



# OPPORTUNITY

## Knowledge Exchange Associate

**Reference:** 0263-23

**Grade:** 8

**Salary:** £36,333 to £43,155 per annum, depending on experience

**Contract Type:** Fixed Term (31/03/2025)

**Basis:** Full Time

# Job description

## Job Purpose:

The purpose of the role is to provide technical and scientific expertise and experience to predominately West Midlands companies to support a major regional innovation accelerator project. The role is required to work closely with academics and technologists in the Energy and Bioproducts Research Institute (EBRI) and Aston Business School as well as business development professionals in the University in order to specify commercialisation of technology within a regional business cluster.

This is an exciting opportunity to play a role in developing and supporting business clusters and the application of practical low carbon technology for business. As part of the knowledge transfer technical team at EBRI, you will help bridge the gap between science and industry to deliver lasting benefits to the regional economy.

The Biochar Innovation Accelerator project will require you to provide specialist support with business clusters, networks and communities of interest. You will be a source of practical and theoretical knowledge and expertise on complex business interactions and relationships within a cluster and supply chain environment and how these can be implemented to stimulate growth and development. You will work with businesses and academics to carry out business mapping and modelling, study of use cases and cluster economics. The role will also require you to present to audiences and participate in collaborative funding applications with industry.

A background of research work with clusters, business models is essential, practical business experience and also a knowledge of low carbon business models and renewable energy/ energy systems would be an advantage. You must have a first degree and ideally a higher degree in a business discipline or a related topic.

Duration of the post is until the end of March 2025

## Main duties and responsibilities

- ▶ To carry out or contribute to focused industrial experimental research and development projects related to the needs of businesses in the project area as defined by the project team.
- ▶ To map and assess business supply chains, clusters and networks associated with biochar and associated material outputs from experimental technology
- ▶ To build links between businesses, develop synergies and circular economy benefits.
- ▶ To prepare technical and analytical reports from laboratory work and business analysis.
- ▶ To support external analytical services for industrial partners.
- ▶ To carry out or contribute to desk studies which will be used to support businesses.
- ▶ To develop and maintain knowledge of bioenergy technologies and relevant energy systems, in particular relating to advanced pyrolysis and gasification. This may include carrying out and/or assisting with research projects in order to familiarise yourself with the relevant technologies.
- ▶ To create and deliver effective presentations to business audiences.
- ▶ To support the development, writing and preparation of bids for collaborative research and development projects.

- ▶ To develop collaborative projects with businesses located in the West Midlands area supported by the Biochar Innovation Accelerator project ideally leading to future funded or commercially beneficial activities.
- ▶ To write up research work for publication.
- ▶ To participate in the dissemination of research findings.

### **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.

## Person specification

	Essential	Method of assessment
<b>Education and qualifications</b>	Post graduate level qualification in a business discipline or a relevant area	Application form
<b>Experience</b>	<p>Experience with business cluster development and mapping.</p> <p>Experience of working in a team to achieve collective goals.</p> <p>Practical and scientific knowledge of business clusters and networks processes and their applications.</p> <p>Experience of developing practical solutions in a business cluster, circular economy or renewable energy environment.</p>	<p>Application form, interview and presentation</p> <p>Application form and interview</p>
<b>Aptitude and skills</b>	<p>Analytical skills with modelling and data interpretation.</p> <p>Ability to produce project reports to a high standard.</p> <p>Excellent team working, communication and interpersonal skills.</p> <p>Practical applied business skills and an understanding of business cultures and motivations.</p> <p>Skills and experience with data processing and validation, preparation of technical reports and scientific publications.</p> <p>Ability to work with a range of disciplines to develop practical solutions.</p> <p>Understanding of Health and Safety requirements and rules in different</p>	<p>Application form, interview and presentation</p> <p>Application form and interview</p>

	Essential	Method of assessment
	<p>laboratory settings (analytical and industrial labs).</p> <p>Willingness to undertake training and development relating to the project if/when required</p>	Interview

	Desirable	Method of assessment
<b>Education and qualifications</b>	<p>Engineering and technical qualifications.</p> <p>Professional industry qualifications</p>	Application form
<b>Experience</b>	<p>Experience working with simulation software.</p> <p>Experience of working with renewable energy and energy systems.</p>	Application form and interview

# How to apply

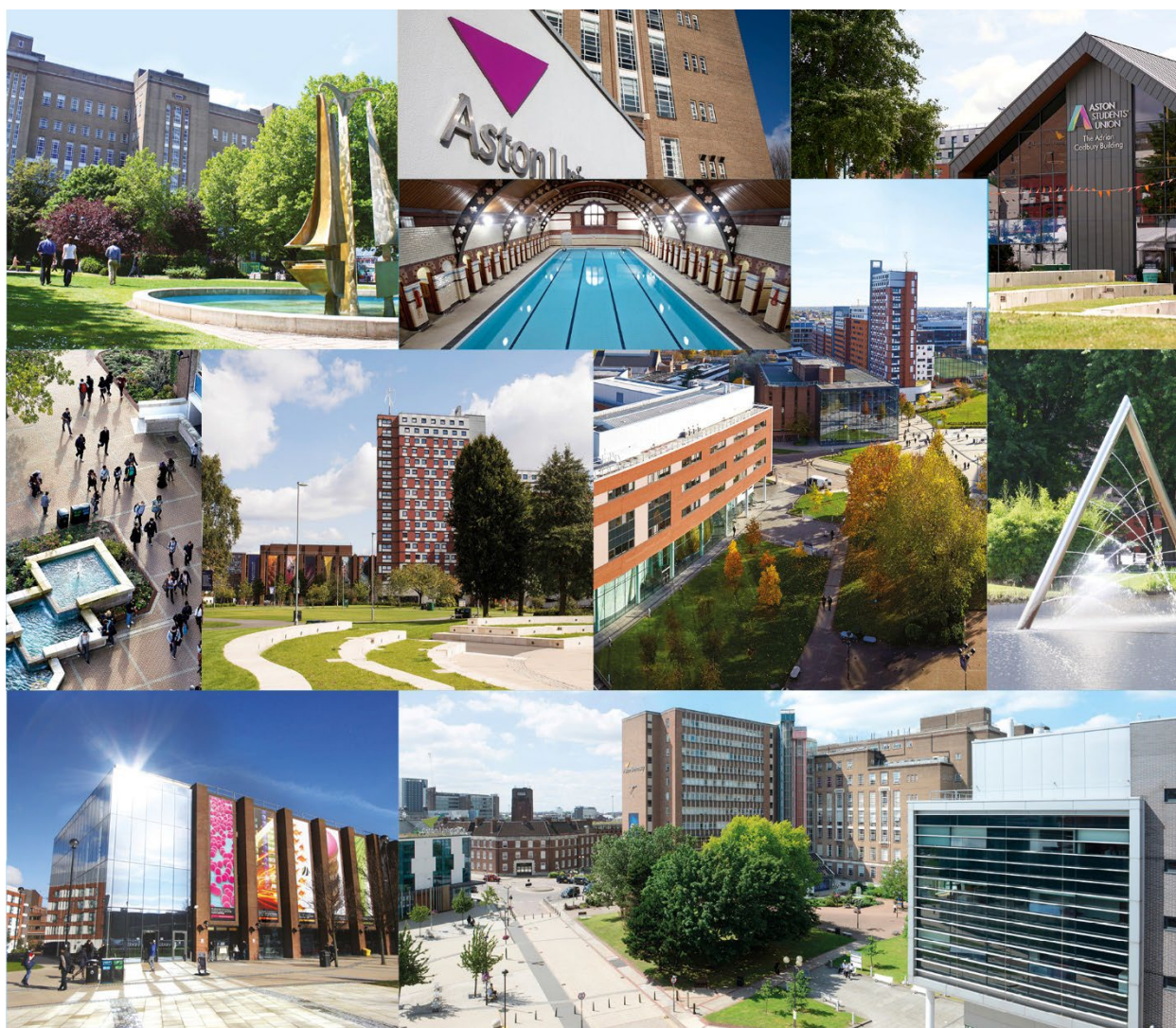
You can apply for this role online via our website <https://www2.aston.ac.uk/staff-public/hr/jobs>.

Applications should be submitted by 23.59 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](mailto:jobs@aston.ac.uk).



# Contact information

## Enquiries about the vacancy:

Name: Tim Miller

Job Title: Government and Enterprise Engagement Manager

Email: [t.miller1@aston.ac.uk](mailto:t.miller1@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:

### 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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gets real.**