

Research Finance Accountancy Assistant



OPPORTUNITY

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gets real.



Reference: 0164-25

Grade: 07

Salary: £30805 to £36130, per annum, depending on experience

Contract Type: Fixed Term (12 Months Maternity Cover)

Basis: Part Time

Job description

Job Purpose:

The role holder is responsible for both pre and post award financial administration of a portfolio of externally funded research grants and contracts. The role encompasses project financial management and monitoring for a wide range of funders, including the calculation of costings for grant applications, producing forecasts and budgets for projects, ensuring financial milestones are completed on time, and providing proactive financial advice to budget holders and project leads.

The role holder will report to the Head of Research Finance, and be part of a dedicated team offering central research finance services to all Colleges within the University. A continuous business improvement approach is essential, underpinned by excellent service provision. They will have the ability to work both on their own and within a team.

Main duties and responsibilities

- ▶ Preparation of detailed costings for research grant applications in accordance with the funding body terms to ensure accuracy of costing & pricing in subsequent externally funded grants.
- ▶ Provide specialist financial advice to project applicants and award holders with regards to the eligibility of costs through the whole project lifecycle of research awards.
- ▶ Support applicants with the completion of financial information in the funding application paperwork (paper-based and electronic system records).
- ▶ Ensure close liaison with the RKE team (strategic funder managers and grants officers) to provide a harmonised research support service to staff in all Schools.
- ▶ Manage the day-to-day administration of a portfolio of research grants and contracts and in terms of providing high quality financial administration and advice to budget holders and project leads.
- ▶ Set up new research projects and extensions, closedown completed projects in a timely manner and maintain the research systems and records appropriately.
- ▶ Monitor expenditure of research grants and contracts, preparation and submission of accurate monthly, quarterly and final project expenditure claims to funders based on specific rules and expenditure eligibility criteria.
- ▶ Prepare and provide regular financial reports to budget holders and project leads ensuring that budgetary risks are notified on a timely basis, responding to ad-hoc financial queries.
- ▶ Deal promptly with funder queries relating to claims and returns.
- ▶ Assist in the preparation of research project forecasts and budgets to be consolidated in the School financial positions and uploaded into the financial system on a monthly basis.
- ▶ Liaise with external auditors on specific projects in accordance with funding conditions.
- ▶ Support the Head of Research Finance as required, providing a complete research finance service to all budget holders.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ AAT, part qualified accountant or demonstrable relevant financial administration experience in a research finance environment. 	Application form
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Accounting or project management experience gained within a commercial environment and/or the education sector. 	Application form and interview
Aptitude and skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Expert user of Microsoft Excel, Word, email and computerised accounting software (ideally Agresso). ▶ Excellent communication skills, written and oral. ▶ Excellent organisation skills. 	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.



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.

Contact information

Enquiries about the vacancy:

Name: Matthew Cooper

Job Title: Head of Research Finance

Email: m.cooper@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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