

OPPORTUNITY

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All about Aston University
Information for candidates

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.

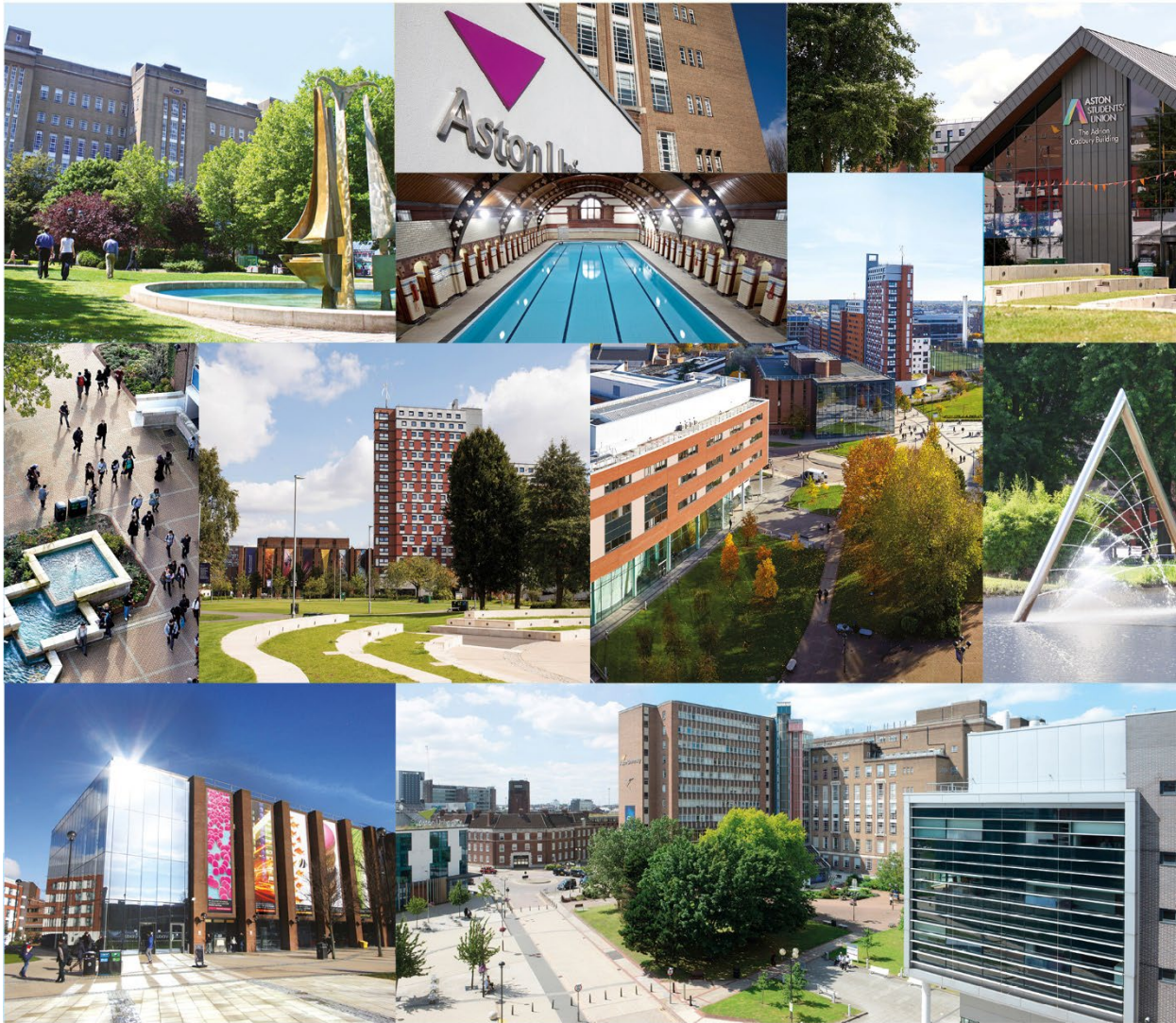
We have an award-winning Careers and Placements team, who were named the best University Placement Service in the UK at the 2022 National Undergraduate Employability Awards. Employability is embedded into everything we do at Aston University, whereby we are ranked 27th in UK for graduate prospects in 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



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

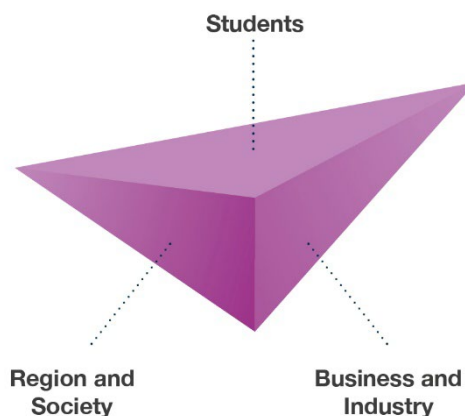


College of Health and Life Sciences (HLS)

- 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
- 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>



Campus Safety

The Campus Safety department at Aston University ensure that the campus estate and our community are as safe as possible. For Aston to achieve its mission as the UK's leading university for students to succeed in business and the professions, staff and students need to feel safe and confident to achieve this.

The Campus Safety team are equipped with a range of innovative technology, systems and skills, along with significant experience of working not only in security and protection, but also in higher education.

Going to university is an incredibly rewarding and enjoyable experience. For some, it can be a daunting experience and the team offer help and assistance, so students, staff and visitors have a safe and enjoyable experience. Campus Safety protect one of the most multicultural and diverse communities in the UK and welcome students from over 120 countries every year. Security and safety have different meanings depending on where our students originate therefore different approaches will be required to build trust and confidence with these students.

Being positioned in the centre of Birmingham provides opportunities to support Aston's beneficiaries and key stakeholders. Campus Safety have superb relationships with the police, neighbouring education providers, Birmingham City Council and other key stakeholders. As members of the Association of University Chief Security Officers (AUCSO), Campus Safety achieved the award for 'Security Team of the Year' in 2018.

Mission

To be the UK's safest destination university where our beneficiaries are supported and protected to achieve the best possible outcomes.

Vision

In 2023, Aston will have an international reputation for being one of the safest universities to work and study. People will come here not only because of our world-class education, but because they feel safe while they are here and confident that we can enhance the student experience.

Security strategy

The security strategy is divided into three elements: **control** - what is within our reach; **partner** - with those who sit on the periphery and **influence** - upon those who can help make a difference

Control

As we aspire to create a destination campus for our beneficiaries, we must create an open, permeable campus, which welcomes students, staff and the wider community, and encourages them to stay. Whilst it is important that access to the campus is welcoming and user-friendly, this must be balanced with a safe and secure environment, promoting a sense of security and wellbeing for beneficiaries during their time on campus.

To create a safe and secure yet open environment the strategy will build on the emerging theme of a smart campus, by using technological security solutions to ensure that the balance of permeability and security are fully realised.

This will be achieved by:

- effective zoning of the campus to ensure the physical campus remains open and welcoming to the public, whilst discrete buildings/areas of buildings can only be accessed by students/staff.
- Secure by design with effective lighting, wide passages and visible CCTV.
- App-based technology continued roll out of the SafeSmart app to enable fast reporting of issues to security.

We will drive an effective awareness campaign to promote within students, staff and beneficiaries a clear understanding of the security provision and expectations for their behaviour when on campus.

Partner

We will partner and work with neighbouring Universities, businesses and third party university suppliers (eg. Unite) to promote a safe and secure 'Knowledge Quarter', which spans a small geographical area. By pooling resources where possible, and information-sharing, there will be more awareness around risks, promoting improved mitigation and a safer Knowledge Quarter.

Influence

We will work with local bodies to build a safe and secure environment both on campus and within the sphere of influence of the campus. We have a duty of care to our beneficiaries on their journey to the campus and whilst they are on campus. We will ensure an appropriate, flexible and scalable police presence on site and within the local area.

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