



OPPORTUNITY

Where change
gets real.



Reference: 0345-26

Grade: 8

Salary: £38,784 to £46,049, per annum, depending on experience

Contract Type: Fixed term (until 31/01/2027)

Basis: Full time

Job description

Job Purpose:

We have shown that 22% of 3-5-year-old UK children have 'avid eating behaviour' which puts them at greater risk of obesity and later eating disorder symptoms. Parents urgently need support to provide these children with the best protection possible from developing obesity and eating disorders, but they find this very hard to access. With parents and other key stakeholders, we have co-created guidelines for a digital resource to support parents of children with avid eating with their food parenting. Now, we need to produce the materials and a web app that parents can easily access and use on a large scale, which will be hosted on the Child Feeding Guide (CFG).

The job holder will work with families and our non-academic partner organisations to turn our co-created guidelines, which are clearly linked to the substantial evidence we have published, into useable intervention materials to support parents who struggle to manage their child's avid eating behaviour. You will translate intervention guidelines, which have been developed in alignment with the COM-B model, into prototype intervention materials. You will recruit a group of around 10 parents of young children with avid eating and working with them and our non-academic partners to agree on factors that will make the intervention materials useable and helpful. You will work with this group to decide on evaluation measures, to ensure they are acceptable to parents. You will coordinate with and assist digital designers to create the web-app content and embed it into the Child Feeding Guide, ensuring that use and efficacy measures can be collated from website access and user feedback.

Main Duties/Responsibilities

Research

- ▶ To collate our current intervention guidelines including behavioural diagnosis and material requirements and generate prototype intervention materials
- ▶ To recruit contributors to the co-creation process (parents of children with avid eating behaviour) and regularly communicate with them to keep them informed of project progress throughout the project.
- ▶ To liaise with and report progress to our non-academic partners and to integrate them into co-creation and decision-making processes throughout the project.
- ▶ To orchestrate, supervise and run co-design sessions, in person, remotely, in groups and with individuals as appropriate to contributor needs.
- ▶ To design intervention resources with families and partners
- ▶ To receive feedback from our contributors and execute changes to materials
- ▶ To produce a final version of resources with digital designers
- ▶ To oversee the embedding of these resources into the Child Feeding Guide
- ▶ To write up and publish the outcomes of this research in a good quality publication.
- ▶ To present papers, posters, reports at seminars, conferences etc.

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
Education and qualifications	<p>A good first degree in Psychology, Nutrition, Dietetics or a closely related topic.</p> <p>A PhD in a relevant subject (or near to completion)</p>	Application form and interview
Experience	<p>Experience of working with non-academic stakeholders</p> <p>Experience of co-design of research and/or interventions.</p> <p>Experience of initiating and conducting research up to doctoral level</p> <p>Experience of writing up/contributing to the write up of research for high quality publications.</p> <p>Experience of producing papers, posters, reports presenting at seminars, conferences etc.</p> <p>Experience of positive collaboration within and outside of candidate's immediate research team.</p>	Application form and interview.
Aptitude and skills	<p>Awareness of behaviour change techniques, the COM-B model and intervention design</p> <p>Ability to communicate with non-academic stakeholders clearly and sensitively.</p> <p>Ability to present data in both a clear and concise manner that is visually appealing.</p> <p>Ability to prepare written communications to a high standard.</p> <p>Ability to develop and maintain a research programme and to publish in high quality publications.</p> <p>Ability to harness IT as a research tool.</p>	Application form and interview.

	Essential	Method of assessment
	A willingness to undertake further training as appropriate and to adopt new procedures as and when required.	

	Desirable	Method of assessment
Education and qualifications	Background in health psychology.	Application form
Experience	Working with children, families or vulnerable groups. Experience of web design. Experience of supervising other personnel.	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	Collaboration	Ambition	Inclusion	Integrity
	We strive for excellence within ourselves and others, providing solutions to new and existing challenges.	We work best when we are collaborative, working together to contribute to the Aston community.	We strive together for improvement and innovation looking ahead to see the bigger picture.	We treat everyone in our community equally and how they would like to be treated.	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: Professor Jackie Blissett

Job Title: Professor of Childhood Eating Behaviour

Email: j.blissett1@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: 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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