



OPPORTUNITY

Where change
gets real.



Reference: 0270-25

Grade: 7

Salary: £30,805 to £36,130, per annum, depending on experience

Contract Type: Permanent

Basis: Full Time

Job description

Job Purpose:

This technician position is funded by Research Ventures Catalyst award from DSIT, which aims to develop bioinspired membranes using a combination of polymers and membrane transport proteins. You will support the specific lab activities of the MEMetic project, focussing on chemical synthesis and polymer materials characterisation, and complementing existing technical support available to MEMetic and within the Aston Institute for Membrane Excellence (AIME). You will be a part of the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences technical team and will work closely with the AIME Lab Manager to coordinate chemistry-related research activities in MEMetic and AIME.

Main duties and responsibilities

- ▶ To provide effective high-level technical demonstration and instruction, support and advice to the MEMetic team for chemistry-related research activities.
- ▶ To assist in the acquisition and analysis of experimental data.
- ▶ To manage access to the chemistry-related MEMetic and AIME facilities and ensure their efficient use through a laboratory booking system, working closely with the AIME Lab Manager.
- ▶ To assist the AIME Lab Manager in managing resources including recommendations for improvements, the preparation of orders, ordering/issue of consumable materials, associated stock, stockkeeping, and administration of inventories for the MEMetic research activities.
- ▶ To assist the AIME Lab Manager to manage the planned maintenance, repair and servicing including problem solving related to specialist technical equipment within the MEMetic and AIME facilities.
- ▶ To assist with receiving deliveries and distributing hazardous materials.
- ▶ To assist with the safe handling of chemical waste from MEMetic and AIME laboratories.
- ▶ To observe all health & safety rules and regulations in the workplace. To become conversant with relevant health & safety regulations pertaining to the subject area.
- ▶ To attend any training course relevant to the role and development as a member of the team as directed by the team leader.

The above list of responsibilities is not exhaustive, and the job holder may be required to undertake other duties commensurate with the level of the role, as reasonably requested by their line manager.

Citizenship

- ▶ 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	Higher-education degree in Chemistry or Materials Science, or a closely related discipline.	Application form
Experience	<p>Experience of a relevant technical post in a high-quality academic research or industrial environment.</p> <p>Experience of maintaining laboratory operations and facilities, including the calibration and maintenance of key equipment.</p> <p>Experience in operating and maintaining advanced analytical equipment, for example FTIR, UV/vis, chromatography, thermal analysis as well as data processing and interpretation.</p> <p>Experience with procurement policies and processes.</p> <p>Familiar with Microsoft Office (including Outlook, Word, Excel, and PowerPoint) and specialist laboratory software.</p> <p>Has worked in a role handling hazardous chemicals.</p> <p>Awareness of health and safety requirements of working in laboratory environments.</p>	Application form and interview
Aptitude and skills	<p>Ability to work collaboratively with colleagues from a wide range of backgrounds (academics, technicians, research staff, research students).</p> <p>Ability to organise own work and prioritise workload.</p> <p>Ability to troubleshoot and resolve technical problems quickly.</p>	Application form and interview


	Essential	Method of assessment
	<p>Able to communicate technical information to researchers and students, both orally and in writing.</p> <p>Knowledge and understanding of relevant regulations and procedures including Health and Safety requirements (risk assessment, safe operating procedures, COSHH).</p>	


	Desirable	Method of assessment
Education and qualifications	Master's degree in chemistry or Materials Science, or a closely related discipline.	Application form
Experience	<p>Working knowledge and previous experience in using and maintaining any of the following apparatus and instruments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Bruker Nuclear Magnetic Resonance ▶ Agilent Gel Permeation Chromatography ▶ Agilent Fourier Transform Infra-Red ▶ Perkin Elmer Pyris 1 Thermogravimetric Analysis ▶ Perkin Elmer Differential Scanning Calorimetry ▶ Wyatt Dynamic Light Scattering and Zeta potential ▶ Freeze dryers ▶ Rotary evaporators ▶ Schlenk line apparatus ▶ Analytical balances ▶ Vacuum pumps <p>Experience in working with post-graduate research students (laboratory training, guidance and supervision).</p> <p>Familiarity with manual handling techniques.</p>	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
We strive for excellence within ourselves and others, providing solutions to new and existing challenges.


Collaboration
We work best when we are collaborative, working together to contribute to the Aston community.


Ambition
We strive together for improvement and innovation looking ahead to see the bigger picture.


Inclusion
We treat everyone in our community equally and how they would like to be treated.


Integrity
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 Matt Derry

Job Title: Senior Lecturer

Email: m.derry@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