

OPPORTUNITY

Where change
gets real.



Reference: 1724-26

Grade: Grade 9/10

Salary: from £48,337 depending on experience

Contract Type: Full time

Basis: Permanent

Job Purpose

Aston University's 2030 strategy is Inclusive, Entrepreneurial and Transformational. We are building a new model of university for a changing world. Our vision is to be a leading university of science, technology and enterprise, measured by the positive transformational impact we achieve for our people, students, businesses and the communities we serve.

The successful candidate will contribute to, develop and enhance the research, scholarship and teaching activities of the Department of Civil and Logistics Engineering within the School of Engineering and Innovation. The postholder will provide expertise in geotechnical engineering and related areas, contribute to the delivery and development of civil engineering programmes, and develop external links with regional, UK and international bodies, including government agencies, schools, colleges, professional bodies, business and industry.

The role will include a balance of research, teaching and learning, and external engagement. The precise balance will be discussed and agreed annually, in line with operational needs, School and University strategy, the requirements of the role and the individual's career goals and development plans.

Main Duties/Responsibilities

Research

- Develop research objectives, projects and proposals for personal and collaborative research programmes consistent with the School's and Department's research priorities.
- Develop an identifiable research profile in geotechnical engineering or a closely related area, with potential links to infrastructure resilience, sustainable construction, climate adaptation, geoenvironmental engineering, transport infrastructure, urban regeneration and ground risk.
- Identify sources of funding, develop and submit funding applications, and secure external research funding from research councils, charities, industry, local and regional bodies and other appropriate funders.
- Write up or contribute to the write-up of research work for publication in high-quality peer-reviewed journals, conferences and professional outlets.
- Supervise and manage research projects, ensuring appropriate planning, delivery, risk management, reporting and dissemination.
- Supervise postgraduate students at Master's and doctoral levels and foster an environment that encourages research and innovation among students.
- Collaborate in research initiatives with colleagues within and beyond the School, including interdisciplinary work involving water, structures, transport, construction, environmental engineering, materials, data science and regional stakeholders.
- Develop research impact and knowledge exchange activities that address practical geotechnical and infrastructure challenges in the West Midlands and beyond.

In addition, at Grade 10:

- Develop and lead a coherent programme of research and/or knowledge exchange activity.
- Publish research outcomes in high-quality publications appropriate to the discipline, including outputs capable of contributing to the University's research assessment environment.
- Develop research and development collaborations with industry and public-sector partners and secure additional direct funding where appropriate.

Teaching and Learning

- Teach students at different levels, including foundation, undergraduate and postgraduate students, and carry out associated examining and assessment processes.
- Contribute to, and where appropriate take responsibility for, the design and content of teaching and learning in geotechnical engineering and related areas within the School's programmes.
- Contribute to teaching in areas such as soil mechanics, engineering geology, foundation engineering, geotechnical design, earthworks, ground investigation, geotechnical laboratory methods, numerical methods, sustainable geotechnics and infrastructure resilience, according to expertise and programme needs.
- Provide academic support, advice and pastoral guidance to foundation, undergraduate and postgraduate students.
- Cooperate with colleagues across disciplines in the continuous review and development of programmes, modules and curricula.
- Use and promote a range of methods and techniques in teaching, learning and assessment, including laboratory work, field-based learning, problem-based learning, authentic industry projects, digital methods and modern delivery approaches.
- Develop and use inclusive teaching practices that support students from diverse educational, social and professional backgrounds.
- Engage in supporting and promoting quality assurance and enhancement measures, including module evaluation, curriculum review, assessment design, moderation and responding constructively to student feedback.
- Create opportunities for students to engage with professional practice through site visits, employer-led activities, live briefs, placements, internships, mentoring and applied projects linked to the West Midlands.

In addition, at Grade 10:

- Take responsibility for the design and content of specific areas of teaching and learning within the School's programmes, with guidance as appropriate.
- Innovate in teaching, demonstrate continuous professional development and critical reflective practice, and translate current research and professional knowledge into the curriculum.
- Lead or coordinate module, laboratory, fieldwork or programme-level developments where appropriate.

Business Engagement

- Contribute to student placement schemes with companies, consultancies, contractors, research institutions and public-sector organisations in the UK and overseas.
- Develop relationships with engineering consultancies, contractors, developers, infrastructure owners, local authorities, environmental organisations, professional bodies and other stakeholders across the West Midlands.
- Create and sustain opportunities for students to gain professional experience, including placements, internships, employer projects, site visits, mentoring, careers events, guest lectures and collaborative challenges.
- Contribute to plans to demonstrate research impact and secure commercialisation, identifying and pursuing opportunities for translational research and knowledge exchange.

- Support the development of applied research and innovation addressing regional priorities such as brownfield regeneration, infrastructure renewal, climate resilience, ground risk, sustainable construction, transport infrastructure and the net-zero transition.
- Enhance the University's reputation with professional and scholarly bodies by promoting understanding and application of geotechnical engineering.
- Represent the University at appropriate regional, national and international meetings, networks, conferences and professional events.

In addition, at Grade 10:

- Develop research, education and innovation collaborations with industry and public-sector partners to secure additional direct funding and create sustained student and research opportunities.
- Lead significant external-engagement, knowledge-exchange or regional-impact initiatives appropriate to the role and discipline.

Citizenship

- Carry out specific School roles and functions as may be reasonably required, such as Programme Coordinator, Personal Tutor, Admissions Tutor, Placement Tutor or module leader, with responsibilities distributed equitably across academic staff.
- Provide pastoral care, academic guidance and support to students.
- Take part in, and where required manage, staff seminars, cross-departmental activities, recruitment events, Open Days, schools and sixth-form conferences, outreach and widening-participation activities.
- Contribute to departmental committees, working groups, accreditation activity and continuous improvement initiatives.
- Display and promote Aston values through personal actions and behaviour.
- Undertake other duties reasonably requested that are commensurate with the nature and grade of the post.

In addition, at Grade 10:

- Take part in and, on occasion, act as Chair of one or more School or Department committees, with responsibilities distributed equitably across academic staff.
- Provide academic leadership for agreed areas of curriculum, research, external engagement or student opportunity.

Additional responsibilities

- 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 degree and/or Master's qualification in Geotechnical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Engineering Geology, Geoenvironmental Engineering or a related discipline. PhD in Geotechnical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Engineering Geology, Geoenvironmental Engineering or a related field, or equivalent professional experience for an appropriate appointment.	Application form/CV
Experience	Experience of teaching and/or research in a university context, or relevant professional experience in geotechnical engineering, engineering consultancy, construction, infrastructure or a related role. Evidence of practical, analytical, experimental, computational or field-based experience relevant to geotechnical engineering.	Application form/CV and interview
Teaching	Ability to teach and support a range of learners, including students on foundation, undergraduate, postgraduate, work-based or non-standard programmes. Ability to contribute to curriculum, module, assessment and laboratory/fieldwork development.	Application form and interview
Research	Ability to develop research ideas, contribute to publications and identify or pursue external funding opportunities.	Application form/CV and interview

	Essential	Method of assessment
Aptitude and skills	Ability to work collaboratively and contribute to a positive, collegiate environment by building good relationships with professional staff, academic colleagues, students and external partners. Commitment to equality of opportunity, diversity, inclusion, sustainability and student success Ability to understand and comply with quality assurance and quality enhancement processes, helping ensure that the Department meets requirements to a high standard.	Application form and interview

	Desirable	Method of assessment
Education and qualifications	Teaching qualification and/or Senior Fellowship of Advance HE.	Application form and interview
Experience	Experience of learning and teaching in Higher Education. Experience of geotechnical laboratory testing, field investigation, site practice, numerical modelling, physical modelling or industry-based design. Experience of working with engineering consultancies, contractors, infrastructure owners, local authorities, professional bodies or other regional partners.	Application form and interview
Aptitude, Expertise and Skills	Expertise in one or more of: foundation engineering; soil/rock mechanics; ground improvement; geohazards; geosynthetics; earthworks; geotechnical numerical modelling; geoenvironmental engineering; sustainable geotechnics; infrastructure resilience; or climate adaptation.	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 Lucy Rackliff
Job Title: Head of Department of Civil and Logistics Engineering
Email: L.Rackliff@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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