



OPPORTUNITY

Where change
gets real.



Reference: 0559-26

Grade: 10

Salary: £58,225 to £67,468 per annum, depending on experience

Contract Type: Permanent

Basis: Full time

Job description

Job Purpose:

This is an exciting opportunity for an experienced legal practitioner with a passion for education and social justice to join Aston Law School as a Senior Fellow in Legal Practice. The postholder will play a central role in supporting and developing the Aston Law Clinic, contribute to the delivery of SQE-aligned teaching on the Masters in Law and Legal Practice (SQE1 and SQE2 Preparation) LLM, and enhance the development of professional legal skills across Aston's law programmes more broadly.

The Senior Fellow in Legal Practice will bring substantial experience from legal practice and apply this to teaching, supervision, clinical legal education, and the design and delivery of skills-focused content. The role is ideal for a practitioner who wishes to help shape the next generation of lawyers through high-quality legal education and client-facing experiential learning.

Main Duties/Responsibilities

Teaching and Supervision

- ▶ Provide operational supervision and support to students working on client matters within Aston Law Clinic, including reviewing written advice where appropriate.
- ▶ Ensure that clinic operations are delivered in line with relevant professional standards, ethical requirements, confidentiality provisions and regulatory expectations.
- ▶ Assist with the day-to-day running of the Clinic, including triaging enquiries, liaising with clients, supporting appointment scheduling, and ensuring case progression.
- ▶ Contribute to the ongoing development of Clinical Legal Education within the Law School, including reflective activities, simulation work and structured skills development.
- ▶ Contribute to relevant LLM/SQE preparation modules on the LLM and to skills-based teaching on the LLB, including mooting, drafting, negotiation and client interviewing.
- ▶ Develop innovative teaching materials aligned to professional standards and practice competencies.

Scholarship

- ▶ Develop a scholarship profile that informs professional skills teaching and clinical legal education, in line with Aston's expectations for pedagogical scholarship.
- ▶ Stay current with changes in legal practice, SQE developments, regulatory frameworks, and the use of technology in legal services.

External Engagement

- ▶ Build and maintain relationships with key stakeholders such as local and regional law firms, community partners and advice organisations, regulators and professional bodies, pro bono and legal education networks
- ▶ Promote the work of Aston Law Clinic and contribute to raising its profile.
- ▶ Represent Aston Law School at events relating to clinical legal education, legal practice skills and access to justice.

- ▶ To engage with prospective clients and Aston Law Clinic client-facing advice and activities
- ▶ Maintain a current practising certificate and ensure all activity is compliant with SRA or Bar regulatory obligations.

Citizenship

- ▶ To take a fair share of specific department or School roles and functions as may be reasonably required with a particular focus on areas relevant to legal practice and professional education.
- ▶ 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A good first degree in Law. • Qualified solicitor or barrister entitled to practise in England and Wales. • Current practising certificate (SRA/Bar Standards Board). 	Application form.
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant experience in legal practice with exposure to client-facing work. • Experience supervising trainees, junior lawyers or law students. • Experience advising clients, drafting legal documents, and adhering to regulatory and ethical duties. • Experience or clear aptitude for teaching, mentoring or training in a professional context. 	Application form and interview.
Aptitude and skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You will have: • Ability to teach and assess professional skills aligned with SQE. • Excellent interpersonal skills, with ability to communicate effectively with clients, students and colleagues. • Strong organisational skills and ability to manage deadlines in a practice-oriented environment. • Commitment to equality, diversity, inclusion and widening access to the legal profession. 	Application form and interview.

	Essential	Method of assessment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to produce and maintain accurate records in line with regulatory standards. 	

	Desirable	Method of assessment
Education and qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fellowship of Advance HE (or willingness to work towards it). Membership of relevant professional bodies (e.g. Association of Law Teachers, clinical legal education networks). 	Application form.
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experience working in a University Law Clinic or comparable pro bono environment. Experience teaching or supporting SQE preparation. Experience developing pro bono partnerships or community legal projects. Experience in areas complementary to Aston Law Clinic's current focus (commercial, employment, intellectual property). 	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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