

**OPPORTUNITY**

Where change  
gets real.



**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'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Professor Aleks Subic  
Vice-Chancellor & Chief Executive





## **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



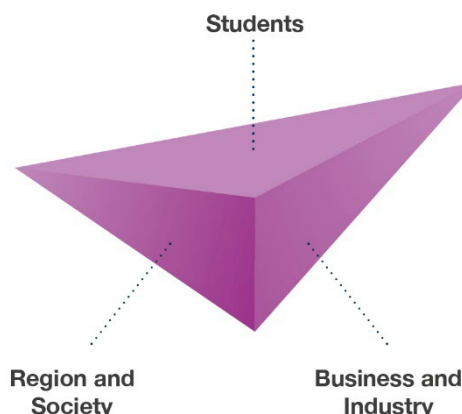
#### **College of Health and Life Sciences (HLS)**

- 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
- 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)



## College of Health and Life Sciences

The College of Health and Life Sciences combines excellence in research and teaching across the health and life sciences. We deliver high quality undergraduate, postgraduate taught, postgraduate research and professional development programmes that equip students with the skills and knowledge for successful careers in a range of professions.

We see the diversity of our staff and student communities as one of our biggest strengths. Fostering an environment of social inclusivity for our students with participation in several widening participation programmes in the local area, and championing interdisciplinary research to take on some of the biggest challenges facing health and life sciences today.

### Schools of study

The College comprises of five distinct schools of study each led by a Head of School.

- Aston Medical School
- Aston Pharmacy School (includes our BSc Neuroscience programme)
- School of Biosciences
- School of Optometry (includes our Audiology department)
- School of Psychology

Each school offers its own unique mix of courses, facilities and related research.

### Organisation

There are over 300 staff in support, teaching and research roles within the College. Led by Pro-Vice Chancellor (PVC) and Executive Dean, Professor Anthony Hilton, supported by two Deputy Deans, five Heads of Schools, Directors of Operations and seven Associate Deans, the College management

structure is further supported by a number of key committees including: Senior Management Committee, Learning and Teaching Committee and Research Committee.

## **Learning and teaching**

Our aim is to produce graduates that go on to make a real difference to the health and wellbeing of the communities they serve and the college has an excellent record of graduate employability.

Over 68% of teaching staff have a teaching qualification and/or Advance HE fellowship or above whilst 22% are Advance HE Senior Fellows or Principal Fellows. There are currently around 3400 undergraduate and 550 postgraduate (taught and research)/ continuing professional development students enrolled with the College.

Our courses, which align to our five schools of study, are regularly highly placed in leading rankings and we achieve strong levels of satisfaction in student surveys. Many of our programmes are accredited, regulated, or approved by the leading accreditation/professional bodies in the fields of health, life and medical sciences including:

- British Psychological Society
- Health and Care Professions Council
- Institute of Biomedical Science
- General Medical Council
- General Optical Council
- General Pharmaceutical Council
- National School of Healthcare Science
- Registration Council for Clinical Physiologists
- Royal Society of Biology

## **Research**

As a college, we pursue interdisciplinary research at the interface between laboratory and clinic. Our work spans across an institute, three centres of excellence and five research groups.

### **Institute:**

- Aston Neuroscience Institute (ANI)
- Institute of Health and Neurodevelopment (IHN))

### **Centres of Excellence:**

- Aston Research Centre for healthy Ageing (ARCHA)
- Aston Centre for Membrane Protein and Lipids Research (AMPL)
- Ophthalmic Technology and Devices Research Centre

### **Research groups:**

- Applied Health Research Group
- Bioscience Research Group
- Cognition and Neurosciences Research Group
- Optometry and Vision Science Research Translational Medicine Research
- Pharmaceutical and Clinical Pharmacy Research Group
- Pharmacology and Translational Neuroscience Research Group

Research conducted here ranges from the molecular and cellular levels, through neural systems and human behaviour, to the restoration of health and the study of individuals in health care and societal settings. Further national and international collaborations augment this research mission.

With funding from research councils, prestigious research foundations, charities, the European Union and industry, our world-class research is supported in an excellent research environment housing state-of-the-art infrastructure for analysis from the molecular to organismal level.



In the most recent 2014 Research excellence Framework (REF) 94% of our research (Allied Health Professions, Dentistry, Nursing and Pharmacy) was judged to be World Leading or Internationally Excellent (4\*/3\*).

## Facilities

As a college we have invested across our teaching and research facilities to ensure that our staff and student communities are supported with the spaces and equipment they need to thrive.

Our on-campus facilities include:

- Aston University Imaging Services – with MRI, MEG facilities, Dyslexia and Development Assessment Unit, and Epilepsy and Clinical Neurophysiology Clinic.
- Aston Medical School Clinical Training Facility housing state-of-the-art group work rooms, which include C-touch screens and areas for private study, in addition to a new high-tech Clinical Skills Centre.
- Aston University Day Hospital - provides a platform, unique in the UK, for the combination of leading edge clinical research in optometry and ophthalmology.
- Audiology Clinic - designed for adult hearing assessments and ear-wax removal.
- Audiology Clinical Skills laboratory.
- Aston Eye Clinic - offers professional eye care and testing to approximately 6,000 patients per year and includes specialist clinics in children's and binocular vision, dry eye, and low vision.
- ALIVE (Aston Laboratory for Immersive Virtual Environments) – includes 4-screen Virtual Reality 'CAVE, Head mounted displays (HMDs), Omni-directional treadmill, Mocap Laboratory, and Driving simulator.
- Bioscience laboratories – a range of teaching and research labs with specialist equipment such as chromatographic separation equipment (HPLCs, FPLCs, amino acid analyser) which can be used for DNA, protein and carbohydrate analysis. In vivo investigations of disease process, progression and management are undertaken within the biomedical facility.
- Neuroscience laboratory - equipped with multiple neuroscience recording set ups, to allow intracellular and extracellular recording of brain cells in vitro, as well as receptor pharmacology experiments.
- Nutrition and Behaviour Laboratory.
- Pharmaceutical laboratories – equipment and facilities including computer-aided drug design, synthetic chemistry laboratories, analytical equipment (e.g. pharmacopeial apparatus, particle sizing equipment; Differential Scanning Calorimetry; Thermogravimetric Analysis). Small molecule chemical synthesis and analysis facilities include high-field NMR, GC-MS and LC-MS.
- Psychology laboratories – with observation suite (with covert audio-visual recording), tools for psychophysiological measurement, eye tracking and motion-capture, and experiment rooms for cognitive experiments. Also includes, larger labs for focus groups and audience-based experiments.
- Wilson Pharmacy Suite - includes clinical skills room with a mock hospital bay set up, dispensing and patient counselling suites with discrete video recording capabilities.

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