



OPPORTUNITY

Where change
gets real.



Reference: 0503-26

Grade: Band 1

Salary: £67,280 to £104,712, per annum, depending on experience

Contract Type: Full Time

Basis: Permanent

Job description

Job Purpose: To provide academic leadership in the field of Law and AI, the postholder will contribute strategically to Aston's rapidly growing strengths in digital transformation, including:

- ▶ The Centre of Excellence for Enterprise AI, a major partnership between Aston University and Capgemini that brings together world-class AI research and industry leadership;
- ▶ High-profile collaborations with the legal sector, including a Knowledge Transfer Partnership with Harper James to develop an AI-enabled legal services platform using generative AI;
- ▶ Aston's broader ecosystem of innovation through the Sir Peter Rigby Digital Futures Institute, the Centre for Artificial Intelligence Research and Application, and Aston's sector-leading record in KTP delivery.

Main Duties/Responsibilities

Research & Impact

- ▶ Produce world-leading research outputs in law and technology, AI governance and digital regulation.
- ▶ Lead interdisciplinary and industry-facing research programmes in collaboration with computer science, business, policy and external partners.
- ▶ Secure significant external funding (UKRI, Horizon Europe, Innovate UK, industry, KTPs).
- ▶ Supervise doctoral researchers working in digital and AI-related legal fields.
- ▶ Contribute to policy engagement and impact activities in areas such as responsible AI, digital justice, privacy, and automated decision-making.

Teaching & Learning

- ▶ Lead curriculum development for modules on AI and Law, Digital Law, Cyber Law, Legal Innovation, Data Protection, and emerging technology regulation as appropriate.
- ▶ Deliver high-quality teaching at UG, PG and doctoral levels, aligned with Aston's blended and applied learning model.
- ▶ Support Aston's digital education agenda and the integration of technological change into the LLB and LLM programmes.

Leadership & Engagement

- ▶ Provide academic leadership within the Law School and contribute to School research strategy.
- ▶ Strengthen Aston's partnerships with industry, law firms, and regulators.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ PhD or equivalent in law or a cognate discipline. 	Application form .
Experience	<p>You will have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Evidence of academic leadership. ▶ Internationally recognised research profile in Law & AI or related fields, evidenced by publications in high quality national and international outputs, conferences and related dissemination activities. ▶ Evidence of securing external funding, ideally including interdisciplinary or industry-partnered grants. ▶ Experience of supervising PhD students to completion. 	Application form and interview.

	Essential	Method of assessment
Aptitude and skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Ability to contribute to Aston's strategic research partnerships, including the Centre of Excellence for Enterprise AI and KTP collaborations in legal AI. 	Application form and interview.

	Desirable	Method of assessment
Education and qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Advance HE fellowship at Senior Fellowship level 	Application form.
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Demonstrable industry, policy or professional engagement in the law and innovation, technology or legal tech sectors. ▶ Experience developing or delivering teaching broadly in the field of law, technology, digital and innovation. 	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 Kristie Thomas
Job Title: Head of Aston Law School
Email: k.thomas5@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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