

Research and Innovation Manager



OPPORTUNITY

Where change
gets real.



Reference: 1074-25

Grade: Grade 07

Salary: £33951, per annum, depending on experience

Contract Type: Fixed Term (24 Months)

Basis: Full Time

Job description

Job Purpose

To coordinate and deliver the effective management of the BioSolar Nexus Research Project, ensuring successful integration of research, technical development, field deployment, and stakeholder engagement across the consortium. The postholder will oversee project delivery, compliance, and reporting, supporting the Principal Investigator in coordinating partners, managing budgets and risks, and ensuring alignment with Innovate UK requirements.

The role will also drive knowledge exchange, research exploitation, and the translation of project outcomes into deployable, market-ready innovations for decentralised, off-grid energy solutions. This position requires a proactive, research-literate project professional with the ability to navigate complex multi-partner collaborations and support the project's pathway from laboratory development to field demonstration and impact delivery.

Main Duties/Responsibilities

- ▶ Coordinate the planning, delivery, and monitoring of project milestones, budgets, and risk registers in accordance with Innovate UK and Aston University guidelines.
- ▶ Liaise regularly with UK and Ukrainian consortium partners to ensure alignment of technical work packages, deliverables, and reporting schedules.
- ▶ Support the Principal Investigator in managing financial, contractual, and governance obligations, including quarterly Steering Board meetings and Innovate UK submissions.
- ▶ Oversee project documentation, procurement, subcontracting, and logistics associated with the fabrication, testing, and field deployment of BioSolar Nexus demonstrator units.
- ▶ Facilitate stakeholder and community engagement activities, including workshops, training events, and policy dialogues in collaboration with UK and international project partners.
- ▶ Coordinate project dissemination, including the preparation of technical summaries, policy briefs, presentations, and impact case studies.
- ▶ Support intellectual property (IP) management, ensuring appropriate record-keeping, liaison with Aston's IP and legal teams, and integration of commercialisation and exploitation strategies.
- ▶ Manage knowledge exchange, monitoring, and communication workflows, ensuring effective data management and reporting across all partners.
- ▶ Develop and maintain strong relationships with funders, industry, government, and community stakeholders to enhance project visibility and socio-economic impact.
- ▶ Contribute to continuous improvement of research-project management, innovation support, and governance practices within the Energy and Bioproducts Research Institute (EBRI).

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, while contributing to Aston University's environmental sustainability objectives and responsible research practices.

Person specification

	Essential	Method of assessment
Education and qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Master's degree (or equivalent qualification) in Engineering and Science, or a closely related discipline. • Evidence of continuous professional development in project or innovation management. 	Application form and interview
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proven experience in managing research or innovation projects within a university, R&D, or industrial environment. • Demonstrated experience working with multi-partner or international consortia, particularly in research, technology development, or international collaboration contexts. • Experience of budget management, financial reporting, and risk monitoring in line with funder or institutional requirements. • Proven ability to coordinate and deliver complex technical projects, integrating research, engineering, and stakeholder engagement activities. • Experience of engaging with industry or governmental partners to support technology deployment or commercialisation. 	Application form and interview
Aptitude and skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent organisational, planning, and time-management skills with the ability to manage multiple workstreams simultaneously. • Strong communication and interpersonal skills, with the ability to liaise effectively with academic, industrial, and community stakeholders in the UK and internationally. • High level of initiative and independence, with strong analytical and problem-solving ability. • Competence in project monitoring and documentation using common digital tools (e.g., MS Project, Excel, or equivalent). 	Application form and interview

	Desirable	Method of assessment
Education and qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional certification or training in project management (e.g., PRINCE2, APM PMQ, PMP, or equivalent). Membership of a recognised professional body (e.g., APM, IMechE, IET, IChemE). 	Application form
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experience working on Innovate UK, UKRI, or internationally funded research and innovation projects. Familiarity with Official Development Assistance (ODA) or projects operating in humanitarian, post-conflict, or low-resource settings. Demonstrated experience in intellectual property (IP) management, patent coordination, or technology commercialisation. Experience in coordinating procurement, subcontracting, and regulatory compliance for research or engineering projects. Prior involvement in stakeholder engagement, dissemination, or policy-related activities (e.g., workshops, training, or impact reporting). Experience with renewable energy, sustainable development, or decentralised energy systems (e.g., bioenergy, solar, CHP, or energy storage). 	Application form and interview
Aptitude and Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to bridge technical research and practical implementation, translating complex outputs into clear deliverables. Strong understanding of research governance, risk management, and innovation reporting frameworks. Competence in producing high-quality written documentation, such as funding proposals, reports, and presentations for diverse audiences. 	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.

Contact information

Enquiries about the vacancy:

Name: Dr Muhammad Imran
Job Title: Reader in Energy Systems
Email: m.imran12@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 Work90-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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