



OPPORTUNITY

Where change
gets real.



Reference: 1142-26

Grade: Grade 10 (Reader)/ Band 1 (Professor)

**Salary: £ 61,759- 67,468 (Reader)/ £67,280- £104,712 (Professor), per annum,
depending on experience**

Contract Type: Permanent

Job description

Job Purpose:

The purpose of this role is to contribute to academic leadership within Aston School of Optometry as we strive to strengthen our reputation for applied, inclusive and impactful research, whilst providing an outstanding, research-informed, student experience. The postholder will bring a track record of expertise in the posterior segment (e.g. ocular disease and/ or ophthalmic imaging), delivering high quality and impactful research in this field, and will make a key contribution to related teaching activities at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

Main Duties/Responsibilities

Research, Innovation and Impact

- Provide leadership in research in an area aligned with the posterior segment, contributing to the strategic priorities of the School.
- Secure significant and sustained competitive external research funding.
- Publish internationally excellent research outputs and contribute to initiatives that enhance the University's global reputation.
- Supervise and mentor doctoral students and early career researchers (ECRs), aligned with School research priorities.

Education and Student Experience

- Contribute to the delivery of an accessible and inclusive student experience that values and supports all learners to achieve their full potential.
- Contribute to the leadership of education in the field of posterior eye, including development, delivery and continuous review of Programmes and curricula.
- Provide academic support and advice to undergraduate and postgraduate students.

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.
- Provide pastoral care to students.
- Promote and uphold the highest standards of research integrity, ethics and academic quality through exemplary practice and participation in internal and external assessment and assurance processes.
- To take part in and, if required, manage staff seminars, cross-departmental activities and events e.g. Open Days, Sixth Form Conferences etc.
- 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	A good first degree in optometry or a related academic discipline PhD in optometry or a related academic discipline Recognised teaching qualification/ fellowship of Advance HE.	Application form and interview
Experience	An increasing trajectory of high-quality publications. A track record of significant, competitively awarded research funding. Experience in the successful supervision of doctoral students, including completion to award as principal supervisor. External esteem through contribution to advisory roles, funding panels, peer review and wider professional recognition. Experience of teaching and assessing within a degree programme to high standards and with demonstrable impact on students learning. At Professorial level: Evidenced ability to lead multi-stakeholder collaborations and interdisciplinary research. Evidence of translating research through knowledge exchange, policy engagement, industry adoption and/or commercialisation. Evidence of supporting the career progression of postdoctoral/ early career researchers.	Application form and interview
Aptitude and skills	Excellent communication and interpersonal skills. Commitment to accessible and inclusive education and supervision.	Application form and interview

	Essential	Method of assessment
	Capacity to contribute to the University's strategic goals, aligned with Aston 2030. Commitment to the highest standards of research integrity, ethics and academic quality.	

	Desirable	Method of assessment
Education and qualifications	Registration as an optometrist with the General Optical Council. Senior or principal fellowship of Advance HE (or willingness to gain this recognition)	Application form
Experience	Evidence of leadership within education Experience of making a significant contribution to the design, delivery and/ or review of General Optical Council-accredited programmes.	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.



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 Amy Sheppard
Job Title: Head of Aston School of Optometry
Email: a.sheppard@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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