

Aston University Employability Statement

The Aston Advantage

Aston University's strong tradition of employer engagement and professionally accredited programmes goes right back to 1895. We continue to build on these historic strengths and the result is high quality, employable graduates with the skills, knowledge and personal qualities to be successful in their careers.

We have an enviable reputation for employability. Every year, over 80% of Aston graduates enter **graduate level** employment within 6 months of graduation. This compares to a UK average of less than 70% and places Aston consistently in the UK's top 10 for *Graduate Prospects*. (Source HESA and Sunday Times University Guide).

Our integrated placements, professional degrees, strong reputation with employers, high quality careers support and wide range of extracurricular activities all contribute to our graduates' success.

Employability is central to Aston's mission and philosophy. This was recognised when Aston University won the Inaugural [Rate My Placement 2010 award](#) for *University with a Forward Thinking Attitude to Work Experience*.

Employer Engagement

- We have impressive links with employers, co-host one of the largest graduate fairs and coordinate extensive programmes of employer events. Over 200 organisations come on campus each year to meet our students.
- There is strong integration between the practical and academic, including a wealth of guest lecturers from Industry and links with professional bodies.
- All our courses are designed to develop relevant employability skills at a high level.

Integrated Placements

- Placements enhance employability and Aston has the highest percentage of students of any UK university on integrated placements – [Performance Indicators](#).
- Students have extensive support through specialist staff to access, fund and prepare for placements/study abroad.

- Assessment involves assignments and reflective learning where analysis of issues supports development of higher level skills and maximise degree results.

Support

- Our award winning Careers and Employability Centre provides:
 - High quality careers education, information, advice and guidance services and comprehensive on-line support. www.aston.ac.uk/careers
 - Programmes of employer events and skills workshops
 - An online database of Graduate opportunities targeted to Aston students and graduates
- We emphasise development of employability skills i.e. Decision-making, Team Working, Leadership, Influencing, Business Awareness, Communication, Organisation, Intercultural Awareness, and Problem Solving.
- We ensure support is relevant to the diverse needs of all our students by appointing specialist staff to provide tailored provision.

Enterprising Graduates

- We encourage innovation and entrepreneurship and the development of enterprise skills and businesses. Initiatives include:
 - SPEED (Student Placements for Entrepreneurship in Education)
 - [Bseen](#)
 - [Aston Idol Enterprise Award](#)
- [Graduate Advantage](#), a regional placements initiative which has won national acclaim, is run by Aston university on behalf of all West midlands universities.

Extracurricular Activities

- We offer an enormous range of extracurricular opportunities which enhance employability including; peer and business mentoring, voluntary work, charity work, work experience and involvement in student societies.

For further details on how we can enhance your employability - www.aston.ac.uk/careers