



Astron University

Employability Services 2012

www.astron.ac.uk/careers



Introduction to Aston

Here at Aston we have an excellent record and outstanding reputation for supporting our graduates to make the right decisions following their time here, and onto high achieving graduate level employment.

Aston University is targeted by a wide range of organisations as part of their student, graduate and postgraduate recruitment drive. Here are just a few reasons why:

- Aston is a first choice University among well qualified applicants. Undergraduates enter with A-level qualifications averaging 369 UCAS points
- There are approximately 7,000 undergraduate students and 1,800 postgraduate (research and taught) students at Aston University
- Aston has a pro-active approach to widening participation and celebrates a diverse student population
- All of our students are encouraged and supported to partake in a placement year as part of their studies.

To find out more about Aston's reputation and our professionally relevant courses, visit:
www1.aston.ac.uk/study/

Careers Centre

The Careers Team provides high quality careers guidance, education and information services to Aston's students and graduates.

Careers can facilitate the following services and on-campus activities for employers looking to target Aston students and graduates in their recruitment drive.

These services will help you raise your profile on campus with our students:

- Advertise your vacancy on our one-stop recruitment site for students; Aston Futures
- Be included in our weekly careers e-news update which is emailed to final year students
- Have your own stand at one of our sector specific Careers Fairs
- Host an information drop-in and meet prospective applicants
- Be part of the National Graduate Recruitment Exhibition held at the NEC, Birmingham
- Promote you to our student societies
- Put you in touch with academics of relevant programmes to facilitate your input to curriculum development
- A targeted email service which enables you to share information with students on specific courses

"Thank you for organising the mock interviews. I found it really helpful speaking to the gentleman. He has given me the confidence to be myself at any interviews and gave me some helpful pointers which I would never have considered without suggestion. I would also like to thank the gentleman for taking his time to come to Aston and do the interviews. All in all it was a very worthwhile experience, well worth the time and effort!"

Stacey Pearce – Modern Languages student commenting on her recent attendance at an employer-led mock interviews session.

Call our Employer Liaison Team to discuss your graduate recruitment needs or further details of any of the aforementioned activities. Speak to Claire/Debbie on **0121 204 4720/4770** or email graduatevacancies@aston.ac.uk

Undergraduate Placements (UK & Abroad)

Aston has over 900 students currently on placement in the UK and abroad. Depending on the course, the placement year is an integral or optional part of Aston's degree programmes, with the 3rd year of the degree course involving a work placement. Our UK Placement and International Internship Programmes have proved attractive to employers who year on year benefit from recruiting high calibre Aston students in a short-term and cost effective way.

The Universities dedicated Placements Team can facilitate the following services and on-campus activities for employers looking to target Aston students in their recruitment drive:

- Advertise your vacancy on our one-stop recruitment site for students; Aston Futures
- Be included in our school specific placements e-bulletins emailed out to 2nd year students weekly
- Have your own stand at our Placements Fair
- Host an employer presentation/skills workshop and meet prospective applicants
- ERASMUS – Erasmus is the European Union's flagship educational exchange programme for Higher Education students, teachers and Institutions. It was introduced with the aim of increasing student mobility within Europe.

"Aston's commitment to placement programmes is fantastic – we have received more placement applications from Aston than any other university in the UK this year. The Placement Team has greatly assisted us in raising our profile on campus and promoting our scheme to the students. The Placements Team go out of their way to make sure employers are as welcome on campus as possible, really going the extra mile – Thank you!" Catherine Thompson, Unilever, Business & Technology Management Graduate.

Contact our Employer Engagement Team to discuss your UK placement needs on **0121 204 5299** or email placements@aston.ac.uk.

Those interested in discussing overseas internships please call **0044 (0)121 204 4998** or email internationalplacements@aston.ac.uk.

Enterprising Students

Aston University has a long history of supporting entrepreneurs. Through our renowned placement programme, innovative collaboration programmes such as SPEED WM and BSEEN and close links with business we endeavour to develop the entrepreneurial mind set of our students and graduates.

The Birmingham Skills for Enterprise and Employability Network (BSEEN) assists graduates to set up their own businesses in the Birmingham area which support the regional priorities of: increasing employment and retaining graduate skills. In just 18 months, BSEEN has made a very effective contribution to the region's economy, supporting the retention of key skills and enhancing the career prospects of unemployed graduates. Over 450 graduates from the local community have developed a greater knowledge of enterprise through networking events and career aspirations have been raised. Over 90 businesses have also been supported with extensive mentoring and support during this period.

Student Placements for Entrepreneurs in Education West Midlands (SPEED WM) is part funded by European Regional Development Fund. At Aston University, SPEED WM is being managed by the Careers Centre, and aims to help students to develop their business ideas and to become the entrepreneurs of the future.

Aston's students also play a crucial part in harnessing, aiding, developing and showcasing the entrepreneurial talent of students reading at Aston University through our **Aston Entrepreneurship Academy** and other extra-curricular activities such as **SIFE**.

Find out more <http://www1.aston.ac.uk/business/graduate-entrepreneurship/>, or contact Sheila Rattu on s.rattu@aston.ac.uk



Graduate Advantage

Graduate Advantage offers FREE recruitment services to small and medium sized (SME) businesses across the West Midlands.

Our internships can vary in length from short projects to longer term roles (maximum of 12 months) and come in a variety of flavours including paid and voluntary.

To assist an SME with finding their graduate intern we offer a number of services including:

- FREE Payroll and HR Service
- Paid internships
- Voluntary internships

We can find you graduates with skills in areas including: Marketing, Business, IT, Science, Design and Engineering as well as enthusiasm and a genuine desire to gain experience.

Graduate Advantage is adept in supporting high growth SMEs looking to take on graduates for the first time. Funded and supported by West Midlands' Universities, Graduate Advantage is a unique one stop shop to finding your perfect intern. Graduate Advantage is based at Aston University and part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund.

The West Midlands is the only region in England to have this kind of service.

Our services are only available to private sector SME businesses, registered charities or social enterprises based in the West Midlands region, subject to criteria.

For more information, please visit www.graduateadvantage.co.uk or call us on 0121 204 4767.



Aston Futures

Aston Futures is the first port of call for students seeking employment. It is their one-stop shop for work experience of any kind from summer Internships, to voluntary opportunities, to placement providers and then on to graduate recruitment.

If you are looking to recruit an Aston student or graduate, please use this system to advertise your work opportunities free of charge.

FREE online vacancy advertising service

- Create your own account and contacts
- Manage your adverts and any modifications and additions immediately
- Upload as many opportunities as you wish
- Students and graduates are emailed directly with details of any new opportunities in their area of interest

To access Aston Futures and register your account, visit us online at www.aston.ac.uk/careers and select the '**Recruiters**' option for further information.



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