

Lecturer / Senior Lecturer / Reader or Industry Fellow in Product Design



OPPORTUNITY

Where change
gets real.



Reference: 0676-24

Grade: 8-10

Salary: £40,247 to £65,814 per annum, depending on experience

Contract Type: Permanent

Basis: Full Time

Job description

Job Purpose:

The Department of Design Technology & Innovation at Aston University has been recently formed as a hub of design innovation and creative practice in the College of Engineering and Physical Science. The department combines design innovation with engineering expertise and sits alongside Design Factory Birmingham, which is part of the Global Design Factory Network.

Position Overview:

We are seeking a passionate and innovative individual to join our team. The ideal candidate will be dedicated to fostering creativity and practical problem-solving skills among students. You will work closely with diverse teams of engineers and designers, mimicking real-world scenarios to prepare students for successful careers.

We are looking for applicants who can:

- ▶ Design and deliver industry-relevant curriculum, creating and implementing cutting-edge course content that aligns with current industry standards and practices.
- ▶ Secure research and/or enterprise grants to support innovative projects.
- ▶ Enhance industry engagement by strengthening our connections with the design industry to provide students with valuable real-world experiences and opportunities.
- ▶ Initiate new academic programmes that align with the Aston 2030 strategy, fostering growth and innovation within the department.
- ▶ Lead core industrial / product design teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, potentially coordinating courses based on experience and qualifications.

Wider Environment

The newly established Department of Design, Technology & Innovation is part of the School of Engineering and Technology Innovation within the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences. We aim to cultivate industry-ready, innovative design graduates grounded in engineering principles and practices. Through initiatives like CDIO, we focus on practical, industry-led studio teaching.

A significant development for the department is the introduction of a college-wide Interdisciplinary Design module. Collaborating with Design Factory Birmingham, this module equips all engineering students with essential skills in design thinking, innovation, and user-centered design. The successful candidate will be involved in this module and help drive the leadership and vision.

We particularly welcome applications from well-rounded candidates with a background in Product or Industrial Design who can contribute to teaching in:

- ▶ Design Practice
- ▶ Design Thinking / Innovation
- ▶ AI for Design
- ▶ Design for Manufacture
- ▶ Responsible (Sustainable) Design

You will benefit from a dedicated design studio, fully equipped workshops, and various 3D printing facilities. Additionally, they will play a pivotal role in the continued development of Design Factory Birmingham.

Main Duties/Responsibilities

Teaching, Learning and Curriculum

- ▶ To undertake independent teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate level, ensuring industry relevance in the designing, conducting, and moderating of assessment.
- ▶ 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 methods of delivery.
- ▶ To engage in 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.

Industry/Enterprise Links/Knowledge Exchange

- ▶ Pursue and maintain independent professional activities to engage in scholarship within the discipline, conduct practice-informed and led teaching and learning and/or to support and conduct high quality practice-relevant applied research activities.
- ▶ Managing individual research / enterprise projects within timelines and budgets and ensuring compliance with quality and reporting requirements.
- ▶ Promote links and collaborations with existing professional networks to generate new opportunities for the University e.g. collaborative partnerships, funding opportunities, influencing the development of education for the profession/industry, student placement, project and graduate opportunities.
- ▶ Undertake administrative duties associated with teaching, scholarship, and citizenship.

and/or Research

- ▶ To lead a personal research programme consistent with the School's research priorities.
- ▶ To publish the outcomes of research, with a strong publication record of internationally excellent and leading publications where appropriate to role focus.
- ▶ To have a proven track record of securing external funding and leading research projects, people and resources.
- ▶ To have a successful record of supervision of postgraduate students at Masters and Doctoral levels. To foster an environment which encourages research among students at postgraduate level.
- ▶ To collaborate in research initiatives with colleagues in and beyond the School as appropriate.

Citizenship

- ▶ To carry out specific College roles and functions as may be reasonably required (e.g., Programme Co-ordinator, Personal Tutor, Admissions Tutor), these being equitably distributed across the academic staff.
- ▶ To provide pastoral care and support to students.
- ▶ To take part in and, if required, manage staff seminars, cross-departmental activities and events e.g., Open Days, Sixth Form Conferences etc.
- ▶ To display and promote Aston 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.
- ▶ 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 Product Design / Industrial Design or a relevant discipline.</p> <p>Master's degree (or equivalent) in the relevant discipline area.</p> <p>PhD in a relevant subject.</p> <p>Teaching qualification or willingness to acquire this.</p>	Application form and interview
Experience	<p>Experience of teaching and assessing within a degree programme.</p> <p>Demonstrate current or recent professional/industry practice.</p> <p>Motivation and enthusiasm for transferring knowledge and learning from the relevant industry/ professional practice to learners.</p> <p>Demonstrate capacity to work effectively with and to negotiate sensitively with students especially on issues related to effective learning.</p> <p>Effective management of individual projects within timelines and budgets and in compliance with quality and reporting requirements.</p>	Application form and interview
Aptitude and skills	<p>Ability to prepare and deliver programmes at undergraduate and post-graduate levels, including online delivery, and the ability to produce high quality curriculum or programme materials.</p> <p>Ability to undertake independent professional activities, scholarship and/or conduct high quality research activities appropriate to the profession or discipline.</p> <p>Ability to design, conduct and moderate assessment and to implement improvements informed</p>	Application form and interview

	Essential	Method of assessment
	<p>by course evaluation activities and student feedback.</p> <p>Excellent interpersonal and communications skills appropriate for interacting with applicants, students, staff, and industry, together with a strong commitment to teamwork and multidisciplinary collaboration.</p> <p>Ability to translate professional/industry links and associations into positive outcomes for Aston, its students, and staff.</p> <p>Ability to build effective networks with colleagues and commitment to generating alternative funding for projects through effective liaison with education, industry/profession, and funders.</p> <p>At Grade 10:</p> <p>Ability to undertake programme director or another coordinating/supervisory role.</p> <p>Emerging track record and recognition within the industry or profession evidenced by industry links, publications, development of new research initiatives, securing competitive research funding.</p> <p>Where relevant, ability to teach doctoral level students.</p>	

	Desirable	Method of assessment
Education and qualifications	Membership of a relevant professional body.	Application form

	Desirable	Method of assessment
	A Postgraduate Certificate in Professional Practice (PGCPP), or equivalent qualification.	
Experience	Experience of using a virtual learning environment (VLE) as a tool, e.g., Blackboard.	Application form and interview
Aptitude and Skills	Experience in Industrial Design, Design Innovation, Design Thinking, Design for Manufacture, AI and Design, CAD modelling, and/or other subjects related to Product Design.	Application form and interview

University values

All staff are expected to demonstrate/promote the University's values and expectations, which are an integral part of our strategy and underpin the culture of the University. In addition, our leaders are expected to be accountable, help to execute strategic visions of the University and share and set clear expectations that inspire those around them.

Values + Behaviours

				
Innovation	Collaboration	Ambition	Inclusion	Integrity
We strive for excellence within ourselves and others, providing solutions to new and existing challenges.	We work best when we are collaborative, working together to contribute to the Aston community.	We strive together for improvement and innovation looking ahead to see the bigger picture.	We treat everyone in our community equally and how they would like to be treated.	We are open, honest and fair. We take ownership of the way we work and how we treat each other.

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 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: Timothy Whitehead

Job Title: Head of Department Design Technology and Innovation

Email: t.whitehead@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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