

Research Assistant



OPPORTUNITY

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gets real.



Reference: R260042

Grade: 7

Salary: £33,951 per annum

Contract Type: Fixed Term (24 months)

Basis: Full Time

Job description

Job Purpose:

The postholder will contribute to the externally funded MicroMReg project, focusing on the integration of micromobility within shared urban spaces, with particular emphasis on pedestrian experience, safety, and accessibility. The postholder will play an important role in the MicroMReg project, Pedestrian-Friendly Urban Spaces through Adaptive Micromobility Regulation, funded under the 15mC Transition Pathway. The project develops a practical, evidence-based toolbox to manage pedestrian-micromobility interactions, designed for integration with planning instruments such as SUMP and to inform real-world policy and practice. The role includes contributing to and supporting research activities within the school, both independently and as part of a team, drawing on appropriate professional expertise. In addition, the postholder will engage with regional, UK and international partners (including city authorities, professional bodies, business and industry) in line with the subject discipline and the School and University strategy. The role offers an excellent opportunity to contribute to high-impact research with real-world application in urban mobility and transport policy.

Main Duties/Responsibilities

Research

- Conduct rigorous and critical literature reviews on micromobility in shared urban spaces.
- Design and deliver mixed-methods research with human participants (e.g. semi-structured interviews, field observations, and cross-national online surveys), securing ethical approval and ensuring compliance with governance requirements.
- Contribute to data collection with diverse participant groups, ensuring inclusivity and accessibility.
- Manage, curate, and analyse qualitative and quantitative datasets using appropriate and robust analytical techniques and software; ensure reproducibility, and high standards of data management.
- Support the planning and delivery of dissemination and training activities, for example webinars for pilot cities and mobility stakeholders.
- Prepare high-quality and timely project deliverables, reports, and communications; track milestones, risks, and quality assurance; maintain clear documentation.
- Collaborate effectively with consortium partners, city authorities, and industry stakeholders; represent the School and project at meetings and events in the UK and internationally, as required.
- Contribute to writing up research outcomes for publication in peer-reviewed journals and conferences; present findings at academic and stakeholder forums.
- Contribute to research proposals, project reporting, and related funding activities, as appropriate.
- Support postgraduate research activity and collaborative research tasks, as appropriate.
- Contribute to collaborative research objectives and activities aligned with project, School, and University priorities.

- Maintain high standards of research integrity, ethics, data protection (including GDPR), health and safety, EDI, and open research practices; undertake relevant training and professional development.
- Undertake any other reasonable duties commensurate with the grade as required by the line manager or Head of Department.

Teaching and learning

- To assist in the development of student research skills.

External Engagement

- To participate in and develop external networks, including engagement with leading stakeholders such as local authorities, industry, and civil society partners.
- To contribute to knowledge exchange, impact planning, and stakeholder-facing outputs that support sustainable, inclusive, and pedestrian-friendly urban environments.

Citizenship

- To carry out specific School roles and functions as may reasonably be required, appropriate to the grade and nature of the post.
- To contribute to the wider academic life of the Department and School where appropriate.
- 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

- To maintain high standards of research integrity, ethics, and data management (including GDPR and open science where appropriate).
- Engage in continuous personal and professional development in line with the demands of the role, including undertaking relevant training and development activities to develop themselves and support the development of others.
- 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 Master's degree in Transport, Urban Mobility, Behavioural Science applied to transport or mobility, or a closely related discipline with clear relevance to transport or mobility.	Application form

	Essential	Method of assessment
Experience	Designing and delivering surveys with human participants, including questionnaire development, recruitment, data collection, and preparation of ethics applications. Analysing quantitative datasets, including survey or behavioural data, using appropriate statistical techniques and software. Experience in managing, cleaning, and preparing research data for analysis. Experience of contributing to research projects and working collaboratively within multidisciplinary teams. Contributing to research outputs and dissemination, for example journal articles, conference papers, research reports, or stakeholder-facing outputs. Preparing clear, well-structured, and audience-appropriate materials for academic and non-academic audiences.	Application form and interview
Aptitude and skills	Strong analytical and problem-solving skills. Ability to contribute to the planning and delivery of research tasks, both independently and as part of a team. Strong quantitative data analysis skills, including the ability to analyse survey or behavioural data. Familiarity with at least one statistical or data analysis tool, for example SPSS, R, Python, Stata, or similar. Ability to manage, clean, and organise research data accurately. Good written and verbal communication skills, with the ability to present findings clearly to academic and non-academic audiences.	Application form and interview

	Essential	Method of assessment
	Good understanding of research ethics and data management requirements for studies involving human participants, including the ability to support the preparation of ethics applications.	

	Desirable	Method of assessment
Education and qualifications	A PhD, or near completion of a PhD, in a topic relevant to urban mobility, shared mobility, micromobility, pedestrian safety, or travel behaviour. A strong academic background demonstrating interest in transport safety, micromobility, pedestrian experience, shared urban spaces, or urban mobility. Demonstrated commitment to developing a research career in transport, mobility, or related fields. Formal training in research methods, including ethics for research involving human participants.	Application form
Experience	Experience preparing ethics applications for research involving human participants, including the development of participant information sheets, consent forms, recruitment materials, risk assessments, and data management documentation. Experience designing, delivering, and analysing surveys, including large-scale, cross-national, or comparative data collection. Experience conducting research with human participants, for example interviews, focus groups, structured observations, fieldwork, or online surveys.	Application form, interview and presentation

	Desirable	Method of assessment
	Experience in cross-cultural or international research projects, particularly within collaborative or externally funded environments. Experience engaging with external stakeholders, for example city authorities, industry, charities, community groups, or mobility providers. Experience contributing to research proposals, project deliverables, practitioner-facing outputs, or externally funded research activities. Experience organising dissemination or training activities, for example webinars, workshops, or stakeholder briefings. Familiarity with shared mobility, micromobility, pedestrian experience, transport safety, or urban mobility research.	
Aptitude and Skills	Ability to manage and deliver research tasks with a high degree of independence, while working effectively as part of a collaborative project team. Strong proficiency in quantitative data analysis, including the use of statistical software such as R, Python, SPSS, Stata, MATLAB, or similar. Ability to analyse survey and behavioural data and interpret findings in relation to transport, mobility, or user experience. Experience with qualitative analysis approaches, including coding and thematic analysis, using tools such as NVivo, Atlas.ti, or equivalent, including manual coding. Familiarity with geospatial tools, for example ArcGIS or QGIS, for analysing or visualising urban mobility data.	Application form and interview

	Desirable	Method of assessment
	Ability to produce high-quality figures, tables, data visualisations, reports, and presentations. Ability to communicate complex research findings clearly to both specialist and non-specialist audiences, including academic, policy, practitioner, and stakeholder audiences. Strong commitment to research integrity, ethics, equality, diversity and inclusion, and good data governance, including GDPR.	

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 Guilhermina Torrao

Job Title: Senior Lecturer in Transport

Email: g.torrao@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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