

Student Charter

2023/24



About the charter

A statement of partnership between the University, our students and our Students' Union.

We encourage all students to read the Charter so that they know what they can expect and what is expected of them during their time at University.

The Charter is not a legally-binding document but outlines the shared principles, aspirations and expectations that students and staff agree will provide an outstanding student experience.

To view the full copy of the Student Charter, visit: aston.ac.uk/current-students/student-charter

Partnership

This Student Charter, developed by the University and the Students' Union, outlines our commitment to our Aston 2030 Strategy. By being a student here at Aston you are part of 'Aston for Life', a thriving community that offers a unique portfolio of personal, professional development and networking opportunities.

The University and the Students' Union are committed to working in partnership with you so that you can benefit from the highest quality educational and student experience. We are committed to preparing our students for work and life through contemporary learning experiences enriched with professional practice across all disciplines and courses.

We are looking forward to working with you towards a successful and rewarding time at Aston.

Professor Aleks Subic
Vice Chancellor,
Aston University

Atul Rana
President,
Aston Students' Union

Vision, Purpose and Values

Our Vision

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.

Our Purpose

Our core purpose is to make our world a better place through education, research and innovation, by enabling our students to succeed in work and life, and by supporting our communities to thrive economically, socially and culturally.



Values

- > **Ambition:** our ambition drives us to advance and accomplish our goals, strive for excellence and impact, and create value for our beneficiaries and communities.
- > **Collaboration:** we believe in the value of working together for a shared purpose, by engaging and collaborating across our teams and disciplines, as well as with our beneficiaries.
- > **Inclusion:** we provide an inclusive, caring and empowering environment for all and respect and support the values that diversity and inclusion bring to our whole community.
- > **Innovation:** we nurture an innovative environment that values new ideas, seeks diverse perspectives and pursue game-changing innovations that make a positive impact.
- > **Integrity:** by valuing honesty, trust, fairness and ethical behaviour we always act with integrity and hold ourselves and others accountable.

To provide a high quality learning experience, the University will:



Enhance employability skills, prospects and personal development.



Provide a fulfilling educational experience and ensure students are well-equipped to succeed in life.



Provide consistently high standards of teaching and access to high quality learning resources and facilities.



Encourage students to develop a high level of skill and competence in their discipline supported by Aston's cutting-edge research and professional expertise to deliver exciting and inspiring learning experiences.



Provide students information relating to their studies including information on programmes and modules; on assessments and feedback and on fees and additional charges.



Listen to students, provide support and advice to students in areas such as careers, finance, health, wellbeing and accommodation.

To benefit from their learning experience, students will:



Be an active participant and take responsibility for managing their own learning by attending classes, meetings with tutors and spend sufficient time in private study.



Show integrity in all aspects of their studies and, be reliable and committed through meeting course deadlines.



Engage in methods designed to improve the quality of learning and teaching such as the National Student Survey, the Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey and module feedback questionnaires.



Take advantage of relevant placement opportunities and participate in employability activities.



Be prompt with payments; respect the University campus, staff, students and the local community.

Committing to the student experience, the Students' Union will:



Work with the University towards the advancement of the student experience.



Provide students with opportunities for personal development outside of the curriculum, offer support with quality enhancement activities and, academic and welfare problems.



Support student/community engagement and provide clubs and societies to enhance personal and professional development.



Support students to ensure they receive fair treatment and are aware of their rights and responsibilities and, represent the interests of students at local and national level.



Further information

Full details of the legal obligations and/or rights are set out in other documents including all regulations, policies, programme regulations, codes of practice, student handbooks and procedures issued by the University, as well as the University's Royal Charter and Statutes. Rights and obligations regarding the Students' Union are set out in the Bye-Laws of Aston Students' Union.

The University has an agreed Code of Practice with Aston Students' Union, in the context of the Education Act 1994, to ensure that Aston Students' Union are meeting their legislative obligations which include their governance, financial affairs and electoral practices. This Code of Conduct is published on the Aston University and Aston Students' Union websites.

For more information about any aspect of your student experience see 'Supporting you' and 'Quick Links' at aston.ac.uk/current-students contact The Hub at thehub@aston.ac.uk or the Students' Union at union.reception@aston.ac.uk

To view the full copy of the Student Charter, visit:
aston.ac.uk/current-students/student-charter

The Student Charter is reviewed annually for the forthcoming academic year. Last reviewed in August 2023.