



OPPORTUNITY

Where change
gets real.



Reference: Postdoctoral Research Associate

Grade: 0424-25

Salary: £41,064 to £46,049 depending on experience

Contract Type: Fixed term (4 years)

Basis: Full-time

Job description

Job Purpose:

We are seeking a skilled Postdoctoral Research Associate to join a recently awarded Leverhulme Trust Research Project Grant investigating the fundamental rules that govern how membrane proteins fold and assemble during biogenesis.

The position is embedded within the collaborative research environment of the [Aston Institute for Membrane Excellence](#) (AIME). AIME is a first-of-its-kind institute that synergistically combines world-leading expertise in membrane biology and novel polymer chemistries. No other institute in the global research and innovation landscape has the platform, potential or promise for major breakthroughs that AIME heralds.

In this role, you will purify membrane proteins and ribosome–nascent chain complexes and characterise them using a combination of biochemical, lipidomic, proteomic, and structural biology approaches. The successful candidate will play a key role in applying innovative copolymer-based technologies to generate human ER-derived complexes, enabling detailed investigation of protein-lipid and protein-protein interactions that drive membrane protein biogenesis.

The research integrates expertise from molecular biology, cell biology, and biochemistry, and uses advanced biochemical tools and mass spectrometry-based analyses, alongside collaborative studies applying integrated structural biology techniques.

We are seeking an enthusiastic researcher with a strong background in membrane biology, structural biology, or protein and lipid biochemistry, and an interest in applying multidisciplinary approaches to understand membrane protein folding. An enthusiasm for learning new techniques is essential, and full training will be provided.

The post is available as a 4-year fixed-term position, commencing 1 October 2026.

Main Duties/Responsibilities

- ▶ Conduct research to investigate the mechanisms of membrane protein biogenesis.
- ▶ Purify membrane proteins and ribosome–nascent chain complexes employing copolymer technologies and analyse them using biochemical approaches.
- ▶ Perform proteomics and lipidomics experiments to study protein-lipid and protein-protein interactions.
- ▶ Apply integrated structural approaches in collaboration to understand mechanisms of biogenesis
- ▶ Work collaboratively with researchers across AIME and external partners for structural interrogation.
- ▶ Develop research objectives, projects and proposals for research programmes consistent with the priorities and strategy of the school.
- ▶ Write up and publish the outcomes of research in good quality publications.
- ▶ Present papers, posters, reports at seminars, conferences etc.
- ▶ Collaborate in research initiatives with colleagues as appropriate, including external research collaborations.
- ▶ Where appropriate to School/University strategy and subject discipline, to participate in and develop external networks.
- ▶ Supervise PhD students in day-to-day activities

Teaching

- ▶ To assist in the supervision of undergraduate student projects.
- ▶ To help supervise MRes postgraduate students

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

	Desirable	Method of assessment
Education and qualifications	A PhD in biochemistry/biosciences/structural biology (or a closely related subject). Submission of a doctoral thesis prior to commencing in the role, pending PhD qualification, is permissible.	Application form
Experience	Experience of initiating and conducting research up to doctoral level in the area(s) of protein biochemistry and/or membrane proteins and lipids, and/or integrated structural biology approaches. Experience of writing up/contributing to the write up of research for high quality publications. Experience of producing papers, posters, reports presenting at seminars, conferences etc.	Application form and interview

	Desirable	Method of assessment
	<p>Experience of positive collaboration within and outside of candidate's immediate research team.</p> <p>Supervising other personnel involved in the project.</p> <p>The ideal candidate will have experience of working with both polymers and membrane proteins and application of structural biology techniques. However, a willingness to learn unfamiliar techniques is essential.</p>	
Aptitude and Skills	<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 and teaching tool.</p> <p>A willingness to undertake further training as appropriate and to adopt new procedures as and when required</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 Grant Pellowe
Job Title: Research Fellow
Email: g.pellowe@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 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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