

**OPPORTUNITY**

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

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

# Welcome

from Professor Aleks Subic

Vice-Chancellor & Chief Executive



Dear applicant

Aston University is a mid-sized dual intensive university ranked in the top 25 universities in the United Kingdom. We are an agile and innovative organisation that thrives on collaboration and partnerships with businesses and the community. Our integrated placement year, our applied high-impact research, and our commitment to enhancing employability and social mobility of our students, all help to make Aston University distinct both nationally and internationally.

With our long-term beneficiaries' strategy firmly in place, our focus remains resolutely on supporting the current and future success of our students, businesses and the professions, along with the communities we serve.

The University has been recognised by a number of awards and rankings, including The Guardian 2020 University of the Year Award and Entrepreneurial University of the Year Award. We have also recently been shortlisted for the Times Higher Education Award for 2021. But most importantly, we are highly regarded by our students at Aston University, with more than three quarters of respondents to the 2022 National Student Survey indicating their overall satisfaction, and scoring more than 80% satisfaction levels for learning resources and staff support. We take great pride in our teaching quality and excellent student experience at Aston University.

We have an award-winning Careers and Placements team, who were named the best University Placement Service in the UK at the 2022 National Undergraduate Employability Awards. Employability is embedded into everything we do at Aston University, whereby we are ranked 27th in UK for graduate prospects in the Complete University Guide, 2023. Our staff are committed to doing all they can to meet the needs of students and to assisting them to achieve their career ambitions on graduation.

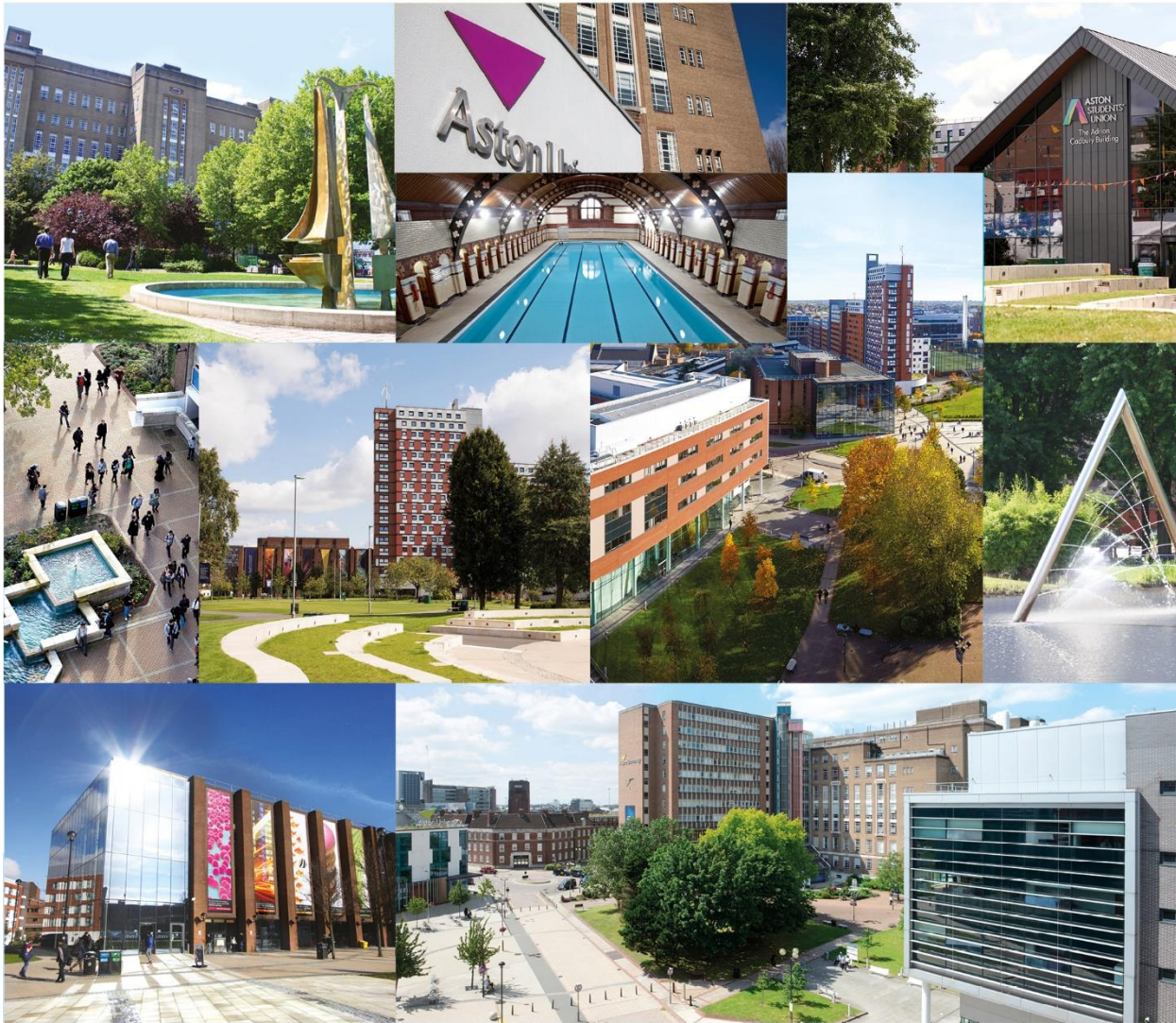
2021 Research Excellence Framework (REF) assessments published in May 2022, ranked 79% of Aston University research as 'world leading' (4\*) or 'internationally excellent' (3\*). We are building on our world-class research capability to help transform industries, support economic growth and improve lives. Our research is organised within comprehensive interdisciplinary University Research Institutes and across a wide range of outstanding research centres and research groups. Many of our research areas are nation leading and of world-class standard.

We very much look forward to receiving your application and learning more about how you could contribute to Aston University's continuing success as a valuable member of Team Aston.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Aleks Subic', written in a cursive style.

Professor Aleks Subic  
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 over 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



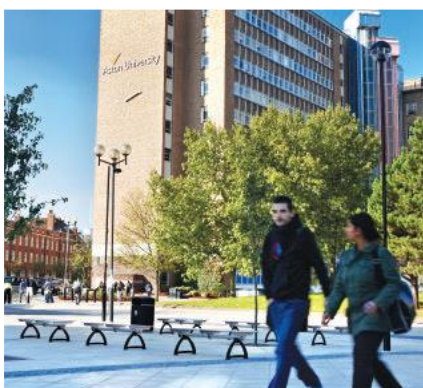
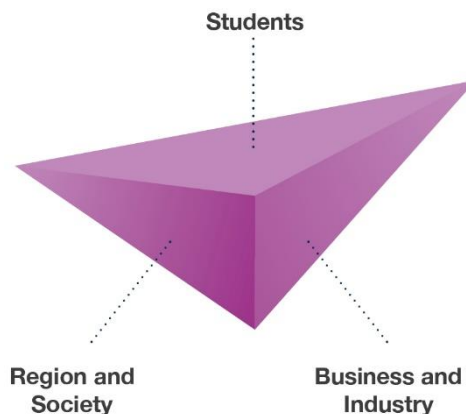
#### **College of Health and Life Sciences (HLS)**

- 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 mission, values and behaviours

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 by:

- Providing high-quality teaching and student support
- Producing collaborative research with high translation and impact
- Promoting skill building and industry development
- Fostering community engagement and development

All staff are expected to demonstrate and promote the University's values and behaviours, which are an integral part of our strategy and underpin the culture of the University.

## Our values

### **Aston is professional and ambitious**

The University believes this is a prerequisite to realise our mission and vision, and will be recognised by businesses and external organisations as shared values which make Aston an attractive partner for research and education.

### **Aston is innovative and collaborative**

The University works across disciplines, institutions and partners to be proactive in creating and implementing new ideas, to be a leader in modern educational techniques and to undertake research which inspires staff, students and external partners.

### **Aston is ethical and inclusive**

The University recognises its responsibility to be an exemplar of behaviour and conduct in all that it does. It will leverage the diversity of its staff and student body to achieve outcomes for its beneficiaries and provide opportunities for education and professional development to all.

## Our behaviours

The behaviour framework outlines the behaviours we demonstrate when working towards our priorities. The focus is not just on what you achieved but how you have achieved it.

Aston's behaviours are split into five key areas:

- Be your best self( remove)
- Make it happen
- Strengthen leadership
- Think big, Think wide
- Serve our beneficiaries

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. All staff are expected to demonstrate the expected standards in Our Commitment to You, which you will find on the Aston University website 'About' section, to deliver a good service experience.

For further details see <https://www.aston.ac.uk/about> and [www.aston.ac.uk/about/our-commitment-to-you](https://www.aston.ac.uk/about/our-commitment-to-you)



## Estates and Capital Development

The Estates and Capital Development mission is “to deliver and maintain a sustainable campus and infrastructure that enhances the student experience and provides high quality accommodation and space that is accessible, efficient, flexible and responsive to the needs of all our customers.”

Over the past few years the University has embarked on an ambitious ten year campus redevelopment plan which includes new builds, demolitions as well as major refurbishments in order to ensure that Aston University adapts to the ever changing environment it operates in and deliver its objectives.

Led by the Director of Estates & Capital Development, Ian Oldacre, Estates are responsible for delivering the redevelopment programme as well as the daily maintenance of the campus. The department is made up of a number of specialist teams and covers a wide range of disciplines.

Below is a summary of each team.

### Space and capital projects

The Head of Space Strategy and Refurbishments manages small to medium sized capital projects on campus, delivering cost effective, efficient, accessible and aesthetically motivational learning and working environments, considerate of all user needs and enhancing the University experience.

A dedicated Space Management team is responsible for ensuring all current and future spaces are designed in line with University policy and best practice. In addition, the team manages the record drawings and space management database, containing details on all space uses and occupiers, for the entire property portfolio.

### The Deputy Director of Estates

Deputising for the Director when required, the Deputy Director leads the financial and business aspects of the department. The Deputy Director is also responsible for all ‘soft services’ within Estates including

cleaning of the campus both inside and out, providing a porters service who amongst other tasks, assist in office moves and room set up for lectures and exams etc. In addition, there is a dedicated help desk team who answer and log calls from internal users reporting issues on the campus.

### **Estates Maintenance**

The Estates Maintenance manager ensures that the site infrastructure is maintained and developed to ensure maximum efficiency and availability. This includes a district heating system and private high voltage and water distribution systems. The team includes Electrical Engineering and Building Services specialists.

Heating and ventilation systems are controlled by two building energy management systems.

In addition, day-to-day maintenance of buildings and services are maintained through a dedicated maintenance team including electrical and mechanical tradesman, carpenters and decorators. The team provides a reactive and planned maintenance service, all of which is coordinated by specialist supervisors.

### **Environment and sustainability**

The environment is at the forefront of everything we do at Aston University and we have a dedicated Environmental and Sustainability team who actively seek to reduce energy emissions and improve our carbon footprint year on year.

Aston University aspires to maintain an exemplar role in this area within the higher education and local community and is proud to have maintained an impressive high position in the People and Planet Green League since 2010.

Safety is coordinated by a dedicated Health and Safety advisor within the Estates team ensuring compliance with all relevant statutory requirements. Gardens and grounds are maintained to a high standard by a specialist team who report directly to the Maintenance Officer.

For more information, visit our website [www.aston.ac.uk/estates](http://www.aston.ac.uk/estates)

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