

OPPORTUNITY

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Reference:0322-24

Grade: 7

Salary: £32,332 per annum

Contract Type: Fixed Term (22 months)

Basis: Full Time

Job description

Job Purpose

In this role, the Research Assistant will carry out research on the SAFE BED Study, under the supervision of Dr Georgie Agar (Principal Investigator). SAFE BED is an exciting new project investigating the **S**afety, **A**ceptability, **F**easibility and **E**fficacy of **B**ed **E**nclosure **D**esigns in children with intellectual disability.

The aim of the project is to understand whether enclosed bed systems (sometimes known as 'safety sleepers' or 'safe sleeping spaces') help children aged 3-11 years with intellectual disability and their caregivers to sleep better. The post holder will conduct direct assessments of children's sleep and behaviour and caregivers' sleep and wellbeing, lead focus groups with caregivers and health and social care professionals and disseminate key findings.

This position is funded by the Baily Thomas Charitable Fund.

Main duties and Responsibilities

- ▶ To undertake collection of quantitative research data via questionnaire and actigraphy methods.
- ▶ To conduct focus groups with caregivers and health and social care professionals and analyse qualitative data.
- ▶ To carry out administrative tasks associated with the research project, including recruitment of participants, organisation of project meetings and documentation and liaising with NHS and charity recruitment partners.
- ▶ To liaise directly with members of the research team, including other staff and any students who may be assisting with the project.
- ▶ To prioritise and manage tasks within agreed work schedule to ensure that projects are delivered by agreed timelines.
- ▶ To attend conferences and meetings to disseminate research findings.
- ▶ To ensure research is conducted in line with NHS ethical approvals to a high standard of integrity, demonstrating a particular need for participant confidentiality.
- ▶ To complete tasks as outlined by the Principal Investigator and in line with the job grade.

Working with volunteer participants

- ▶ To liaise with participants, including arranging data collection periods, taking informed consent and showing appropriate care and consideration for participants and their families.

Data handling

- ▶ To securely record, anonymise, transcribe and code focus group data.
- ▶ To enter, score and analyse actigraphy and questionnaire data.
- ▶ To manage data to ensure integrity and ease of access for the Principal Investigator.

Reporting

- ▶ To prepare study findings for presentation in study reports and assist in write-up for publication in high-quality scientific journals.
- ▶ To present information on research progress and outcomes to the research team.
- ▶ To prepare feedback reports for participants.
- ▶ To contribute to impact guidelines and future grant applications resulting from the study.

Additional responsibilities

- ▶ To 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.
- ▶ To ensure and promote the personal health, safety and wellbeing of staff and students.
- ▶ To carry out duties in a way which promotes fairness in all matters and which engenders trust.
- ▶ To 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	Undergraduate (2:1 minimum) degree in Psychology, or other immediately relevant subject.	Application form
Experience	<p>First-hand experience of a range of research methods and statistical analysis.</p> <p>First-hand experience working with children and/or families.</p> <p>First-hand experience of report writing and delivering presentations.</p>	Application form, interview and presentation
Aptitude and skills	<p>Excellent organisational, time management and computing skills.</p> <p>Extensive prior use of Excel, Word Processing and statistical software (e.g. SPSS, Jamovi, R).</p> <p>Proven ability to work effectively in a team and with project partners.</p> <p>Excellent verbal and written communication skills with the ability to liaise with partners and discuss difficult topics in a sensitive and appropriate manner.</p>	Application form, interview and presentation

	Desirable	Method of assessment
Education and qualifications	Master's or PhD or nearing completion in a relevant subject area.	Application form
Experience	<p>Experience of delivering sleep assessments.</p> <p>Direct experience with children with intellectual disability, autistic children or children with neurodevelopmental conditions.</p> <p>Experience of publishing research in academic and/or lay formats.</p> <p>Direct experience of conducting focus-groups.</p> <p>Experience of managing NHS ethical approvals.</p>	Application form, interview and presentation
Aptitude and Skills	<p>Ability to deliver research objectives, deliverables and milestones in a timely manner.</p> <p>Ability to use actigraphy software.</p> <p>Ability to conduct thematic analysis.</p>	Application form, interview and presentation

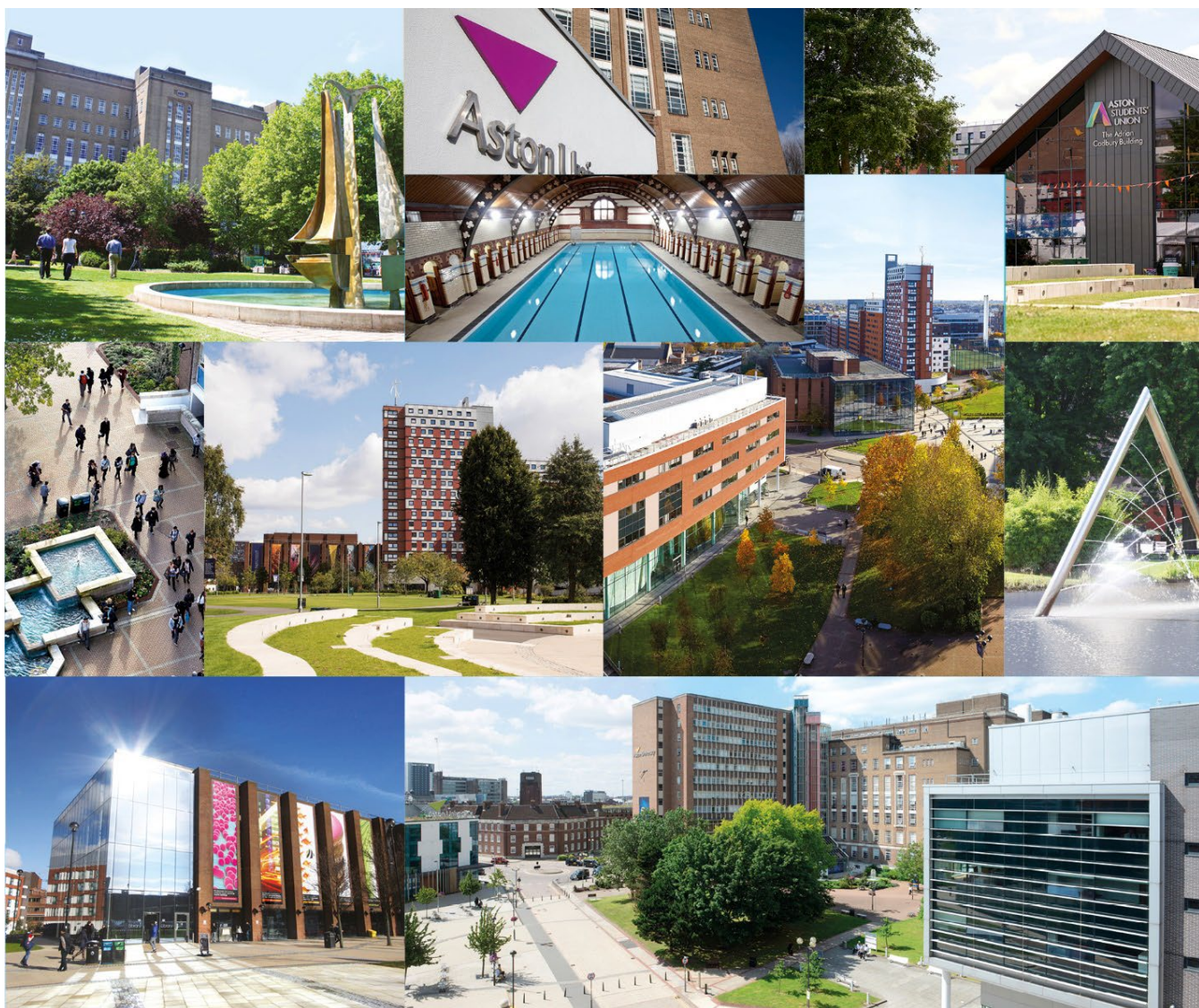
How to apply

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

Applications should be submitted by 23:59 pm 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: Dr Georgie Agar

Job Title: Lecturer

Email: g.agar@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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