**A collage of people in different poses

Description automatically generated**

**Biomass Policy Fellow**

**Reference: 0363-24**

**Grade: 08**

**Salary: £37,099**

**Contract Type: Fixed Term (Until 31 October 2027)**

**Basis: Full Time**

**Job description**

The Supergen Bioenergy Hub (SBH) and the Biomass Biorefinery Network (BBNet) undertake a range of policy engagement activities, with the goal of providing independent scientific evidence and informing policy development in areas relating to sustainable biomass and bioenergy. The Biomass Policy Fellow is a link between the Supergen Bioenergy Hub (SBH), the Biomass Biorefinery Network (BBNet), and the UK/international policy community. The postholder will work with SBH and researchers to extract policy-relevant outputs and connect them with relevant parts of the policy community. They will work with policy makers in UK government and beyond to better understand their information needs and communicate this back to the research communities. This is an exciting opening for applicants who want to work at the science/policy interface. You will have a unique opportunity to work across several universities and disciplines, bringing together academics, industrialists, and policy makers to deliver policy impact.

The postholder will work closely with the SBH and BBNet management teams and report directly to the SBH Director who is based at Aston University. The postholder may (with agreement of the relevant local investigator) be physically based at any of the SBH and NIBB partner institutes (currently University of Sheffield, Aston University, University of Surrey, University of Glasgow, University of York, Imperial College, Southampton University, and Strathclyde University) with the option of hybrid working.

**Main duties and Responsibilities**

* Familiarise themselves with SBH and BBNet research and develop an understanding of the perspective of the associated industrial and policy partners.
* Stay up to date with key research areas, and with wider industrial and policy developments relating to biomass and bioenergy in the UK.
* Develop and manage professional working relationships with individuals and groups in key government departments (e.g., Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, Department for Transport, Department for Business and Trade, Defra, and the devolved governments), and with academic and industrial stakeholders across the biomass and bioenergy community.
* Identify priority areas for policy engagement, based on new SBH and BBNet research or knowledge gaps highlighted by policy stakeholders, and synthesise and communicate information and evidence with relevant policymakers in a timely and appropriate manner.
* Write policy-relevant outputs such as briefings, reports, consultation responses, social media posts, or blogs, and where necessary leveraging and collating input from appropriate researchers and experts from the SBH and BBNet communities.
* Work with the SBH and BBNet researchers to address the information needs of policymakers and support them in adapting and developing their research plans to fill those gaps where appropriate.
* Work with the SBH and BBNet management to organise and deliver policy relevant events, workshops, or conference sessions, including meetings of the SBH Policy Forum.
* Deliver policy engagement training sessions for researchers.
* Represent SBH and BBNet at conferences and workshops.
* Collate information on policy engagement activities for reporting and monitoring purposes.

**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** | First degree in a relevant subject (e.g. science, engineering, policy, economics) | Application form |
| **Experience** | Knowledge of climate change, renewable energy, and sustainability  Experience of contributing to or leading knowledge exchange activities between research and policy. | Application form and interview |
| **Aptitude and skills** | Highly developed interpersonal and team-working skills.  Ability to develop and maintain strong working relationships with external stakeholders.  Excellent written and oral communication skills, including the ability to effectively communicate technical or scientific concepts to non-specialist audiences.  Aptitude for developing interdisciplinary insights.  Strong data analysis/analytic skills.  A track record of independent working, time management and successful delivery of objectives.  Well-developed IT skills to monitor, organize, synthesise, and communicate key concepts. | Application form and interview |

|  | **Desirable** | **Method of assessment** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Education and qualifications** | Higher degree in a relevant subject. | Application form |
| **Experience** | Knowledge of biomass and bioenergy systems, bio-based chemicals and materials, and industrial biotechnology.  Knowledge of UK and international policy relating to biomass and bioenergy, sustainability, innovation, and climate change mitigation.  Experience of delivering policy impact via knowledge exchange activities.  Experience of impacting policy development through policy engagement activities. | 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](mailto:recruitment@aston.ac.uk).



**Contact information**

**Enquiries about the vacancy:**

Name: Prof. Patricia Thornley

Job Title: Director of EBRI

Email: [p.thornley@aston.ac.uk](mailto:p.thornley@aston.ac.uk)

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

Recruitment Team via [recruitment@aston.ac.uk](mailto: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](https://www.aston.ac.uk/staff-public/hr/Benefits-and-Rewards/)

**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](https://www.gov.uk/skilled-worker-visa/knowledge-of-english). 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](https://www.aston.ac.uk/staff-public/hr/jobs/candidate-immigration).

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](https://www.aston.ac.uk/staff-public/hr/jobs/candidate-immigration).

**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](https://mlasdotorgdotuk.wordpress.com/landlords/) 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](https://www.rightmove.co.uk/) or [Zoopla.](https://www.zoopla.co.uk/)

**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.

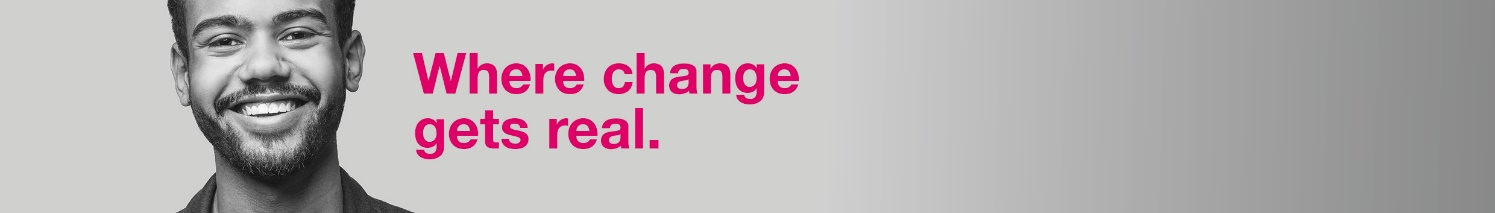
An Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form is included within the application form. Data you provide on the Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form will be included in a general database, for statistical monitoring purposes, enabling the University to monitor the effectiveness of its Policy, Codes of Practice 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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