



# Research Associate in Engineering



**OPPORTUNITY**

Where change  
gets real.



**Reference: 0435-26**

**Grade: 08**

**Salary: £38,784 to £43,482 per annum, depending on experience**

**Contract Type: Fixed Term**

**Basis: Full Time**

## Job description

### Job Purpose:

The researcher will work on an EPSRC-funded research project to develop new sustainable gel electrolyte materials for use in energy storage materials using advanced polymer synthesis and self-assembly strategies. The researcher will conduct laboratory-based experimental work and undertake advanced characterisation including electron microscopy, rheology and X-ray scattering.

The researcher will regularly meet and liaise with colleagues to ensure appropriate input, data sharing, and effective dissemination of results. In addition, the researcher will work with colleagues in the Aston Institute for Membrane Excellence and the School of Engineering and Innovation to share knowledge, skills and results via different means of communication. The Aston Early Career Researcher Forum will provide a supportive environment for early career researchers and offer mentoring/shadowing and other development opportunities to support staff in transitioning to new roles.

### Main Duties/Responsibilities

#### Research

- ▶ Conduct research on polymer synthesis and self-assembly while maintaining detailed and accurate records of work.
- ▶ Conduct laboratory experiments with a selection of monomers and ionic liquids.
- ▶ Carry out detailed analysis of gel electrolyte materials using applicable analytical techniques, including rheology and impedance spectroscopy.
- ▶ Write up and publish the outcomes of research in good quality publications.
- ▶ Present papers, posters, reports at seminars, conferences etc.
- ▶ Coach junior colleagues in research.

#### Citizenship

- ▶ Demonstrate the University's leadership values through own actions and behaviour.
- ▶ 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
<b>Education and qualifications</b>	A PhD in Chemistry (or a closely related subject). Submission of a doctoral thesis prior to commencing in the role, pending PhD qualification, is permissible.	Application form and interview
<b>Experience</b>	<p>Experience of initiating and conducting research up to doctoral level.</p> <p>Significant experience of laboratory-based research in polymer synthesis and self-assembly.</p> <p>Experience of writing up/contributing to the write up of research for high quality publications.</p> <p>Supervising other personnel involved in research projects.</p>	Application form and interview
<b>Aptitude and skills</b>	<p>Ability to present data in both a clear and concise manner that is visually appealing to a wide variety of different (technical and non-technical) audiences.</p> <p>Ability to prepare written communications to a high standard.</p> <p>A willingness to undertake further training as appropriate and to adopt new procedures as and when required.</p>	Application form and interview

	Desirable	Method of assessment
<b>Experience</b>	Experience of generating and characterising gel materials, including rheology, X-ray scattering and impedance spectroscopy.	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**

				
<b>Innovation</b>	<b>Collaboration</b>	<b>Ambition</b>	<b>Inclusion</b>	<b>Integrity</b>
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](mailto:recruitment@aston.ac.uk).

## Contact information

### Enquiries about the vacancy:

Name: Dr Matt Derry

Job Title: Reader

Email: [m.derry@aston.ac.uk](mailto:m.derry@aston.ac.uk)

### Enquiries about the application process, shortlisting or interviews:

Recruitment Team via [recruitment@aston.ac.uk](mailto: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.

### **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 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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