

Professor of Sustainable Energy Systems



OPPORTUNITY

Where change gets real.



Reference: 0790-26

Band: 01

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

Contract Type: Permanent

Basis: Full Time

Job description

Job Purpose:

The purpose of this role is to provide strategic academic leadership within the Energy and Bioproducts Research Institute (EBRI), driving the development and delivery of high-quality, impactful research that supports the transition to net zero. The postholder will lead internationally recognised research, foster collaborative partnerships across academia, industry and government, and contribute to strengthening Aston University's reputation for applied, inclusive and innovation-led research.

Main Duties/Responsibilities

Research, Innovation, and Impact

- Provide strategic leadership of an internationally recognised research programme in sustainable energy, hydrogen systems, industrial decarbonisation and related fields, aligned with University priorities, national and international clean energy agendas.
- Secure substantial and sustained competitive external research funding from bodies such as UKRI, Horizon Europe, Innovate UK and industry for programmes that respond to major opportunities in areas that enhance EBRI's existing portfolio of activity.
- Publish internationally excellent research outputs and contribute visible thought leadership that enhances the University's reputation globally.
- Actively engage with strategic national research infrastructures and hubs, and develop high-value partnerships with wider academic, government, civic, and industry partners to strengthen policy influence and real-world adoption of research outcomes.
- Provide academic leadership in knowledge exchange, innovation, and commercialization including consultancy, licensing and other impact routes.

Education and Student Experience

- Provide academic leadership in the design and delivery of high-quality education in sustainable energy, hydrogen systems, industrial decarbonisation and related subjects.
- Shape a distinctive research-informed curriculum aligned with government priorities and future sustainable energy systems skills needs.
- Deliver an accessible and inclusive student experience that values and supports all learners to achieve their full potential.
- Supervise and mentor doctoral students aligned with EBRI and School research priorities and programmes.

Leadership and Influence

- Provide visible academic leadership within the Energy and Bioproducts Research Institute (EBRI), the School of Engineering and Innovation, and the wider University, contributing to research strategy, capacity building and international positioning.
- Collaborate across disciplines (e.g., engineering, materials, energy economics, systems modelling, policy) to enhance research portfolios and to support interdisciplinary teams to thrive.
- Act as a mentor and role model for colleagues and early career academics, supporting future research leaders to thrive.
- Represent the University with authority in national and international fora, advancing academic, industry and policy influence.

Citizenship, engagement and Service

- Contribute positively to collegial life and governance within the University through committee membership, peer review, and other leadership and advisory responsibilities.
- Promote and uphold the highest standards of research integrity, ethics and academic quality through exemplary practice and participation in internal and external research assessment and assurance processes.
- Engage in professional and civic activities commensurate with seniority to enhance the University's mission and values.

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	<p>A PhD (or equivalent experience) in a relevant discipline such as energy systems engineering, chemical engineering, materials science, hydrogen systems or closely related field.</p> <p>Excellent academic and research credentials with a strong international profile.</p>	Application form and interview
Experience	<p>Sustained record of internationally excellent research in Sustainable Energy, Hydrogen Systems, or Industrial Decarbonisation.</p> <p>Proven success in securing competitive external research funding, including leadership of multi-partner proposals from funders such as UKRI, Horizon Europe, Innovate UK and industry.</p>	Application form and interview

	Essential	Method of assessment
	<p>Track record of sustained, internationally excellent research outputs demonstrating originality, rigour and significant contribution to the field.</p> <p>Evidenced capacity to lead interdisciplinary research and collaborations across multi-stakeholder innovation ecosystems (academic, civic, government, industry).</p> <p>Evidence of translating research through knowledge exchange, policy engagement, industry adoption and/or commercialisation.</p> <p>Experience in the successful supervision of doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers, including completion to award and career progression.</p> <p>External esteem through contribution to advisory roles, funding panels, peer review and wider professional recognition.</p>	
<p>Aptitude and skills</p>	<p>Visionary research and strategic leadership skills.</p> <p>Ability to build and sustain high-value partnerships across sectors and disciplines.</p> <p>Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.</p> <p>Commitment to accessible and inclusive education and supervision.</p> <p>Capacity to contribute to the University's strategic goals, aligned with Aston 2030.</p>	<p>Application form and interview</p>

	Desirable	Method of assessment
Education and qualifications	CEng status or equivalent. Senior Fellowship of Advance HE.	Application form
Experience	Leadership of, or significant contribution to, major national or international research programmes, centres or hubs. Experience in hydrogen industrial collaborations, pilot demonstrations, and/or scaling projects.	Application form and interview
Aptitude and Skills	Engagement in policy development, standards bodies or advisory roles related to hydrogen, energy systems or decarbonisation that evidence sector shaping authority.	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: Claire Lucas

Job Title: Professor And Dean Of School For Engineering And Innovation

Email: c.lucas@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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