

**Post Doctoral Research
Assistant/Associate**

OPPORTUNITY

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Reference: 0013-25

Grade: 7/8

Salary: £30,505 - £37,999 per annum (depending on qualifications and experience)

Contract Type: Fixed term (16 months)

Basis: Full time

Job description

Job Purpose:

You are invited to apply for the position of Post-Doctoral Research Assistant/Associate for a new ESRC funded New Investigator project on 'Disaster Impact, Risk Reduction and Regime Type in Southeast Asia'.

The successful applicant will be supervised by Dr Laura Southgate and will be based in the Society and Politics Department at Aston University (Birmingham). This is a fixed term post for 16 months, starting in July 2025 and ending in November 2026.

This is an exciting project that will examine the relationship between disaster impact and regime type in Southeast Asia, with a specific focus on how regime type may influence the impact of disasters resulting from natural hazards, and what potential disaster risk reduction strategies can be identified to facilitate and strengthen future disaster governance.

You will be providing essential research assistance for all aspects of the project. Support is particularly required for the creation of a new dataset that maps disaster impact across Southeast Asia according to regime type. The aim of this dataset is to provide practitioner support to improve the efficacy of disaster risk reduction and response capacities from local to national levels across the region.

Main Duties/Responsibilities

- ▶ To assist the Principal Investigator in all research tasks associated with the project. This will include, but is not limited to:
- ▶ Open source qualitative and quantitative data collection using publicly available datasets, print media sources, articles and books
- ▶ Conducting a random effects regression analysis using data collected
- ▶ Assisting with the design and completion of a dataset, codebook and custom-built website to host the research findings
- ▶ To contribute to the write up of research for publication in both academic journals and in the form of policy briefs.
- ▶ To participate in the development of external networks
- ▶ Providing workshop and conference support
- ▶ To identify potential sources of future external research funding

Reports to: Dr Laura Southgate (Senior Lecturer in Politics and International Relations)

Grade 8 role

In the Grade 8 position, you will take the lead in developing, conducting, and writing up research for publication, rather than assisting.

Additional responsibilities

- ▶ Engage in continuous personal and professional development in line with the demands of the role, including undertaking relevant training and development activities.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ To undertake such other duties as may be reasonably requested and that are commensurate with the nature and grade of the post.

Person specification

	Essential	Method of assessment
Education and qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ A good first degree and a Masters degree in a relevant academic discipline. ▶ Applicants must have or be close to having a PhD in a relevant academic discipline or near to completion. 	Application form and interview.
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Experience in at least one of the research project discipline areas (regimes and governance and/or disaster management). ▶ Experience of initiating and conducting mixed methods research at doctoral level. ▶ Experience of writing up / contributing to the writing up of high-quality publications. ▶ Experience of presenting research findings at conferences and workshops. 	Application form and interview.
Aptitude and skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Ability to collect data from multiple open access sources. ▶ Strong quantitative research skills including experience in cross sectional and panel regression analysis. ▶ Ability to use STATA software to analyse data and produce findings. 	Application form and interview.

	Essential	Method of assessment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Ability to document dataset findings and reference documents including codebook, country coding and reports, and methodology. ▶ Excellent interpersonal and communications skills appropriate for interacting with academic staff and practitioners, together with a strong commitment to teamwork and multidisciplinary collaboration. ▶ Excellent time management skills with the ability to manage your own workload and take ownership of project related tasks. 	

	Desirable	Method of assessment
Education and qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Membership of a relevant professional body. 	Application form.
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Experience in both research project discipline areas (regimes and governance and disaster management). ▶ Experience of initiating and conducting mixed methods research at post-doctoral level. ▶ Experience working on externally funded research projects in a research assistant role. 	Application form and interview.

	Desirable	Method of assessment
Aptitude and Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Ability to build effective networks with colleagues and external practitioners. ▶ A commitment to generating alternative funding for projects. 	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: Laura Southgate

Job Title: Senior Lecturer in Politics and International Relations

Email: l.southgate@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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