

# Aston University's Education Strategy 2021 - 2025

## Strategic Ambitions

To put Aston at the forefront of learning, teaching and student experience, so that the institution is recognised as a leader in blended and hybrid learning.

To provide all learners, whatever their background or mode of study, with a distinctive, innovative and consistently high quality academic learning experience that utilises flexible pedagogies designed to meet diverse learner needs and build social capital and citizenship skills.

To develop high quality, strongly employable graduates and postgraduates equipped with the knowledge, skills and ability to excel in the global workplace.

To offer attractive, research-led and employer-informed curricula that meet the needs of our beneficiaries, and enable our graduates and postgraduates to realise their full academic potential as part of their lifelong learning journey.



## Strategic Principles

- 01** Deliver high quality, innovative and inspirational teaching from well-qualified staff, facilitated through the institutional adoption of designed blended and hybrid learning across all disciplines.

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- 02** Offer a sector-leading, dynamic and stimulating learning environment comprising physical & virtual learning spaces that are designed to support diverse learning needs and enable the adoption of flexible pedagogies.

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- 03** Provide inclusive and accessible curricula which are research-led, employer-informed, and designed to develop and enhance students' subject-based knowledge and skills, as well as their employability skills, digital capabilities and their understanding and awareness of sustainability in their practice.

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- 04** Provide an attractive and distinctive product portfolio which is routinely reviewed and enhanced to ensure it continues to meet the needs of Aston's beneficiaries.

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- 05** Embed employability skills through all curricula to equip students with the skills, knowledge, behaviours and intercultural awareness that they need to excel in the global workplace, building students' social capital & citizenship skills through a range of extra-curricular opportunities as part of their lifelong learning journey.

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- 06** Offer students a varied, but purposeful approach to assessment, including opportunities for authentic assessment, as determined by the nature of the subject discipline and where appropriate, the professional body accreditation requirements of the designated Professional, Statutory and Regulatory body (PSRB).

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- 07** Encourage students to engage proactively in shaping their learning experiences through an embedded set of digital and in person 'Student Voice' activities that form part of the University's 'Student as Partner' culture.

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- 08** Provide high quality, effective and consistent academic and pastoral support for all learners, regardless of their backgrounds or mode of study, as they transition to higher education, and progress through their chosen programmes of study, making best use of learner analytics.

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- 09** Promote an institutional culture of continuous enhancement of pedagogic practice (including digital pedagogies) through a systematic approach to professional development for academic staff at all stages in their careers.

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- 10** Recognise and celebrate excellence in learning and teaching through institutional and external reward and recognition schemes; and promote and establish mechanisms for the sharing and embedding of good and innovative pedagogic practice across the institution and externally, raising the profile of individuals and the institution as a whole.