



OPPORTUNITY

Knowledge Exchange Associate

Reference: 0270-23

Grade: 8

Salary: £36,333 to £38,474 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 business development support for the commercialization of a bio-energy innovation accelerator project. The post will be required to work closely with academics and technologists in the Energy and Bio-products Research Institute (EBRI) and Aston Business School, as well as with business development professionals in the University, in order to create a viable business case for external private investment to create a successful stand-alone enterprise.

The Biochar Innovation Accelerator project will require you to develop potential revenue models based on the range of outputs of the EBRI pyrolysis process, including in leading-edge areas like the evolving carbon credits market. You will need to work with academic technologists and manufacturing business partners to develop these revenue models as well as building supply models and related cost structures. Your work will be used initially to drive access to government and non-profit innovation funds leading up to viable business pitches for venture funding. You will participate in presentations to these sources of funding, as well as to potential industrial partners and participate in collaborative funding applications with industry.

Experience in business analysis to justify commercial investment is essential. Practical business experience and a knowledge of low carbon business models and renewable energy/ energy systems would be advantageous though not essential, if you are a quick study.

Successful commercialisation may enable the post holder to transition to the newly established business, though this is subject to the form of the final entity and the desires of its controlling shareholders.

Duration of the post is until the end of March 2025.

Main duties and responsibilities

- ▶ To support growth of businesses in the accelerator.
- ▶ To conduct analysis of business opportunities.
- ▶ To work with the team to create business models for new products and services.
- ▶ To create business investment cases.
- ▶ To build links with funders and investor networks.
- ▶ 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.

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
Education and qualifications	Graduate level qualification in a business discipline or relevant experience.	Application form
Experience	<p>Business analysis.</p> <p>Experience of working in a team to achieve collective goals.</p> <p>Experience of creating business models.</p> <p>Experience of creating business cases and pitches for funding.</p>	Application form, interview and presentation
Aptitude and skills	<p>Analytical skills with modelling and data interpretation.</p> <p>Ability to produce 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 laboratory settings (analytical and industrial labs).</p> <p>Willingness to undertake training and development relating to the project if/when required</p>	<p>Application form, interview and presentation</p> <p>Application form and interview</p> <p>Interview</p>

	Desirable	Method of assessment
Education and qualifications	<p>Engineering and technical qualifications.</p> <p>Professional industry qualifications.</p>	Application form

	Desirable	Method of assessment
Experience	Experience working with simulation software. Experience of working with renewable energy and energy systems.	Application form and interview

How to apply

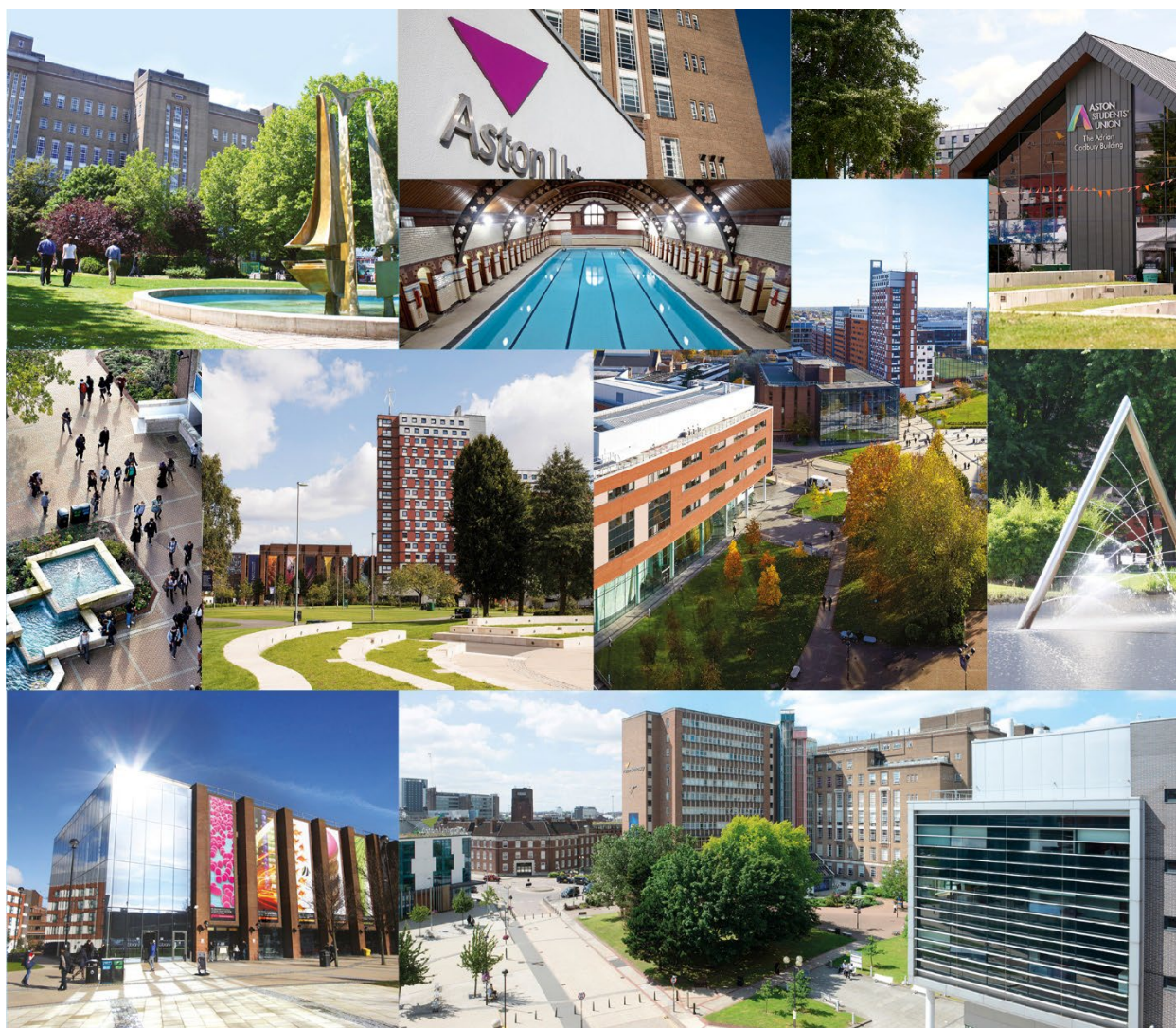
You can apply for this role online via our website <https://www2.aston.ac.uk/staff-public/hr/jobs>.

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.



Contact information

Enquiries about the vacancy:

Name: Tim Miller

Job Title: Government and Enterprise Engagement Manager

Email: t.miller1@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>

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