

**Postdoctoral Research  
Associate (Molecular  
Microbiology Biology)**



**OPPORTUNITY**

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**Reference: 0350-24**

**Grade: 8**

**Salary: £37,099 to £39,347 per annum**

**Contract Type: Fixed term (8 months)**

**Basis: Full time**

## Job description

This position is funded by Discoveric Bio Beta Ltd to work in the School of Biosciences at Aston University. The aim of the project is to engineer *Escherichia coli* strains so that they express different versions of the lipopolysaccharide transport proteins LptD and LptE. You will undertake molecular biology and microbiology research to construct and test both DNA vectors and engineered strains to determine which parts of LptD/LptE are important for function in *E. coli*.

## Main duties and Responsibilities

### Research

- ▶ To design, manipulate, clone, and analyse recombinant DNA constructs.
- ▶ To analyse expression of bacterial genes using a variety of both in vivo and in vitro techniques.
- ▶ To generate bacterial strains using standard techniques.
- ▶ To undertake research by preparing, setting up, conducting, and recording the outcome of experiments.
- ▶ To analyse and interpret the results of own research and generate original ideas based on outcomes.
- ▶ To ensure that all work is undertaken and analysed in a timely manner and in line with the milestones and deliverables outlined by the principal investigator.
- ▶ To prepare study findings for presentation in study reports and publication in scientific journals.
- ▶ To develop research objectives, projects, and proposals for personal/joint research programmes consistent with the priorities and strategy of the School, with the assistance of a mentor if required.
- ▶ To write up and publish the outcomes of research in good quality publications.
- ▶ To present papers, posters, reports at seminars, conferences etc.
- ▶ To collaborate in research initiatives with colleagues in and beyond the School as appropriate.
- ▶ To identify sources of funding, develop and submit funding applications, securing external research funding.
- ▶ Where appropriate to School/University strategy and subject discipline, to participate in and develop external networks.
- ▶ To supervise and manage research projects
- ▶ To supervise PhD and other postgraduate students to completion.
- ▶ To coach junior colleagues in research.

### Teaching

- ▶ To undertake a limited amount of teaching with students at a range of levels, achieving good student feedback through critical reflective practice.
- ▶ To contribute to the assessment of student knowledge and the supervision of student projects.
- ▶ To assist in the development of student research skills.

### External Engagement

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

### Citizenship

- ▶ To carry out specific (School) roles and functions as may be reasonably required e.g., Head of Department, Programme Director, Personal Tutor, Admissions Tutor).

- ▶ To take part in the meetings and activities of the Academic Department and, on occasion, act as Chair of 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
<b>Education and qualifications</b>	<p>A good degree in Biology, Biochemistry, Microbiology, or a related subject</p> <p>PhD in a relevant subject (or awaiting an award) or being in the process of submitting your PhD thesis and/ or awaiting viva.</p>	Application form
<b>Experience</b>	<p>Experience of conducting molecular microbiology biology research in the areas of DNA construction design, cloning, and analysis of bacterial gene expression (using both in vitro and in vivo techniques).</p> <p>Experience in expressing recombinant proteins in E. coli and purifying proteins, using various chromatography techniques.</p> <p>Experience in undertaking data analysis and interpreting results.</p> <p>Experience of writing reports and delivering presentations.</p>	Application form and interview
<b>Aptitude and skills</b>	<p>Ability to work effectively in a team and with project partners.</p> <p>Ability to contribute to the planning of research projects.</p> <p>Ability to deliver research objectives, deliverables and milestones in a timely manner.</p> <p>Excellent verbal and written communication skills with the ability to liaise with partners and write reports.</p>	Application form and interview

	Desirable	Method of assessment
<b>Experience</b>	<p>Experience in the supervision of student projects.</p> <p>Experience in interacting with industrial partners and working on industrial projects.</p>	Application form and interview
<b>Aptitude and Skills</b>	Ability to present data in a clear and concise manner that is visually appealing.	Application form and interview

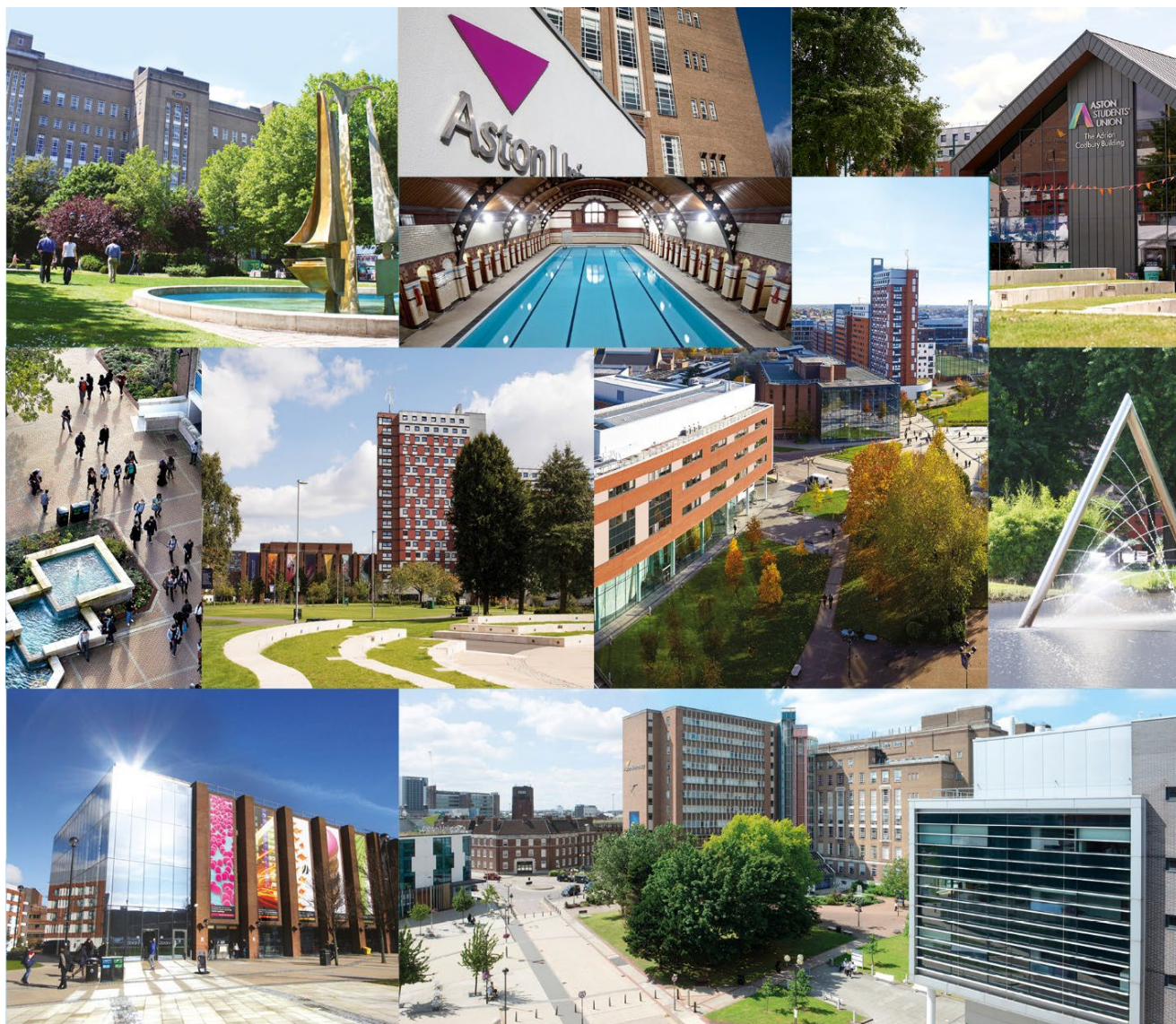
## How to apply

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 [jobs@aston.ac.uk](mailto:jobs@aston.ac.uk).



## Contact information

### Enquiries about the vacancy:

Name: Dr Douglas Browning.

Job Title: Senior Lecturer in Biosciences.

Email: [d.browning@aston.ac.uk](mailto:d.browning@aston.ac.uk)

### Enquiries about the application process, shortlisting, or interviews:

Recruitment Team via [jobs@aston.ac.uk](mailto: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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