manufacturing processes such as mixing and freeze drying would be an advantage.
- ▶ Good experimental skills to contribute to the planning of research projects and aptitude to learn new techniques.
- ▶ Prior experience of working within the pharmaceutical industry or in research to demonstrate an understanding of the challenges and benefits of collaborative projects.
- ▶ IT skills including use of Microsoft Word, PowerPoint and Excel to produce reports, presentations and manage data.

Main duties and responsibilities:

- ▶ Review of technologies to be used during the project.
- ▶ Literature search on potential applications, review of competitive landscape and building of design space to inform the parameters for the development of a theoretical roadmap – ongoing process through the KTP project.
- ▶ API and excipient screening, with method development and validation.
- ▶ Preliminary assessment of manufacturability and excipient compatibility.
- ▶ Prototype formulation preparation and evaluation.
- ▶ Formulation roadmap building, implementation and validation.

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.
- ▶ Apply good Project Management practices to the project or willingness to learn.
- ▶ 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.

Additional Benefits

- ▶ Up to £5000 for personal and professional development for the duration of the project.
- ▶ Allocation of 25 days of annual leave per year.

Person specification

	Essential	Method of assessment
Education and qualifications	MSc/MRes/PhD (in Pharmacy or a related discipline)	Application form
Experience	<p>Experience in characterisation of excipients, formulation of particulate systems, analytical method development, cell culture, manufacturing processes such as mixing and freeze-drying, tech transfer and process design and optimisation would be an advantage</p> <p>Experience of working within the pharmaceutical industry or in research to demonstrate an understanding of the challenges and benefits of collaborative projects.</p> <p>Knowledge of process scale up.</p> <p>Previous experience of data curation and consolidation, report writing and delivery of scientific presentations.</p>	Application form and interview
Aptitude and skills	<p>Strong understanding of pharmaceutical formulations and process development.</p> <p>Good experimental skills to contribute to the planning of research projects and aptitude to learn new techniques.</p> <p>IT skills including use of Microsoft Word, PowerPoint and Excel to produce reports, presentations and manage data.</p>	Application form and interview

	Desirable	Method of assessment
Education and qualifications	PhD in Pharmacy focused on the related research areas.	Application form
Aptitude and skills	Project management skills to manage time, workload, budget and deadlines	Application form and interview

	Desirable	Method of assessment
	and a proactive approach to ensure success of the project; or willingness to learn good PM practices.	

How to apply

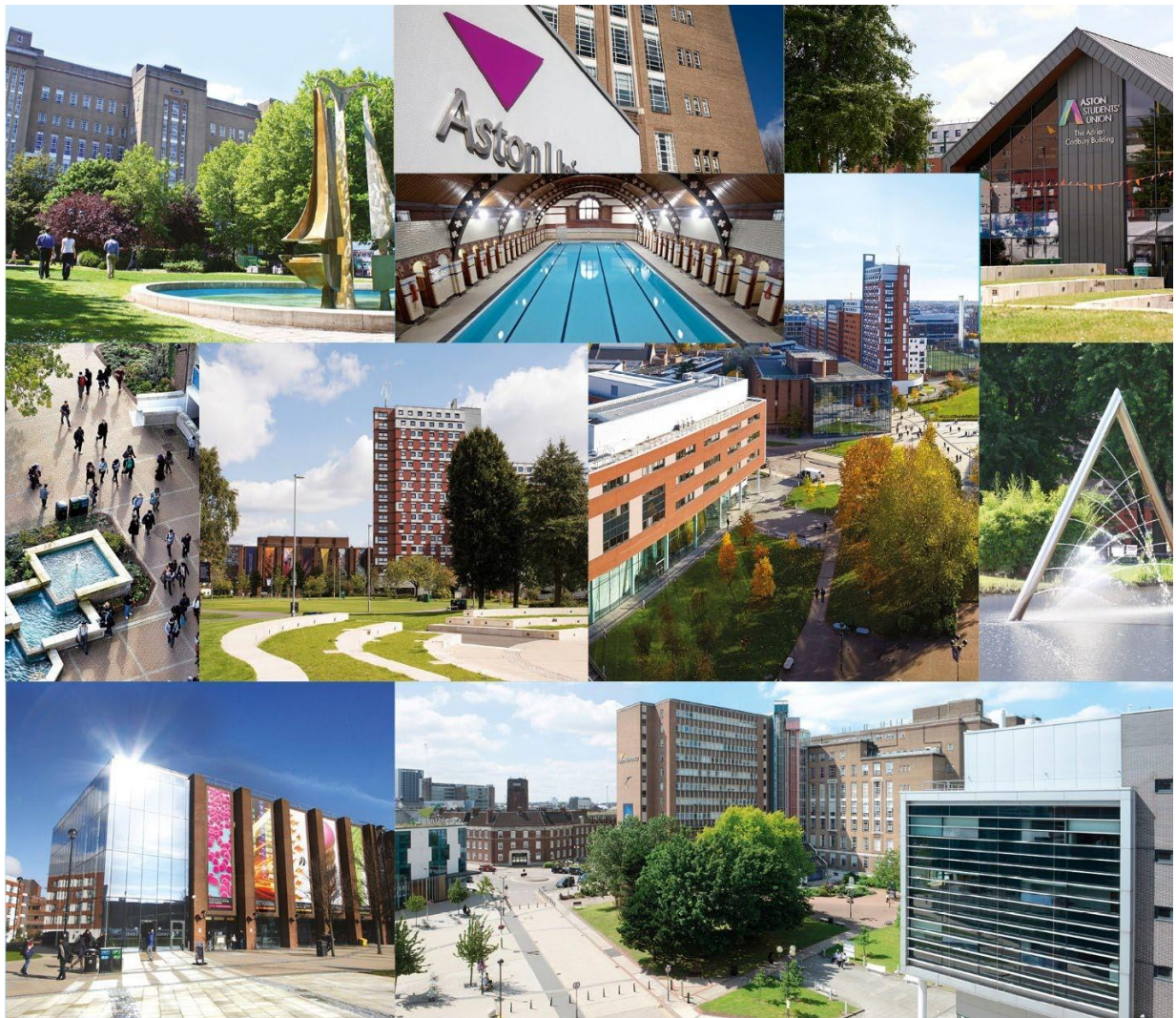
You can apply for this role online via our website <https://www2.aston.ac.uk/staff-public/hr/jobs>.

Applications should be submitted by 23:59hrs 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: Prof Afzal-Ur-Rahman Mohammed
Job Title: Professor, Aston Pharmacy School
Email: a.u.r.mohammed@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>

Aston University

Birmingham

B4 7ET, UK.

+44 (0)121 204 3000

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gets real.**