



**OPPORTUNITY**

Where change  
gets real.



**Reference: 0242-25**

**Grade: 09**

**Salary: £46,735 to £55,755 per annum, depending on experience**

**Contract Type: Permanent**

**Basis: Full Time**

## Job description

### Job Purpose:

The Technology Transfer Manager – Intellectual Property and Licensing will play a key role in supporting Aston University's goal of achieving £10 million in licensing income by 2030, as set out in the Aston 2030 Strategy.

Working within the Aston Ventures team, the postholder will lead the identification, protection, management and commercialisation of the University's intellectual property portfolio across all disciplines, with a strong emphasis on maximising licensing opportunities.

The postholder will proactively engage with academic colleagues, external partners, and investors to identify new opportunities, secure licensing income, and support the creation of spin-out companies where appropriate.

The role will work closely with the Head of Research Commercialisation and wider Research and Enterprise teams to deliver impact at scale.

### Main Duties/Responsibilities

- ▶ Provide operational leadership in University affairs related to the identification, protection, management and licensing of intellectual property (IP) across all Colleges.
- ▶ Proactively identify new IP generated through academic research and undertake market and technical evaluations to underpin decisions on protecting IP.
- ▶ Manage a portfolio of IP cases, supporting routes to commercialisation through licensing or spin-out activity in collaboration with the Head of Research Commercialisation.
- ▶ Support the development of detailed commercialisation plans, including drafting licence heads of terms, negotiating licensing deals, and supporting spin-out business plans where required.
- ▶ Work with external legal and patent professionals to manage patent filings and prosecutions while maintaining an in-house understanding of best practice in IP management.
- ▶ Lead negotiations on licence agreements, drawing on the University's IP portfolio, working with industry partners, charities, grant funders, and investors.
- ▶ Monitor and report on licensing income targets in alignment with the University's 2030 Strategy, providing regular updates to the Head of Research Commercialisation and University Executive as Required.
- ▶ Assist in the management and development of translational research bids with a focus on the route to commercial application and licensing potential.
- ▶ Develop and maintain strategic relationships with regional, national and international licensing partners and investors to maximise opportunities for Aston IP.
- ▶ Manage other Technology Transfer staff as required.
- ▶ Build and maintain strong relationships with academic staff, industry partners, investors, and other stakeholders.
- ▶ Provide training and support to researchers on IP and commercialisation processes.
- ▶ Support University-wide submissions to the Knowledge Exchange Framework (KEF), Research Excellence Framework (impact), HEIF, and statutory HE-BCI returns as required.

## **Additional responsibilities**

- ▶ Undertake other activities as required by the Head of Research Commercialisation, including but not limited to promoting and representing the University's Knowledge Exchange and Enterprise strategies and commercial IP development and exploitation function through activities such as attending meetings and conferences, undertaking project work or giving advice, lectures and training.

## Person specification

	Essential	Method of assessment
<b>Education and qualifications</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ MSc or Equivalent in a STEM Related Discipline or Experience in Industry</li> </ul>	Application form
<b>Experience</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Experience in technology transfer, IP management or technology commercialisation/R&amp;D within an Industry or University setting.</li> <li>▶ Experience of an R&amp;D Process relevant to the research base of Aston University</li> </ul>	Application form and interview
<b>Aptitude and skills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Strong interpersonal and influencing skills with the ability to work collaboratively across internal and external stakeholders.</li> <li>▶ Commercial awareness with the ability to assess the market potential of research outputs.</li> <li>▶ Proven ability to manage multiple projects and work effectively with diverse teams</li> <li>▶ Capacity to create multi-year development plans for complex technologies.</li> </ul>	Application form and interview

	Desirable	Method of assessment
<b>Education and qualifications</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Experience in an industrial R&amp;D setting.</li> </ul>	Application form and Interview

	Desirable	Method of assessment
<b>Experience</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Demonstrable experience of managing IP portfolios and negotiating licence agreements.</li> <li>▶ Experience of successful grant writing or securing translational funding.</li> <li>▶ Experience of University technology transfer and licensing.</li> </ul>	Application form and interview
<b>Aptitude and Skills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Knowledge of venture capital financing mechanisms.</li> </ul>	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](mailto:recruitment@aston.ac.uk).

## Contact information

### Enquiries about the vacancy:

Name: Luke Southan

Job Title: Head of Research Commercialisation

Email: [l.southan@aston.ac.uk](mailto:l.southan@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](#)

**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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