Adobe Professor of Digital Innovation

OPPORTUNITY

Where change gets real.

Aston University

Reference: 0194-24

Grade: Band 01

Salary: £64,732 to £100,747, per annum, depending on experience

Contact Type: Permanent

Basis: Full time

Job description

Job Purpose:

Aston University is a member of the [Adobe Creative Campus Programme](). Member institutions have made a commitment to digital literacy and have empowered students in all disciplines with the opportunity to learn essential digital skills to succeed in the classroom and beyond. They offer their students full access to Adobe Creative Cloud and Adobe Express to learn to communicate more effectively, build their personal brands, and prepare for the challenges of an increasingly digital world. They also collaborate with other Adobe Creative Campus institutions to share best practices in driving innovation and student success.

Aston, in collaboration with Adobe, is establishing an Adobe Professor of Digital Innovation who will be responsible for ensuring that the Creative Campus programme is established within the University as an Adobe Creative Campus Digital Innovation Hub that maximises the potential of digital innovation for staff, students, and external stakeholders. The Adobe Professor will have a background in achieving digital impact for stakeholders across industry and business and be able to champion the use of leading-edge technologies across all Aston education programmes. The role holder will lead on digital innovation in curriculum development and will be responsible for the successful implementation of our flagship *PowerSkills* initiative across all Aston education programmes.

The Adobe Creative Campus Aston Hub is hosted by the recently formed [Design Factory Birmingham]() (part of the [Design Factory Global Network]()): a state-of-the-art facility designed to inspire and facilitate innovation and design. It is a unique space that brings together students, staff, industry partners, and entrepreneurs to collaborate, learn, and create new products that solve real-world problems. DFB will operate as a commercial entity and operate consultancy services providing end-to-end solutions to its clients. This can include design thinking, software development, innovation, short courses, prototyping, data services, advanced manufacturing, testing, business incubation and production, all in-house, providing clients with a streamlined and efficient process.

DFB initially consists of two innovation labs: DFB-Digital and DFB-Design that focus on different aspects of design. DFB-Digital will be managed initially by the Adobe Professor of Digital Innovation and supported by an operations manager and several software engineers. Within three years the Lab will be self-sustaining and will host up to 40 placement students working on client projects in areas such as mobile app development, data applications, AI applications, and web and cloud-based systems. The Director will work towards embedding digital skills within the curriculum and Aston's wider business.

The post holder will lead research, scholarship, or teaching activities relevant to the role through professional practice and expertise. In addition, they will lead external links with regional, UK and international bodies such as government agencies, schools, colleges, professional bodies, business, and industry as appropriate to the subject discipline and School and/or University strategy.

The majority of academic staff will undertake a balance of research and teaching and learning activities. Whilst ability and effectiveness should be demonstrated at

an appropriate level in all areas, individuals may be more specifically focused on research, teaching and learning or external engagement. This balance will be discussed and agreed with individuals annually in the PDR meeting in line with operational needs, College, and University strategy and with consideration of the individual's career goals and development plans.

Professors will have established and maintained international recognition through original, innovative and distinguished contributions to scholarship and research.

Main Duties/Responsibilities:

Research

▶ To pursue and lead an internationally recognised programme of Digital Innovation.

▶ To publish the outcomes of research, with a record of securing publications in internationally rated journals of high standing. Where teaching and learning is the main focus, to publish research disseminated in pedagogic or professional practice publications.

▶ To have proven experience of securing significant external funding from prestigious funders including research councils, charities and the European Commission and a record of successfully leading and managing research projects, people and resources.

▶ Where appropriate to School/University strategy and subject discipline, to establish partnership links with external organisations to enhance Aston's research and industry profile.

▶ To provide strong leadership and team building in the management of impactful innovation projects.

▶ To have a successful record of supervision of postgraduate students at Masters and doctoral levels to completion or equivalent supervision of digital innovation in industry. To foster an environment which encourages research among students at postgraduate level.

▶ To lead digital innovation initiatives with colleagues and wide range of external collaborators including internationally funded research projects as appropriate.

▶ To conduct digital innovation capable of demonstrating significant impact e.g. research which has the potential to benefit the economy, society, culture, public policy or services, health, the environment, or quality of life.

▶ To build critical mass and promote excellence related to the Adobe Creative Campus and the Design Factory Birmingham.

Teaching and Learning

▶ Provide leadership in digital innovation withing Aston curriculum in general and establishing the flagship *PowerSkills* initiative in particular.

▶ Providing leadership and management to ensure the successful deployment of Adobe Creative Campus.

▶ To teach students at different levels as appropriate including foundation, undergraduate and postgraduate students, and to carry out the associated examining processes.

- To be responsible for the design and content of specific areas of teaching and learning within digital teaching programmes.

- To provide academic support, pastoral care and advice to foundation, undergraduate and postgraduate students.

- To mentor colleagues in effective teaching practice using digital innovation.

- To cooperate with colleagues across disciplines in the continuous review and development of programmes and the curriculum.

- To use and promote the use of a range of methods and techniques in teaching, learning and assessment including pursuing digital and modern methods of delivery.

- To lead on (depending on role focus) supporting and promoting quality assurance measures within the University e.g., by evaluation and development of modules for which the lecturer has responsibility, in terms of content, delivery and assessment as well as reviewing delivered modules, setting and receiving student feedback questionnaires.

- To innovate in teaching, demonstrating continuous professional development and critical reflective practice.

External Engagement

- To act as a champion for the Adobe-Aston relationship and promote the adoption and growth of Adobe Creative Campus within Aston to establish innovation in both education and technology-based projects for internal and external stakeholders.

- Work with the DFB – Digital Operations Manager to ensure the lab delivers impact for its stakeholders: students, external clients, and university staff.

- To develop student placement schemes with companies and research institutions both in the UK and overseas.

- To demonstrate research impact and secure commercialisation, identifying and pursuing opportunities for translational research where appropriate to role and discipline.

- To continue to build on an established record of invited international keynote conference presentations and prestige lectures.

- To establish and lead partnerships for commercialisation including patents, inventions and other exploitable intellectual property as applicable to subject area and/or to lead to improved practice, policy development or professional development.

- To engage with translational research with a view to external collaboration and establishing partnerships with outputs such as commercialisation, improved practice and policy.
- To develop research and development collaborations with industry partners to secure additional direct funding.
- To contribute to businesses, the public sector and communities e.g. through innovation, knowledge transfer, cultural enrichment, advising government bodies, contributing to and influencing government (UK or overseas) policy-making and standards.

- To take the lead in community engagement activities to raise the regional and national profile of the School.
- To enhance the University's reputation with professional/scholarly bodies e.g. by promoting public understanding of the subject.

Citizenship

- To have a sustained record of effective leadership of either/all of: teaching teams; research; and staff management and supervision.

- To make an outstanding contribution to governance and collegial life within and outside the University, for example by Chairing school committees, undertaking significant administrative positions, or participating in or Chairing University-level committees.

- To participate in continuing professional development e.g., through seminars or conferences and by engaging in training programmes run by the University which are consistent with the needs and aspirations of the academic and the School.

- To manage staff seminars, staff training and coaching activities, cross-departmental activities and events e.g., Open Days, Sixth Form Conferences, attendance at Degree Ceremonies etc.

- To Chair one or more of the School committees, these responsibilities being equitably distributed across the academic staff

- 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

- 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	A good first degree in a scientific or engineering subject. A doctorate in an academic discipline aligned to Digital Innovation or equivalent industrial experience. A recognised teaching qualification /membership of Advance HE (formally known as Higher Education Academy or HEA) at Fellow level as a minimum, Principal Teaching Fellow if focus is teaching.	Application form

	Essential	Method of assessment
	Current membership of relevant professional body.	
Experience	Significant experience of initiating and conducting impactful digital innovation projects to post-doctoral or industrial equivalent level.	Application form and interview
	A proven track record of sustainable research as evidenced by publication in international journals and the maintenance of a portfolio of grant income. An equivalent industrial background will demonstrate leadership and impact of digital innovation projects.	
	A record of accomplishment of having secured a pipeline of research funds from external sources sufficient to maintain a productive research team.	
	Proven experience of productive research collaborations to build critical mass and promote excellence in digital innovation.	
	Experience of successfully delivering lectures to undergraduate and postgraduate students in relevant subjects.	
	Successful supervision of PhD students to completion or industrial equivalent leadership and mentorship.	

	Essential	Method of assessment
Aptitude and skills	Significant experience of initiating and conducting impactful digital innovation projects to post-doctoral or industrial equivalent level. A proven track record of sustainable research as evidenced by publication in international journals and the maintenance of a portfolio of grant income. An equivalent industrial background will demonstrate leadership and impact of digital innovation projects. A record of accomplishment of having secured a pipeline of research funds from external sources sufficient to maintain a productive research team. Proven experience of productive research collaborations to build critical mass and promote excellence in digital innovation. Experience of successfully delivering lectures to undergraduate and postgraduate students in relevant subjects. Successful supervision of PhD students to completion or industrial equivalent leadership and mentorship.	Application form and interview

	Desirable	Method of assessment
Experience	Management and leadership of a department. Management of budgets and budget setting	Application form and interview

	Desirable	Method of assessment
Aptitude and skills	Knowledge of Adobe products and their application in an Adobe Creative Campus.	Application form and interview
	In-depth knowledge of the profession, capable of developing new knowledge and understanding technology.	
	Ability to lead and develop a successful Adobe – Aston relationship and develop the concept of the Adobe Creative Campus within Aston.	
	Experience and/or enthusiasm for embedding digital innovation in higher education.	
	Highly developed written and oral communication and presentation skills with a genuine enthusiasm and passion for imparting knowledge of the chosen profession to others.	
	Ability to lead and develop internal and external networks to foster collaboration and promote the profile of the College/University.	

How to apply

You can apply for this role online via our website https://www2.aston.ac.uk/staff-public/hr/jobs.
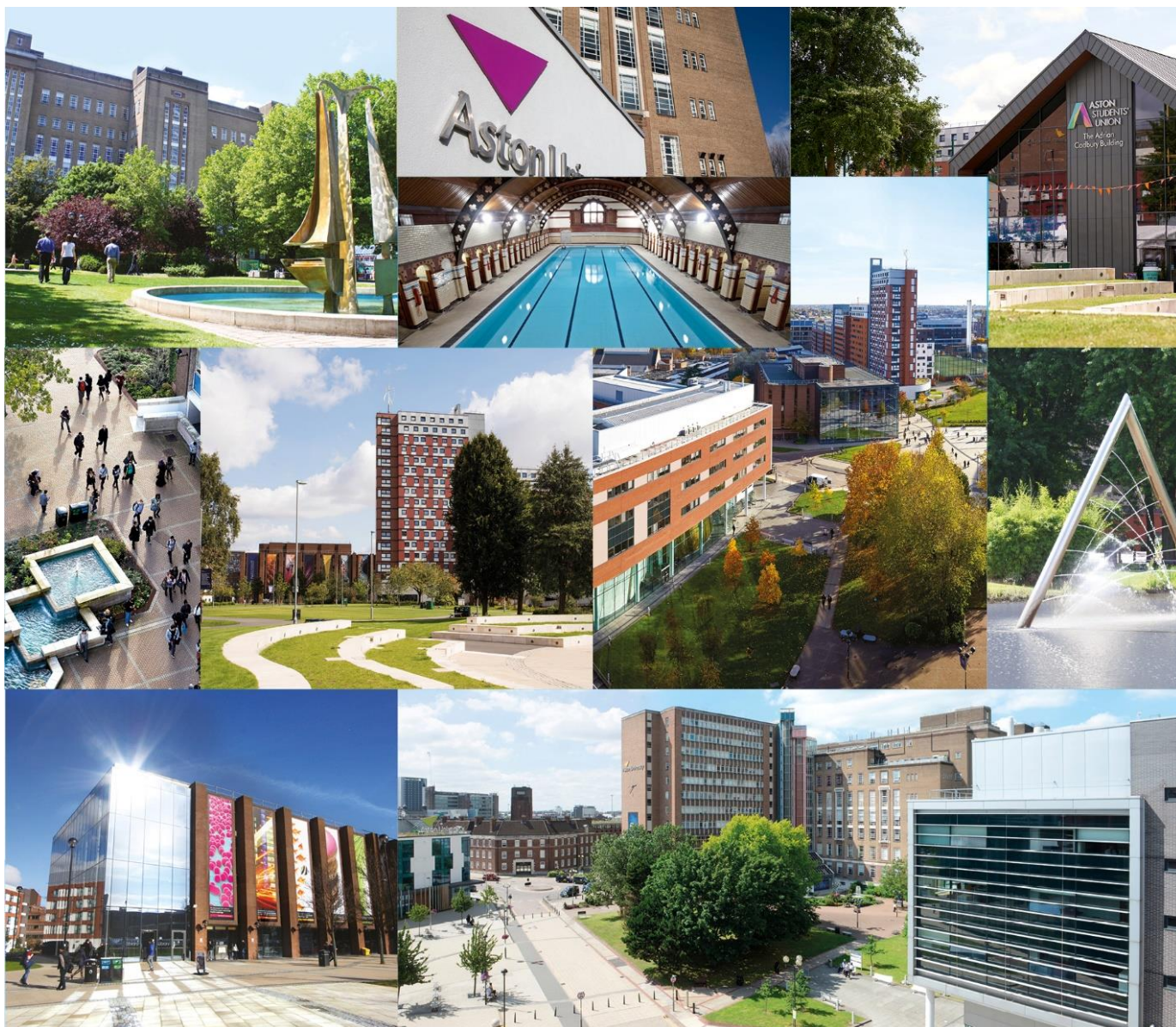
Applications should be submitted by 24/05/2024 on the advertised closing date.
All applicants must complete an application form, along with your CV.

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: Kate Sugden
Job Title: Deputy Dean of the college of EPS
Email: K.Sugden@aston.ac.uk

Name: Tony Clark
Job Title: Associate pro-vice Chancellor
Email: tony.clark@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: Benefits and Rewards | Aston University

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: You should ensure that you meet the eligibility requirements, including meeting the English language standards. If you do not meet the eligibility criteria, any application for a work visa would be unsuccessful. Please see UKVI guidance for further information on eligibility, knowledge of English requirements and approved test centres https://www.gov.uk/tier-2-general

With the end of free movement for EU/EEA/Swiss nationals from 1 January 2021, the UK's new immigration system applies to all non-UK/Irish nationals who require a visa.

Where an individual is subject to UK immigration control, they will require a visa to work in the UK.

The following individuals do not need a visa for the UK, but do still have to prove their right to work before employment can commence:

- **British Citizens or Irish Nationals**
- **EU/EEA/Swiss nationals with Settled or Pre-settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme**
- **Non-EEA nationals with Indefinite Leave to Remain/Settlement in the UK**

The main routes available for those who need a visa to work in the UK are **Skilled Worker**, **Global Talent** and the **Graduate Route**.

You can find further information about each of these visa routes on our [candidate immigration page](#).

If you will conduct research in your role, you may need to apply for and obtain ATAS clearance before Aston can issue a Certificate of Sponsorship for your visa application. Please see below for further details.

Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS): If you will conduct research in your role and you apply for a Skilled Worker or Temporary Worker GAE visa, you may need to apply for and obtain ATAS clearance before Aston can issue a Certificate of Sponsorship for your visa application.

This process can take at least 6 weeks to process, and Aston will consider this when confirming your expected start date. Processing times will increase between April and September and can longer to complete.

There is no fast-track option available. ATAS certificates will be processed in order of receipt.

You can find more information about ATAS on our [candidate immigration page](#).

Before you start and Right to Work

90-day entry vignette

If you have applied for your visa outside of the UK, you will receive a vignette in your passport which is usually valid for 90 days. Please make sure to travel to the UK within the 'valid from' and 'valid to' dates on this visa. If you entered the UK before or after these dates, you would not 'activate' the visa and you would need to leave and re-enter the country.

You will also receive a decision letter confirming details about your immigration permission and where to collect your Biometric Residence Permit.

Cost of Living - Estate and Letting Agents

There are numerous Estate and Letting Agents in and around Birmingham that can help you find suitable accommodation. The [Midland Landlord Accreditation](#)

[Scheme](#) provides a list of professional agencies and landlords who have applied with them for accreditation. Whilst accreditation is not a guarantee of quality, it provides some reassurance about the standard of the service they provide.

You can also use property search websites such as [Rightmove](#) or [Zoopla.](#)

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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