

Postdoctoral Research Associate (Maternity Cover)



Reference: 0078-26

Grade: 8

Salary: £38,784 to £50,253, per annum, depending on experience

Contract Type: Fixed term (Until 15/01/2027)

Basis: Full time

Job description

Job Purpose:

The successful candidate will join an exciting grant called Maximising Public Support for Health Policies (MPSHP) funded by UKRI. This research programme seeks to investigate how the public form and change their attitudes towards health policies.

Public support for policies is defined as the public's attitude towards the implementation of a particular policy (i.e., are they for or against its implementation?). This project therefore sits within a broad multidisciplinary space which includes (but not limited to) social psychology (belief and attitude change), political psychology (political attitudes), and public health (supporting the implementation of public health policies). The ideal candidate will have experience and/or an interest in working within these spaces.

The primary project that the candidate will be working on is a Delphi Study and therefore experience or knowledge of this approach would be a strength. Candidates with qualitative, quantitative, or mixed methods experience are all welcome to apply. There will be other projects that the successful candidate can get involved in too, mostly involving online survey experiments.

The candidates will join a research group headed by the grant's Principal Investigator Dr James Reynolds, with scientific collaborators worldwide, and with key contacts in international public health bodies and in governments. Dr Reynolds is also the Director of the World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre, and the work that you produce here may directly inform their work. This is a great opportunity for talented early career researchers looking to join a stimulating and welcoming team, with great opportunities for skill progression and collaboration.

This is a maternity leave cover and is therefore a shorter post, approximately 8.5 months. Due to the shorter nature, it is possible for hybrid/remote working if needed.

Main Duties/Responsibilities

- ▶ Conduct research investigating how people change their attitudes towards health policies.
- ▶ Write high-quality papers for publications in the peer-reviewed literature.
- ▶ Attend and contribute to team meetings.
- ▶ To support other team members of the research group.
- ▶ To develop research objectives, projects and proposals for personal/joint research programmes consistent with the priorities and strategy of the School, with the assistance of a mentor if required.
- ▶ To write up and publish the outcomes of research in good quality publications.
- ▶ To present papers, posters, reports at seminars, conferences etc.
- ▶ To collaborate in research initiatives with colleagues in and beyond the School as appropriate.
- ▶ Where appropriate to School/University strategy and subject discipline, to participate in and develop external networks.
- ▶ To supervise and manage research projects
- ▶ To coach junior colleagues in research

Teaching

- ▶ To contribute to the assessment of student knowledge and the supervision of student projects.
- ▶ To assist in the development of student research skills.

External engagement

- ▶ To represent the interests of the subject and School via activities to raise the regional, national and international profile, particularly with the professions, schools and businesses.

- ▶ To forge relationships with the professional bodies and other bodies representing relevant professional interests.

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.

The above list of responsibilities may not be exhaustive, and the post holder will be required to undertake such tasks and responsibilities as may reasonably be expected within the scope and grading of the post.

Person specification

	Essential	Method of assessment
Education and qualifications	<p>Undergraduate degree in Psychology or a related discipline (2:1 or above).</p> <p>PhD awarded in Psychology or related discipline.</p>	Application form and interview
Experience	<p>Experience with qualitative or quantitative methods.</p> <p>Scientific publications commensurate with career stage.</p>	Application form and interview
Aptitude and skills	<p>Excellent writing skills.</p> <p>Excellent verbal communication skills.</p> <p>Excellent team working skills (including multidisciplinary teams).</p> <p>Excellent organisation skills, with the ability to manage multiple responsibilities and meet deadlines.</p>	Application form and interview

	Desirable	Method of assessment
Education and qualifications	An MSc in Psychology or a related discipline.	Application form
Experience	<p>Experience with both qualitative and quantitative methods.</p> <p>Experience conducting a Delphi Study.</p> <p>Experience conducting online surveys or online survey experiments.</p> <p>Experience/knowledge of open science principles.</p> <p>Knowledge or experience of the scientific literature on belief and attitude change.</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.

Contact information

Enquiries about the vacancy:

Name: Dr James Reynolds

Job Title: Lecturer in Psychology

Email: j.reynolds4@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 are applying for is listed as an exception under the act.

Eligibility to work in the UK: 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**.

Please see UKVI guidance for further information on eligibility, knowledge of English requirements and approved test centres <https://www.gov.uk/skilled-worker-visa> You can also find further information on our candidate immigration [web 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 our candidate immigration [web page](#) for further details.

Before you start and Right to Work

Right to Work Check

All employees must complete a Right to Work check before they commence work at Aston. HR will contact you during the onboarding process to arrange your check.

Cost of Living - Estate and Letting Agents

There are numerous Estate and Letting Agents that can help you find suitable accommodation. Useful websites for support and guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-to-rent/how-to-rent-the-checklist-for-renting-in-england> and <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/housing/>

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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