

OPPORTUNITY

Research Fellow

Reference: 0167-24

Grade: 8

Salary: £37,099 per annum

Contract Type: Fixed Term until 31/03/2025

Basis: Full Time

Job description

Job Purpose:

To contribute to, develop and lead research activities of **the Enterprise Research Centre (ERC)** either independently or as part of a team. In addition, to exploit and develop external links with regional, UK and international bodies such as government agencies, professional bodies, business and industry as appropriate.

Main Duties/Responsibilities:

Applications are invited for a full time Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship at **the Enterprise Research Centre (ERC)**. Funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, the ERC is the UK's leading centre of excellence for research into the growth, innovation and productivity of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Our research helps shape better policies and practices that enable SMEs to thrive.

The ERC has been delivering independent research to inform policy and practice on small and medium enterprises (SMEs) since 2013. The ERC is now the leading centre of excellence in the UK for research into the growth, innovation and productivity of SMEs and has become the 'go-to' reference point for anyone looking for robust, trusted data and insights on SME performance. Our research covers a range of themes with the core research team being based at Warwick and Aston University Business Schools, however we work with a network of researchers based in a range of institutions. Find out more about the team and associates here www.enterprisesearch.ac.uk

In addition to core funding from the ESRC, the Centre also receives support from the Department for Business and Trade (DBT), Innovate UK (IUK), the British Business Bank (BBB) and the Intellectual Property Office (IPO). The ERC also undertakes commissioned work for a range of other organisations in the private and public sector.

As well as furthering academic knowledge, the ERC's work equips policymakers and practitioners with a better understanding of SME growth and provides insights into many topics critical to economic competitiveness. We communicate our research widely to maximise its policy impact.

The candidate appointed to this position will work within the ERC under the direct supervision of Professor Mark Hart on research projects primarily in the field of business dynamism, growth and productivity using firm-level datasets.

The Research Fellow will be involved actively in all aspects of the project including reviewing literature, data collection, development and maintenance, statistical and econometric estimation, co-authoring and presenting academic papers and reports. The Research Fellow will also be expected to contribute actively to developing impact and to the wider dissemination of the research results to stakeholders and policymakers through workshops and conferences. The Research Fellow will also actively be involved in grant writing and securing external funding from various sources. When appropriate, the Research Fellow can contribute to the supervision of PhD students and ad hoc researchers.

The successful applicant must therefore demonstrate good reading and writing skills, quantitative and econometric skills, fast learning, be well organised, self-directed, and able to carry out a demanding work schedule. Well-developed team working skills, time-management and multi-tasking skills are essential. Candidates should be able to demonstrate experience in research including:

- Data management skills of large datasets
- Statistical and econometric analysis (especially using micro-level data)
- Reviewing literature and writing critical reviews
- Writing research reports and academic papers

The empirical research projects of the Centre require using and linking firm-level and aggregate level data from existing secondary datasets, and hence experience in using and managing large micro datasets is desirable. Familiarity with UK micro datasets, both from the official ONS business register data, business surveys (such as IBDR Business Structure Database, Annual Business Survey, International Trade in Services Survey, Community Innovation Survey), as well as other micro level data will be an advantage. Previous experience working in the UK Data Service Secure Lab or ONS Security Research Service Data, or HMRC Datalab is highly desirable. Familiarity with qualitative methods would be an additional advantage.

Candidates should have a good relevant first degree in economics, and a PhD in economics or management. However, we will consider those candidates close to completion of their PhD, who have already paper(s) submitted in relevant high profile academic journals. An understanding of the economic theories of business growth, productivity, innovation and skills is highly desirable.

Knowledge of panel data econometrics is essential, as is a working knowledge of statistical packages including Stata, R, and spatial tools. Skills for data visualisation is necessary. Experience of writing research proposals is desirable.

Informal enquiries about the research prior to application can be directed to Professor Mark Hart (mark.hart@aston.ac.uk).

Research

- ▶ Data collection through primary and secondary data collection.
- ▶ Data management and data linking.
- ▶ Conducting literature reviews and summarising research findings.
- ▶ Carrying out conceptual development and empirical analyses of the Centre's research projects.
- ▶ Writing up research and publish the outcomes in high impact, good quality publications.
- ▶ Assisting with the preparation of research reports, academic papers, and conference presentations, and presenting at conferences and engagement events with funders and stakeholders.
- ▶ Contributing to design and development of research objectives, projects and proposals for research programmes consistent with the Centre's research strategy and priorities.
- ▶ Participating in and develop external networks.
- ▶ Providing support for research grant applications and project management.
- ▶ Leading and participating in EERC research activities.
- ▶ Maintaining accurate records and databases.
- ▶ To collaborate in research initiatives with colleagues in and beyond the Centre as appropriate.

External engagement

- ▶ To represent the interests of the Centre via activities to raise the regional, national and international profile, particularly with the professions, businesses and policy makers.
- ▶ To forge relationships with the professional bodies and other bodies representing relevant professional interests.

Citizenship

- ▶ To take part in the meetings and activities of the Academic Department.
- ▶ To demonstrate the University's leadership values through own actions and behaviour.
- ▶ To undertake such other duties as may be reasonably requested and that are commensurate with the nature and grade of the post.

Additional responsibilities

- ▶ General supports, occasionally, to the Centre development and operation. This may include running of events and conferences, and marketing activities of the Centre.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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	<p>Good first degree (or equivalent) in Economics or a related discipline.</p> <p>PhD in economics. Waived for candidates with publication(s) in high profile academics journals, in that case: close to completion.</p>	Application form
Experience	<p>Reviewing literature and writing critical reviews.</p> <p>Conducting and interpreting econometric analysis. Managing large datasets.</p> <p>Experience of using and linking individual and household-level, firm-level and aggregate level data.</p> <p>Experience of working with survey and administrative data.</p> <p>Writing research outputs (reports and papers) and disseminating outcomes (at least at international or reputable national conferences).</p> <p>Experience of working with econometric software packages such as Stata and R.</p>	Application form and interview
Aptitude and skills	<p>Data management skills of large datasets.</p> <p>Knowledge of panel data econometrics, and statistical and econometric analysing skills and techniques (especially using micro level data).</p> <p>Competent user of IT including Word, Excel, PowerPoint.</p> <p>Familiarity with visualisation tools such as Tableau, Power BI.</p>	Application form and interview

	Essential	Method of assessment
	<p>Understanding of the basics of qualitative methods and survey design.</p> <p>Excellent analytical skills and attention to detail.</p> <p>Excellent English Language communication skills (written, oral and presentation).</p> <p>Ability to work independently and as part of a team.</p> <p>Ability to work to measurable performance indicators, particularly timescales.</p> <p>Ability to work under pressure and meet deadlines.</p>	

	Desirable	Method of assessment
Experience	<p>Previous experience of working in an academic setting.</p> <p>Knowledge on issues in international trade, international business, firm level productivity and labour skills.</p> <p>Experience liaising with a wide variety of people, particularly external stakeholders.</p> <p>Publication in peer-reviewed journals.</p> <p>Experience of using international trade data (product-level import and export data).</p> <p>Experience of using databases such as the Annual Respondents Database, the Community Innovation Survey, Business Structure Database, ONS business surveys (such as Skills and Employment</p>	Application form and interview

	Desirable	Method of assessment
	<p>Surveys and Labor Force Surveys), and FAME/ORBIS.</p> <p>Previous experience working in the ONS VML, and/or UKDS, HMRC Overseas trade database.</p>	
Aptitude and Skills	<p>Committed to building research profile and contributing to writing research grant applications.</p>	<p>Interview</p>

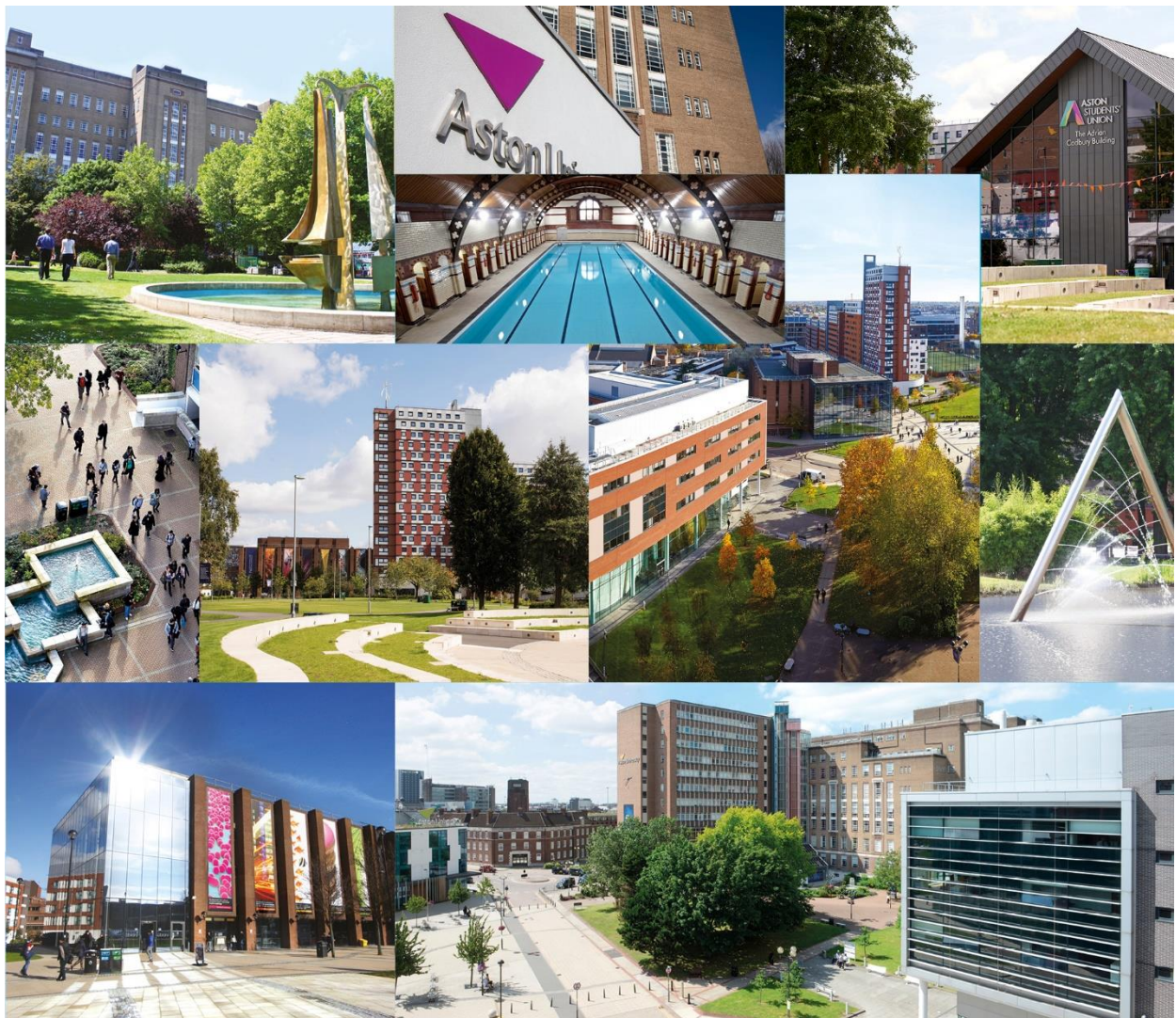
How to apply

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

Applications should be submitted by 23:59pm 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: Professor Mark Hart

Job Title: Professor of Small Business and Entrepreneurship/ Deputy Director Enterprise research Centre

Email: mark.hart@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:

New immigration system from 1 January 2021

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 who were not resident in the UK before 31 December 2021 will need to get a visa in advance.

You can find more information [here](#)

Candidates should check their eligibility to enter or remain in the UK in advance of making any job application via the [UKVI website](#). 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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**Where change
gets real.**