



OPPORTUNITY

Where change gets real.



School of Computer Science And Digital Technology

Reference: 0604-25

Salary: £38,784 to £56,535 per annum, depending on experience

Contract Type: Fixed term

Basis: Full time

Job description

Job Purpose:

This bespoke fellowship in **Artificial Intelligence Research and Application** is part of the Aston 2030 strategy and in particular the university's commitment to excellent Artificial Intelligence research. Through mentoring and training, this Fellowship will provide the successful candidate with the opportunity to excel as a researcher, develop innovative research projects, foster collaboration within the Aston Centre for Artificial Intelligence Research and Application (ACAIRA), across the university and external institutions. Completion of the Fellowship will ensure that the participant has the skills and experience required to pursue a successful academic career.

The Aston Centre for Artificial Intelligence Research and Application, located in the School of Computer Science and Digital Technology, has been established in October 2023, building on long-standing foundational and applied AI research at Aston. The Centre is creating impactful AI solutions to pressing social, health and environmental challenges, and educating the next generation of AI leaders. The research of the Centre is organised in five research themes: AI in Health, Sustainability and Transport, Trust and Ethics, Autonomous Robots and Agents, Evolutionary and Adaptive Intelligence. The fellow will have the opportunity to work on interdisciplinary projects, across two or three of these themes.

The position is offered at either Grade 8 or grade 9, depending on experience and track record. This is an exciting opportunity to build your research profile in AI as part of the internationally respected team within ACAIRA.

The post is available for a fixed term of 3 years from 1 January 2026.

The successful fellow will be recruited on the basis of:

- excellence as appropriate to supporting Aston and ACAIRA's aim to be at the forefront of research in AI;
- evidence-based ability to contribute to existing areas of excellence within ACAIRA;
- potential to deliver research of world-leading quality consistent with Aston's goals for REF2029.

The Fellow will hold a PhD in an AI-related subject and have a strong research track record and reputation relative to their career stage and have the drive to represent their research at national and international levels. A higher-level appointment is also available for candidates with the appropriate qualifications, achievements and experience.

The Fellow will work closely with members of ACAIRA and is expected to contribute to, develop and enhance the Centre's research, scholarship and teaching activities. In addition, the post holder will have the opportunity to develop external links with regional UK and international bodies, such as government agencies, professional bodies, business and industry. The Fellow will be expected to become an active member of ACAIRA and participate in activities such as internal and external events, research seminars, summer school organization, conference organization, grant proposal preparation. The Fellow will have the opportunity to carry out teaching duties, up to 0.4FTE in support of their career development into an academic position.

In line with ACAIRA's commitment to responsible AI development, the Fellow will research and systematically integrate relevant best practice throughout their work.

Main Duties/Responsibilities:

Grade 8 (Early Career)

Research

- Develop research objectives, projects and proposals in line with ACAIRA's priorities (i.e. aligned with a subset of the five research themes).
- Develop and maintain the code base underpinning their research.
- Write up and publish research in high quality, peer-reviewed journals.
- Present research at prestigious national and international conferences.
- Participate in relevant external academic and professional networks.
- Supervise postgraduate students at MSc and PhD level, and support a research-active student environment.
- Collaborate with colleagues on research initiatives within ACAIRA and beyond.
- Research and systematically integrate throughout their work best practice relevant to responsible AI development.

Teaching (up to 0.4 FTE)

- Deliver teaching to students at various levels, maintaining excellent student feedback through reflective practice.
- Assess student learning.
- Supervise undergraduate and postgraduate student projects.
- Support students in developing research skills.

External Engagement

- Represent the Centre in activities that raise its profile locally, nationally and internationally.
- Build links with relevant professional and external bodies.

Citizenship and Additional responsibilities

- Demonstrate leadership values in daily conduct.
- Take on appropriate roles for ACAIRA's management.
- Engage in a programme of professional development and relevant training tailored to the Fellowship.
- Promote wellbeing, fairness, equality, diversity and sustainability in line with University values.

Grade 9 –includes all duties listed under Grade 8, plus:

Research Leadership

- Provide strategic leadership in shaping research directions within the Centre.
- Lead the development of research funding applications.
- Secure external income aligned with the priorities of ACAIRA.
- Establish and maintain a strong national and international research reputation.

Mentorship and Academic Contribution

- Act as mentor for early career researchers.
- Contribute to the development and innovation of research themes within the Centre.
- Take a leading role in fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and research culture.

Strategic External Engagement

- Represent Aston and ACAIRA in academic, professional or policy networks.
- Strengthen the Centre's external partnerships and strategic engagement activities.

Person specification

	Essential Grade 8	Essential Grade 9	Method of assessment
Education and qualifications	➤ A good first degree in a relevant subject ➤ PhD in an AI-related subject (or near to completion)	➤ A good first degree in a relevant subject ➤ PhD in an AI-related subject	Application form
Experience	➤ Experience of contributing to the generation of new ideas, tools, software, methodologies or knowledge, for example, through initiating and conducting research up to doctoral level, publishing research, presenting research findings ➤ Experience of making a positive contribution to effective working relationships, and where appropriate the development of others ➤ Experience of contributing to the wider research and innovation community	➤ Experience of generating new ideas, tools, software, methodologies or knowledge and innovation at postdoctoral level, including publishing and presenting research findings ➤ Demonstrated leadership in collaborative working and supporting others' development ➤ Active contribution to the wider research and innovation community, including national or international engagement	Application form, interview, presentation
Aptitude and skills	➤ Ability to code own software solutions and conduct extensive computational experiments ➤ Ability to present data in both a clear and concise manner that is visually appealing ➤ Ability to prepare written communications to a high standard	All Grade 8 skills plus: ➤ Evidence of national and international research collaboration ➤ Proven ability to influence research impact beyond academia	Application form, interview, presentation

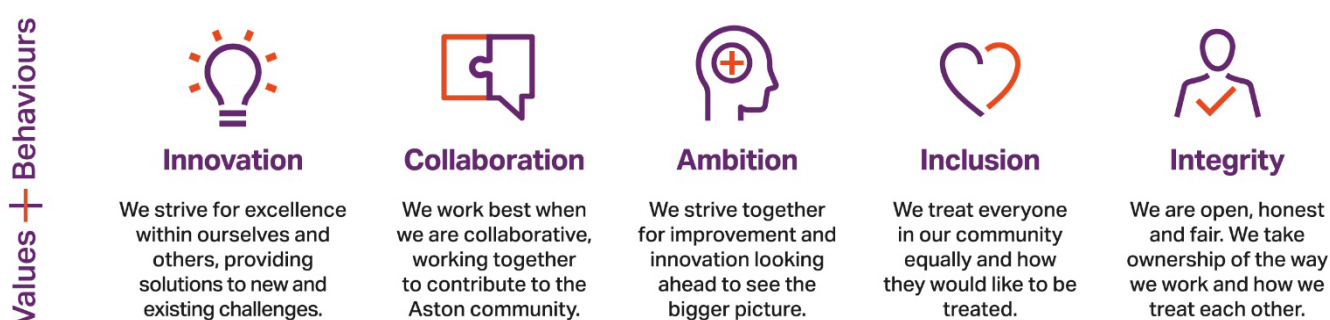
	Essential Grade 8	Essential Grade 9	Method of assessment
	➤ Ability to maintain an ongoing research programme in an area aligned to ACAIRA's research themes, and to publish high quality publications ➤ Ability to contribute to broader research and innovation, towards wider societal benefit ➤ Ability to teach Artificial Intelligence or Computer Science subjects relevant to the undergraduate and postgraduate taught provision of the school of Computer science and Digital Technology ➤ Ability to harness IT as a research and teaching tool ➤ Willingness to undertake further training as appropriate and to adopt new procedures as and when required ➤ Willingness and ability to research and systematically integrate throughout their work best practice relevant to responsible AI development		

	Desirable Grade 9	Method of assessment
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Experience	➤ Experience of research event or summer school organisation	Application form and interview
Aptitude and Skills	➤ Ability to secure research funds from external sources	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 23.59 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.

Contact information

Enquiries about the vacancy:

Name: Prof. Anikó Ekárt

Job Title: Professor of Artificial Intelligence

Email: a.ekart@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:

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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