

Appointment of

**PVC & EXECUTIVE DEAN  
COLLEGE OF HEALTH  
AND LIFE SCIENCES**

CANDIDATE BRIEF



# Welcome to Aston



Aston University is a stimulating and enjoyable place to work. We pride ourselves on providing a modern, supportive and multicultural environment for all our staff and students. We are committed to providing the very best education, producing world-leading research and delivering change for our city, our region and our society.

It is a privilege to lead this institution at this exciting time. We have developed a new, UK-leading strategy that puts our beneficiaries at the heart of all that we do. This shift in our focus allows us to continue our academic excellence, whilst highlighting our impact on our students, industry and our region.

## **Professor Alec Cameron**

Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive  
Aston University.

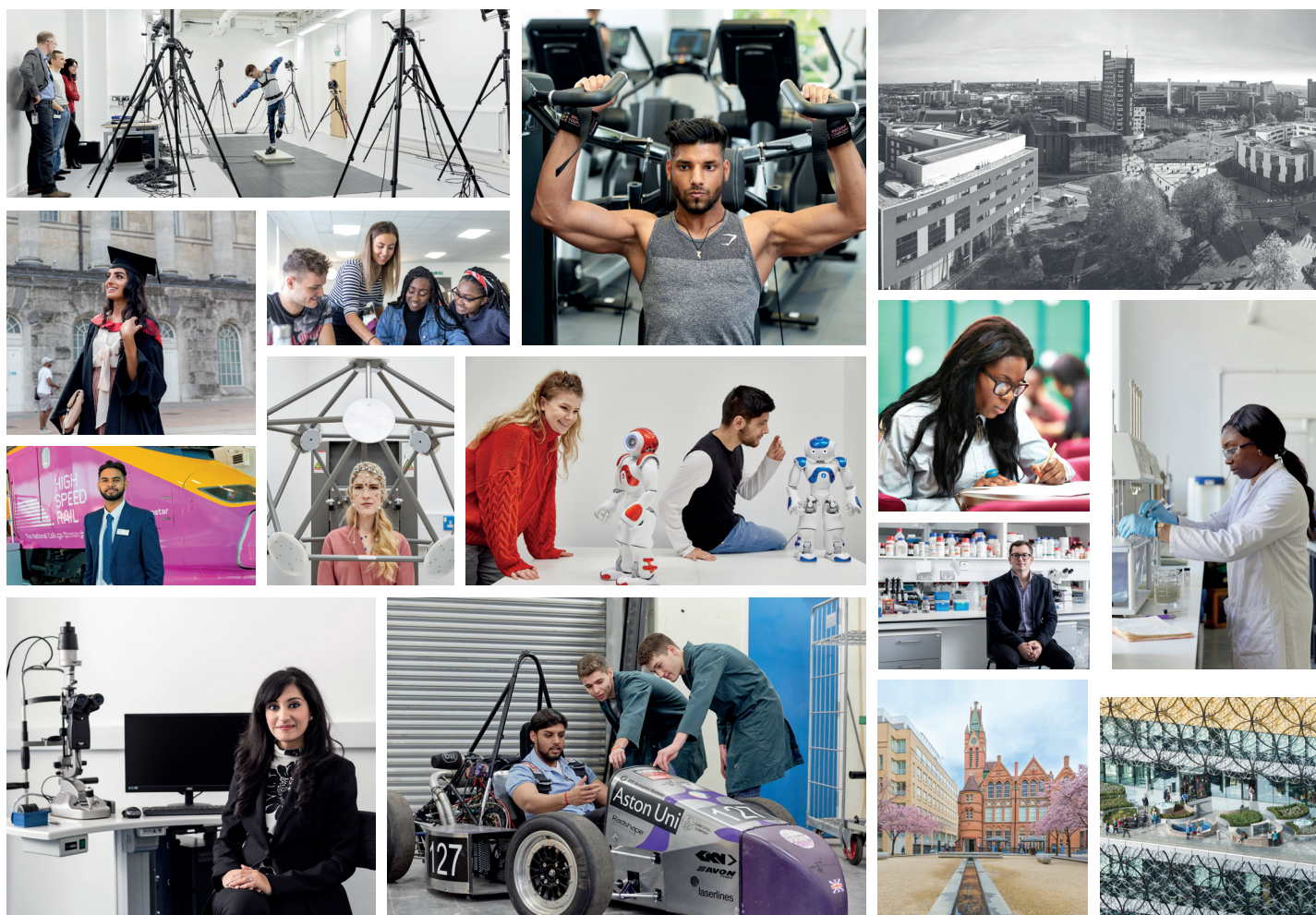
Aston University received its Royal Charter in 1966. A true modern university, Aston has prioritised applied teaching and research, emphasising the impact on industry and commerce in Birmingham and the wider West Midlands. It is in our Royal Charter to “enable students to obtain the advantage of a university education, and as such teaching and research may include periods outside the University in industry or commerce...”. Aston continues this today by emphasising the placement year system and the maintenance of strong links with industry.

Awarded TEF gold and ranked 1st in the UK for value added, Aston is a university with a strong tradition of putting students first. Aston has one of the highest rates in the UK for graduate outcomes and 80% of our graduates are either in full-time study or a graduate job within six months of graduating.

Aston has a diverse student population and is 1st in the UK for the proportion of students from ethnic minority groups, with over 70% of students in this category. By population Birmingham is one of the youngest major cities in Europe, and we are committed to enabling and inspiring our students to be the leaders and change-makers of the future.

The prominence given to the placement year system, and the maintenance of strong links with industry, arises naturally from the institution's history.

[www2.aston.ac.uk/about/strategy](http://www2.aston.ac.uk/about/strategy)





# Our Beneficiaries

The University's beneficiaries are identified as three groups:



## Students

The first and primary beneficiary of Aston University are the individuals who form our student body and who progress to become our alumni. Aston places students at the heart of our academic and professional endeavour. Through our industry placements, students are at the coalface of our interaction with industry.



## Business and Industry

Our new strategy has an emphasis on the businesses and other external organisations who engage with the University. Aston is a market leader in industry-engaged research, as well as graduate employability. Our industry partners benefit from Aston's work both through our leading research and knowledge exchange, and from the quality of graduates we produce. Each student at Aston is offered the opportunity for a year-long work placement; these placements not only cement our relationships with industry but ensure businesses have access to work-ready graduates.



## Region and Society

We are committed to having a positive and transformative impact on Birmingham and the West Midlands. Birmingham is one of the youngest cities in Europe and Aston plays an important civic role by educating the leaders of the future. By emphasising research that has a regional impact, engaging with local businesses to develop a strong economy and educating top graduates, we are helping to shape our society around us.



# Main Duties and Responsibilities

## Purpose

The principal objective of the role is to lead the newly created cross-disciplinary College covering health-related subject areas. This includes developing a vision and strategy and then overseeing its implementation into operational plans and practices. Developing a coherent high quality offering to students, healthcare professions and the wider community in subjects allied to health.

A key immediate responsibility is to lead in the consolidation of the activity of two existing schools into the successful establishment of a College of Health and Life Sciences.

## Accountability

Accountable for the strategic direction and overall performance of the College of Health and Life Sciences in delivery of outcomes to the University's beneficiaries in research, teaching, regional and professional/industry engagement through:

- ▶ Development and delivery of a portfolio of high quality education provision in health and life science subjects which meet the needs of students, employers and health-related professions, regional, national and international need.
- ▶ Development of a College research strategy and high quality research culture which enhances the research profile and research outputs of the College, including maximising income generation, impact and reputation for research in line with University-wide strategy.
- ▶ Establishment of networks and relationships which deliver impact on society, health professions and industry, the region, nationally and internationally.

## Key responsibilities

- ▶ Leading in aligning the structure, people, physical resources and budgets resulting in the successful establishment of the College in meeting the needs of its beneficiaries.
- ▶ Promoting, developing and realising cross-disciplinary working within the College and with other Colleges.
- ▶ Maximising the effectiveness of education, research and engagement with professional bodies across health and life science disciplines.
- ▶ Representing the University and the College externally promoting its teaching provision and research in health-related fields.
- ▶ Building leadership and management capacity in the College and developing ongoing plans for talent development to support this.
- ▶ Developing sound business plans to secure appropriate funding to enable the College to deliver its objectives.
- ▶ Ensuring sustainable growth in a high quality education portfolio, including an appropriate mix of provision to degree apprenticeship, undergraduate, postgraduate, online, UK and international students.
- ▶ Maximising the influence of research carried out within the College of Health and Life Sciences on national and international policy and practice.
- ▶ Developing the College's strategy to increase income generation in sustainable research areas in line with the University's Strategy.
- ▶ As leaders within the University, championing the embedding and upholding of its policies, procedures and values (ethical and inclusive; collaborative and innovative; ambitious and professional).

# Person Specification

	Essential
Education and qualifications	<p>A PhD or equivalent in a health or medical-related subject area.</p>
Experience	<p>A proven personal track record of research distinction and achievement, demonstrating credibility and international standing in line with the expectations of a leader of academic staff. This will be evidenced by securing large grant income and high quality publications.</p> <p>A proven track record of delivery in a senior academic or senior professional health-sector role.</p> <p>Proven ability to develop strategy and to implement operational plans for its delivery within a cross-disciplinary College.</p> <p>Proven track record of leadership, innovation and entrepreneurship to develop and lead the College's success in terms of students, research and business/commercial and professional body outcomes.</p> <p>Evidenced experience of leading, inspiring and motivating a diverse staff and student population.</p> <p>Credibility with key beneficiaries, evidenced by success in securing agreements and effective collaborations with relevant external beneficiaries such as NHS, Health Education England, life science-related industry and health sector organisations as well as funders such as BBSRC, MRC etc.</p>
Aptitude and skills	<p>The skills, ability and drive to build an effective leadership and management team.</p> <p>Evidence of leadership which creates a diverse and inclusive management team as well as proven ability to lead and inspire diverse groups of staff, students and external partners.</p> <p>Demonstrable ability in managing competing demands.</p> <p>Experience of large scale budget management.</p> <p>Strength and ability to create networks, build relationships and manage external stakeholders in health and life science disciplines at national and international levels.</p>



# How to Apply

Saxton Bampfylde Ltd is acting as an employment agency advisor to Aston University on this appointment.

Candidates should apply for this role through our website at [www.saxbam.com/appointments](http://www.saxbam.com/appointments), using code KAUP.

Click on the 'apply' button and follow the instructions to upload a CV and cover letter and complete the online equal opportunities monitoring form\*

The closing date for applications is midnight on **Wednesday 22 April 2020**.

To find out more about this exciting opportunity, please contact Belinda Beck on **020 7227 0880**.

## GDPR personal data notice

According to GDPR guidelines, we are only able to process your Sensitive Personal Data (racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership, genetic data, biometric data, health, sex life, or sexual orientation) with your express consent. You will be asked to complete a consent form when you apply and please do not include any Sensitive Personal Data within your CV (although this can be included in your covering letter if you wish to do so), remembering also not to include contact details for referees without their prior agreement.

\*The equal opportunities monitoring online form will not be shared with anyone involved in assessing your application. Please complete as part of the application process.

Further information about Aston University's data protection policies and procedures can be found here: [aston.ac.uk/data-protection](http://aston.ac.uk/data-protection)



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