

Tenure Track Research Fellow – Polymer Science



OPPORTUNITY

Where change gets real.



Reference: 0107-24R

Grade and Salary: 8/9

Grade 8: £37,099 to £44,263 per annum, depending on experience.

Grade 9: £45,585 to £54,395 per annum, depending on experience.

Contract Type: Fixed Term (5 years)

Basis: Full Time

Job description

Job Purpose:

The newly established Aston Institute for Membrane Excellence (AIME) is a unique, interdisciplinary, intersectoral research and training hub for translational membrane science. AIME is supported by the Research England (RE) Expanding Excellence in England (E3) Programme and will synergistically combine world-leading expertise in membrane biology and novel polymer chemistries to establish a first-of-its-kind institute, expanding our distinctive excellence in computational membrane science, membrane structural determination and sustainable polymers research. Over the next five years, we will recruit 20 new colleagues to expand our new institute.

We now wish to recruit one Tenure-Tracked Research Fellow to compliment the expertise in our new institute. This is an exciting opportunity to build your research profile and establish your independence. The level of appointment is within 5 years of obtaining your PhD, but a higher-level appointment could be made depending on qualifications, achievements and experience. The post holder will work closely with members of AIME across the Colleges of Engineering and Physical Sciences (EPS) and Health and Life Sciences (HLS) and is expected to contribute to, develop and enhance the research, scholarship and teaching activities of AIME either independently or as part of the team, through professional practice and expertise. In addition, the post holder will develop external links with regional UK and international bodies such as government agencies, schools, colleges, professional bodies, business and industry as appropriate to AIME's strategy.

The post is available for a fixed term of 5 years with an ideal start date of 1st November 2024, or earlier if possible. Subject to progress, a permanent academic contract will be available from 30th July 2029.

Main duties and Responsibilities

Research

- ▶ To establish a personal research programme in an area of polymer science, consistent with the research priorities of AIME.
- ▶ To work with colleagues to develop collaborative, interdisciplinary research work across the institute/college/university.
- ▶ To publish the outcomes of research in outlets of international standing.
- ▶ To identify sources of funding, develop and submit funding applications, and secure external research funding.
- ▶ To supervise and manage research projects.
- ▶ To supervise postgraduate students at Masters and doctoral levels. To foster an environment which encourages research among students at postgraduate level.

Teaching

- ▶ To undertake limited teaching duties for undergraduate and postgraduate student programmes and to carry out the associated examining and assessment processes.
- ▶ To provide academic and pastoral support and advice to students.
- ▶ To promote the use of a range of methods and techniques in teaching, learning and assessment.

- ▶ To engage in the regular evaluation and development of modules for which the successful applicant has responsibility, in terms of content, delivery and assessment.
- ▶ To contribute to the introduction of a new Masters programme within the AIME remit.

Engagement

- ▶ To liaise with external academic, commercial and policy partners in relation to research and teaching.
- ▶ To raise the profile of the research institute/college/university via outreach and engagement activities.
- ▶ To work with partners to deliver impact from research work.
- ▶ To work towards commercialization of research via appropriate pursuit of Intellectual Property exploitation, where appropriate.

Other related activities and functions

- ▶ To carry out specific AIME and College roles and functions as may be reasonably required, these being equitably distributed across the academic staff.
- ▶ To take part in the work of University or College Committees.
- ▶ To engage in training programmes in the University (e.g. through Staff Development) which are consistent with the needs and aspirations of the member of staff and AIME.
- ▶ To support diligently quality assurance measures within the University (e.g. by reviewing delivered modules annually, setting and receiving student feedback questionnaires).
- ▶ 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	<p>A good first degree in chemistry, materials science or related subject.</p> <p>PhD in polymer science or related field complementary to AIME's strengths in membrane sciences.</p>	Application form
Experience	<p>Experience of initiating and conducting research beyond doctoral level.</p> <p>Experience of publishing and presenting research of an international standard.</p> <p>Experience of undergraduate and/or postgraduate project supervision.</p> <p>Experience of teaching and assessing.</p>	Application form and interview
Aptitude and skills	<p>Ability to develop and maintain a research programme and to publish in international journals.</p> <p>Ability to secure research funds from external sources.</p> <p>Excellent communication skills to build external contacts that will support research and teaching activity.</p> <p>Ability to harness IT as a research and teaching tool.</p> <p>Ability to develop own teaching materials and contribute to course and programme development at undergraduate and postgraduate level.</p> <p>Ability to provide tutorial and counselling advice to undergraduate and postgraduate students.</p> <p>Familiarity with module and curriculum design methodologies and the ability to implement these effectively.</p>	Application form and interview

	Essential	Method of assessment
	<p>A willingness to undertake further training as appropriate and to adopt new procedures as and when required.</p> <p>Commitment to observing the University's Equal Opportunities Policy at all times.</p> <p>Ability to attend the University as and when required for scheduled teaching, relevant meetings and student support.</p> <p>Ability to lead taught modules and programmes for undergraduate and postgraduate students.</p>	

	Desirable	Method of assessment
Experience	Experience of teaching and assessing.	Application form and interview

How to apply

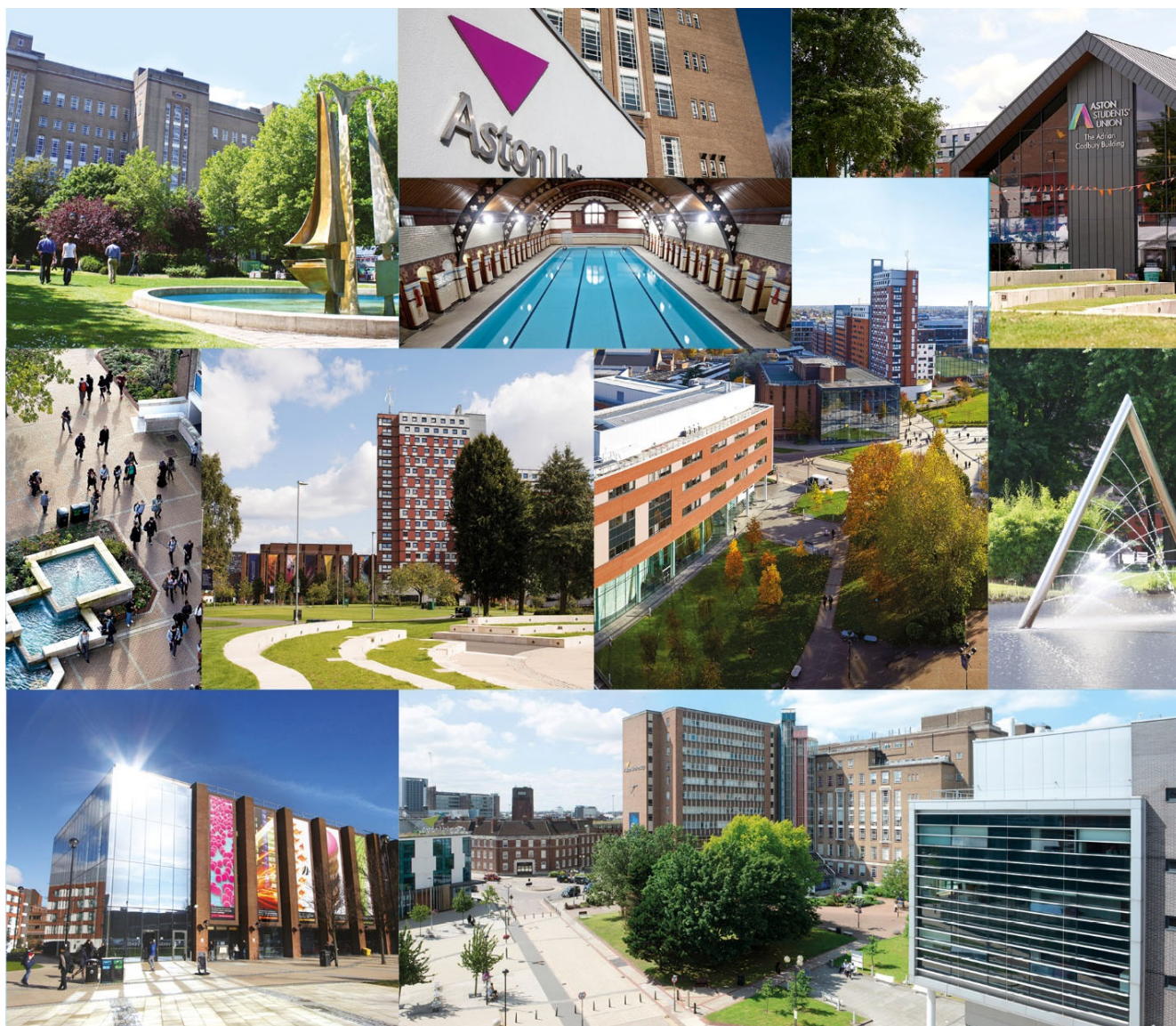
You can apply for this role online via our website <https://www2.aston.ac.uk/staff-public/hr/jobs>.

Applications should be submitted by 23:59pm 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 recruitment@aston.ac.uk.



Contact information

Enquiries about the vacancy:

Name: Professor Paul Topham and Dr Matthew Derry

Job Title: Head of School and Lecturer in Chemistry

Email: p.d.topham@aston.ac.uk and m.derry@aston.ac.uk

Enquiries about the application process, shortlisting or interviews:

Recruitment Team via recruitment@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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www.aston.ac.uk



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