

## NMR Facility Technician



**OPPORTUNITY**

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**Reference: 0414-25**

**Salary: £31,236 to £36,636 per annum, depending on experience**

**Contract Type: Full time**

**Basis: Permanent**

## Job description

### Job Purpose:

To provide technical support for cross-disciplinary activities with the NMR Facility. The role requires the role holder to be responsible for the operation and technical support of the facility, including user training, organisation and supply of cryogenic liquids (Liquid Nitrogen and Helium), regular maintenance and service of the instruments within the facility. The role holder is also expected to provide and undertake experimental work and data analysis support for departments within the university and external stakeholders

### Main Duties/Responsibilities:

- ▶ Oversee the daily operation of the University's NMR spectrometers.
  - The NMR facility currently houses the following equipment: Bruker 500 MHz with High Resolution Liquid State Probe, Solid State/MAS Probe and Diffusion Probe; Automated Bruker 300 MHz; Bruker 300 MHz with Low temperature experiments/Cryoporometry, Bruker 400MHz.
- ▶ To have technical responsibility for maintaining the NMR facility including problem solving, preventative maintenance and where necessary liaising with external engineers and to ensure operational continuity by sharing expertise in complex instrumentation with researchers and the technical team.
- ▶ Acting as a point of expertise on the use of NMR, and advise staff, students and visitors on matters of technique and use of apparatus. This will include managing multi-user access to the NMR facility and provide comprehensive training to all users in the safe and responsible use of the instruments, maintaining appropriate training records.
- ▶ Ensuring the NMR facility is operating in accordance with health and safety procedures, risk COSHH and DSEAR assessments and local rules and regulations; Acting as the MRSO for the facility and colleges it supports.
- ▶ Ensuring all equipment is operational and serviced as required including:
  - Facilitating and completing cryogen fills (liquid nitrogen and helium).
  - Monitoring and recording magnet helium levels and boil off rate.
  - Providing routine preventative maintenance of cryogenic equipment (dewars) and provision of associate consumables.
  - Providing routine preventative maintenance of compressors.
- ▶ To manage multi-user access to the NMR facility including permits to work.
- ▶ Undertaking specialist NMR analysis and interpretation of data, providing technical support, expert guidance, and supervision for Facility users with all aspects NMR spectroscopy, including carrying out experiments.
- ▶ Engage with the wider NMR and technical community to support continuous monitoring and enhancement of the NMR service.

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.
- ▶ 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
<b>Education and qualifications</b>	A Bachelor's degree in Chemistry, Materials Science, or a closely related discipline.	Application form
<b>Experience</b>	<p>Experience of working in a relevant technical role either in Higher Education, Research Institute or Industry.</p> <p>Experience of maintaining laboratory operations and facilities, including the calibration and maintenance of key equipment</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>Have worked in a role handling hazardous materials and cryogenics.</p> <p>Experience of implementing Health and Safety requirements in a laboratory facility and maintaining records and responding to audits both internal and external.</p>	Application form and interview
<b>Aptitude and skills</b>	<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> <p>Able to communicate technical information to researchers and students, both orally and in writing.</p>	Application form and interview


	Essential	Method of assessment
	Knowledge and understanding of relevant regulations and procedures including Health and Safety requirements (risk assessment, safe operating procedures, COSHH).	


	Desirable	Method of assessment
<b>Education and qualifications</b>	A Master's degree in Chemistry, Materials Science, or a closely related discipline.	Application form
<b>Experience</b>	<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 in working with postgraduate 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 23.59 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](mailto:recruitment@aston.ac.uk).

## Contact information

### Enquiries about the vacancy:

**Name:** Reece Lillie

**Job Title:** Technical Manager, Engineering and Physical Science

**Email:** [r.s.lillie@aston.ac.uk](mailto:r.s.lillie@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:

Non-UK/Irish nationals will require a visa or immigration permission that allows them to work in the UK.

The most common work visas are the [Skilled Worker](#), [Global Talent](#) and [Graduate](#) immigration routes. You can find more information about these visa categories on our [web page for candidates](#). The [UKVI website](#) provides further detail about different work visas and the eligibility criteria for each.

### 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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