



OPPORTUNITY

Where change
gets real.



Reference: 0177-26

Grade: 8 to 9 depending on experience

Salary: £38,784 to £47,389, per annum, depending on experience

Contract Type: Fixed term (36 months)

Basis: Full time

Job description

Job Purpose:

Aston University is seeking a highly skilled, collaborative, and motivated Mass Spectrometry Scientist to support and advance the operations of our state-of-the-art Mass Spectrometry Laboratory. The Aston University mass spectrometry facility conducts world-class research across multiple analytical disciplines, with a strong focus on both lipidomics and proteomics, employing targeted and untargeted approaches to address complex biological and biomedical questions.

The successful candidate will bring hands-on experience in sample preparation for advanced mass spectrometry analyses. More experienced candidates will demonstrate proficiency with either one or more instruments from our portfolio, including high resolution Orbitrap™ Ascend (ThermoFisher Scientific) and TWIMSTM (Waters) platforms, and low resolution QqQ (e.g. Sciex, Waters), alongside a background in experimental design, workflow optimisation, and method development in qualitative and quantitative mass spectrometry.

In addition to providing scientific and technical expertise, the post-holder will play an important role in supporting the efficient and sustainable operation of the laboratory, including usage reporting, and the coordination of access for both internal researchers and external collaborators or industry partners. The role offers the opportunity for advanced training and possibility to contribute to a dynamic, interdisciplinary research environment and to shape the strategic development of cutting-edge mass spectrometry capabilities at Aston University.

Main Duties/Responsibilities

Laboratory Leadership and Operations

- ▶ Lead the day-to-day management of the mass spectrometry laboratory, ensuring efficient, safe, and high-quality operations that support a diverse portfolio of research projects. Oversee and perform routine maintenance, calibration, and troubleshooting of mass spectrometry instruments, including Thermo Orbitrap Ascend, Waters SELECT SERIES Cyclic IMS and 5500 Sciex platforms, ensuring optimal performance, uptime, and data integrity. Less experienced post-holders will receive support to develop their expertise **(grade 8/9)**.
- ▶ Liaise proactively with instrument vendors (e.g., Thermo Fisher, Waters, Sciex) to coordinate technical support, maintenance contracts, software and hardware upgrades, and warranty or servicing requirements **(grade 8)**.
- ▶ Maintain accurate electronic records and logs of maintenance, calibration, and performance metrics, ensuring full traceability and compliance with institutional and regulatory standards **(grade 8)**.
- ▶ Manage laboratory scheduling, reagent and consumable inventory, and procurement processes, ensuring timely availability of resources for ongoing and upcoming projects **(grade 8)**.
- ▶ Implement and enforce laboratory health, safety, and environmental protocols, and ensure compliance with institutional, ethical, and data governance policies.
- ▶ Contribute to the strategic development and sustainability of the facility, including workload planning, service pricing, and performance reporting.

Scientific Collaboration and User Support

- ▶ Provide scientific consultation to academic, clinical, and industrial partners on project design, method selection, sample requirements, and data interpretation (based on experience) **(grade 8/9)**.
- ▶ Collaborate with principal investigators, research fellows, and postgraduate students to design robust and reproducible MS-based experimental workflows **(grade 9)**.
- ▶ Based on experience, offer hands-on training and mentoring to new users on sample processing, instrument operations and data analysis **(grade 8/9)**.

- ▶ Promote an atmosphere of collaboration, continuous learning, and scientific excellence within the laboratory and across research teams.

Data Quality, Management, and Analysis

- ▶ Ensure the highest standards of data integrity, including systematic storage, backup, annotation, and documentation of all raw and processed data (**grade 8**).
- ▶ Perform comprehensive data evaluation and processing of raw LC-MS/MS datasets, applying appropriate quantitation, normalization, and validation procedures (**grade 9**).
- ▶ Support users in downstream bioinformatics and statistical analysis, guiding the use of appropriate computational pipelines and visualization tools (**grade 8/9**).
- ▶ Implement FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) data management principles to align with open science practices and institutional policies.

Research Development and Institutional Engagement

- ▶ Contribute to the preparation of grant applications, providing expert input on analytical strategies, method descriptions, and generation of preliminary or proof-of-concept data (**grade 9**).
- ▶ Co-author and support the preparation of scientific manuscripts, reports, and presentations based on facility data.
- ▶ Engage in continuous professional development to stay abreast of emerging mass spectrometry technologies, data analysis trends, and application areas.
- ▶ Represent the facility and Aston University at national and international meetings, promoting the research excellence and analytical capabilities of the School and the Institute (**grade 9**).

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	PhD (or equivalent professional experience) in Analytical Chemistry, Biochemistry, or a related life science discipline.	Application form and interview
Experience	<p>Practical experience in mass spectrometry, including sample preparation, hands-on operation, maintenance, or data interpretation.</p> <p>Experienced candidate will be expected to have experience of proteomic and/or lipidomic workflows, encompassing sample preparation, LC-MS/MS method development, data acquisition, and quantitative and qualitative analysis, including troubleshooting of MS-based workflows, ensuring reproducibility and high data quality.</p>	Application form and interview.
Aptitude and skills	<p>A record of collaboration within research or core facility environments, ideally in academic, clinical, or interdisciplinary settings.</p> <p>Proven ability to manage multiple projects, prioritize effectively, and deliver high-quality analytical outcomes to diverse stakeholders.</p> <p>Excellent problem-solving skills, attention to detail, and a proactive, service-oriented mindset that supports both research excellence and team success.</p> <p>Strong communication and interpersonal skills, with the ability to train and mentor others in a respectful, inclusive, and safety-conscious laboratory culture.</p>	Application form and interview.

	Desirable	Method of assessment
Education and qualifications	Experience with processing and analysis software, such as Proteome Discoverer, MaxQuant, Progenesis QI and Progenesis QI for proteomics, LipidSearch or equivalent, Skyline, or MassLynx.	Application form
Experience	<p>Expertise in developing and applying next-generation proteomics and mass spectrometry strategies, including DIA, DDA, label-free quantitation, TMT, PRM/SRM, targeted workflows, IMS.</p> <p>Experience in method validation, performance benchmarking, and instrument optimisation to improve sensitivity, resolution, and throughput.</p> <p>Evidence of scientific impact, such as authorship on peer-reviewed publications, contributions to funded research proposals, or participation in collaborative research consortia.</p> <p>Experience in project management and the ability to work to deadlines.</p>	Application form and interview
Aptitude and skills	<p>Commitment to continuous professional development, innovation, and engagement with the broader mass spectrometry community.</p> <p>Understand data management best practices, FAIR principles, and research data governance.</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	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: Jiteen Ahmed

Job Title: Director of Technical Services

Email: j.ahmed4@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>

Aston University
Birmingham
B4 7ET, UK.
+44 (0)121 204 3000

www.aston.ac.uk