

Reader in Law

OPPORTUNITY

Where change
gets real.



Reference: 0133-25

Grade: 10

Salary: £57,422 to £66,537 per annum, depending on experience

Contact Type: Permanent

Basis: Full Time

Job description

Job Purpose:

Aston Law School, a department of the School of Law and Social Sciences, seeks to appoint a Reader of Law. The appointment is intended to support the development of a growing research culture in Law and to build towards a future independent Law REF submission. We welcome applications from those with excellent teaching and research across any area of Law.

It is expected that as a Reader you will demonstrate excellence in research, with a clear plan for your research over the next five years. Readers will be recognised as outstanding nationally and known internationally for their expertise appropriate to their discipline and with a strong upward trajectory.

You will lead research, scholarship and teaching activities of the School in your discipline either independently or as part of a team. In addition, to exploit external links with regional, UK and international bodies such as government agencies, schools, colleges, professional bodies, business and industry as appropriate to your discipline, to the aims of Aston Law School, the School of Law and Social Sciences within which Aston Law School sits, and Aston University under its 2030 Strategy.

Main duties and responsibilities:

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.
- ▶ To have a proven track record of applying for external funding and leading research projects, people and resources.
- ▶ Where appropriate to School/University strategy and subject discipline, to establish partnership links with external organisations to enhance Aston's research and industry profile.
- ▶ To lead research projects and to mentor junior colleagues in research.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ To conduct research capable of demonstrating impact e.g. research which has the potential to benefit the economy, society, culture, public policy or services, health, the environment or quality of life.

Teaching and Learning

- ▶ To teach students at different levels as appropriate including foundation, undergraduate and postgraduate students, and to carry out the associated examining processes.
- ▶ To lead on teaching and learning and its impact on curriculum development across the subject group and School.
- ▶ To provide academic support, pastoral care and advice, guidance and feedback to students in accordance with the School's requirements and procedures.
- ▶ 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 and modern methods of delivery.
- ▶ To innovate in teaching, demonstrate continuous professional development and critical reflective practice.

External Engagement

- ▶ To develop and lead on student placement schemes with companies and research institutions both in the UK and overseas.
- ▶ To demonstrate research impact and secure commercialisation, identifying and pursuing opportunities for translational research where appropriate to role and discipline.
- ▶ To establish partnerships for commercialisation including patents, inventions and other exploitable intellectual property as applicable to subject area and/or to lead to improved practice, policy development or professional development.
- ▶ To engage with translational research with a view to external collaboration and establishing partnerships with outputs such as commercialisation, improved practice and policy, receiving support from a mentor where appropriate.
- ▶ To develop research and development collaborations with industry partners to secure additional direct funding as appropriate to role focus and subject discipline.
- ▶ To contribute to businesses, the public sector and communities e.g. through innovation, knowledge transfer, cultural enrichment, advising government bodies, contributing to and influencing government (UK or overseas) policy-making and standards.
- ▶ To enhance the University's reputation with professional/scholarly bodies e.g. by promoting public understanding of the subject.

Citizenship

- ▶ To carry out School and University 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 participate in continuing professional development e.g. through seminars or conferences and by engaging in training programmes run by the University which are consistent with the needs and aspirations of the academic and the School.

- ▶ To take part in and, if required, manage staff seminars, cross-departmental activities and events e.g. Open Days, Sixth Form Conferences, Degree Ceremonies etc.
- ▶ To take part in the meetings and activities of the Academic Department and, on occasion act as chair of one or more of the School committees, these responsibilities being equitably distributed across the academic staff.
- ▶ To demonstrate the University's leadership 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 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"> ▶ A good first degree in law or related discipline (or equivalent) ▶ A doctorate in law or a related academic discipline (or equivalent) ▶ A recognised teaching qualification /membership of Advance HE (formally known as the Higher Education Academy or HEA) at Fellow level as a minimum. 	Application form
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Experience of teaching and assessment on relevant undergraduate and postgraduate programmes and of professional examining. ▶ Experience of initiating an independent line of research and in applying for external research funding with a strong ongoing pipeline. ▶ A significant track record of publications in high quality international/peer reviewed journals. ▶ Experience of PhD supervision through to successful completion. 	Application form and interview
Aptitude and skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Ability to lead the development and implementation of research strategy and/or teaching. ▶ Highly developed communication and presentation skills to present research findings at national and international conferences. ▶ Ability to develop and maintain a research programme and to publish in international journals. 	Application form and interview

	Essential	Method of assessment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ A willingness to undertake further training as appropriate and to adopt new procedures as and when required. 	

	Desirable	Method of assessment
Education and qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ A Postgraduate Certificate in Professional Practice (PGCPP), or equivalent qualification. 	Application form
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Track record of innovation in the design and delivery of taught programmes at undergraduate or postgraduate level. ▶ Experience of course management at module or programme level. 	Application form, interview and presentation
Aptitude and Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Ability to develop internal and external networks that will raise the profile of the subject/University. ▶ Ability to lead on the design and development of the curriculum. ▶ Ability to harness IT as a research and teaching tool. ▶ Ability to provide tutorial and counselling advice to undergraduate and postgraduate students. ▶ Ability to take on leadership role at subject group/School/University level. 	Interview and presentation

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 23.59pm 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: Dr. Kristie Thomas

Job Title: Interim Head, Aston Law School

Email: k.thomas5@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>

Aston University
Birmingham
B4 7ET, UK.
+44 (0)121 204 3000

www.aston.ac.uk