



Aston University

BIRMINGHAM UK

External Examiner Induction 2023-24

Welcome and Intro to Aston

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- Founded in 1895 as the Birmingham Municipal Technical College by local employers.
- We have a long-established tradition in work-based learning, with our Charter making reference to the institution's original objectives:
 - *"to advance, disseminate and apply learning and knowledge by teaching and research, for the benefit of industry and commerce and of the community generally..."*.
- Our value proposition is to deliver outstanding education for our students that will enable them to achieve high rates of employment and progression into desirable jobs following graduation.
- In parallel, a crucial part of our offer to businesses, the professions and the region, is that, through our industry-informed curricula, we will teach the skills and knowledge that organisations identify are necessary to enable them to grow.



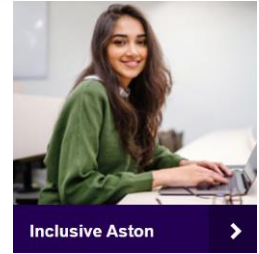
Aston University has been ranked as **second-best** for social mobility:

- Rankings based on several factors including access to education, continuation and undergraduate outcomes.
- Third year running Aston University is in the top two.
- During the TEF period, **68.3%** of full-time UK domiciled undergraduates were from Black, Asian, and minority ethnic backgrounds.
- **49.9%** of our undergraduate student population were from the two most deprived IMD quintiles.
- **45%** of new entrants in 2020-1 were from households with an income of below **£25k**.



Inclusivity is one of Aston's key values and is set out in our [Diversity and Inclusion Strategy](#). Aston is an inclusive community for all, regardless of gender, race, culture, beliefs or ability.

- Aston operates a no tolerance policy to bullying and harassment
- We are working to ensure that our curriculum is reflective of the diverse histories and perspectives of our staff and students through our **curriculum decolonisation working group**
- We work closely with our LGBT+ networks to ensure effective representation, support and leadership.
- We have support mechanisms for staff and students who may have caring responsibilities.
- We have a range of activities and campaigns which are continually supporting the equality, diversity and inclusivity of the Aston community and our curriculum. To find out more, please visit the [Inclusive Aston](#) webpage.



- Embedding sustainability concepts at all levels of operations and activities has always been at the forefront of Aston University's priorities.
- This is demonstrated by our previous achievements, such as The Guardian's University of the Year 2020 award, and our ISO 14001 Environmental Management and 50001 Energy Management quality certifications.
- Objective 3 of our [Sustainability Strategy](#) is focused on embedding sustainability in academic activities. Please also see our [Sustainability Report \(2020-23\)](#).
- This is also reflected in our [Education Strategy 2021-25](#).
- We are only one of 15 [Responsible Futures](#) accredited Universities in the UK.
 - Responsible Futures is a supported change programme and accreditation partnering students with their institutions to embed sustainability in all student learning, delivered by SOS-UK.

- Between May and June 2023, 13 Aston University students participated in the University's student-led sustainability curriculum audit project.
- The students mapped 1327 undergraduate and postgraduate modules against the UN SDG broader aspects of sustainability learning, and methods used in education for sustainable development (ESD).
- In October 2023, 13 Aston University students worked with the SOS and carried out our new Responsible Futures accreditation Audit.



Aston 2030 Strategy: Access Here



INCLUSIVE

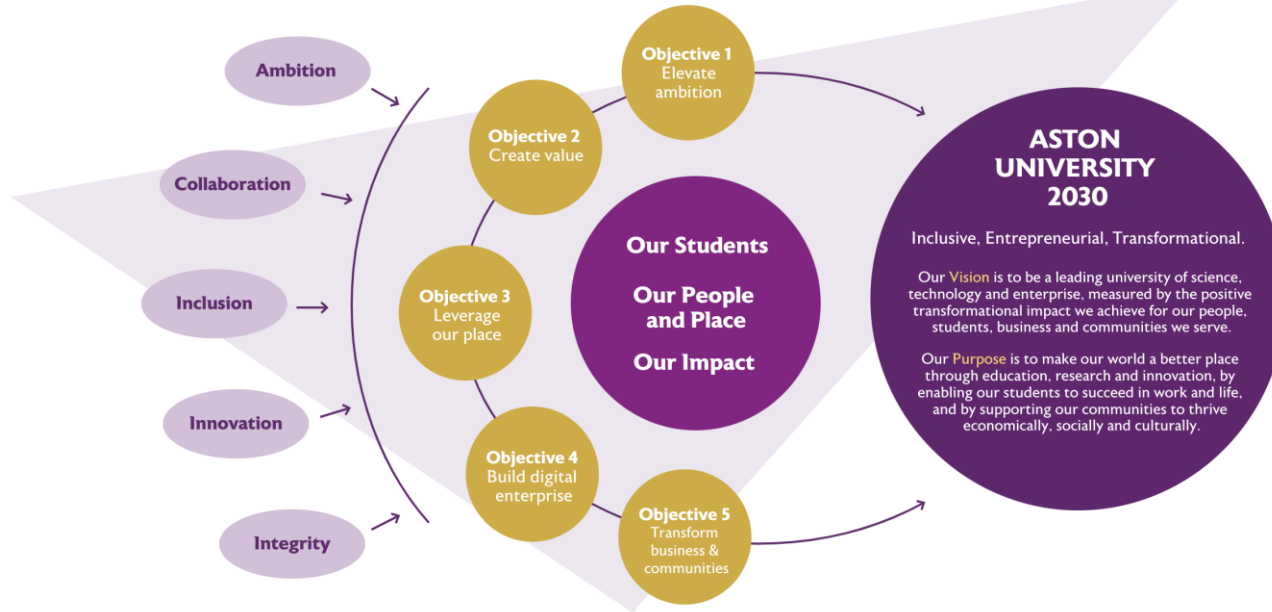


ENTREPRENEURIAL



TRANSFORMATIONAL

Aston 2030 Strategy



Aston comprises three colleges of Study:

- **College of Business and Social Sciences (BSS)**

- Aston Business School
- Aston Law School
- Social Sciences and Humanities

- **College of Engineering and Physical Sciences (EPS)**

- School of Computer Science and Digital Technologies
- School of Infrastructure & Sustainable Engineering
- School of Engineering & Technology

- **College of Health and Life Sciences (HLS)**

- School of Biosciences
- Aston Pharmacy School
- School of Optometry
- Aston Medical School
- School of Psychology
- Audiology and Healthcare Science Department

- **University Education Department**

- Academic Quality
- Technology-Enhanced Learning (TEL) Team
- Learning and Development Centre (LDC)
- Centre for English Language and Communication at Aston (CELCA)
- Academic Practice Department

- To provide an external benchmark of academic standards, commenting and making recommendations on:
 - the maintenance and application of academic standards, with particular reference to the relevant national qualifications frameworks, Characteristics Statements and Subject Benchmark Statements.
 - the opportunity for students to achieve standards beyond the threshold level that are reasonably comparable with those achieved in other UK providers.
 - the awards for the programme(s), including the fairness and consistency of the awarding process and that where appropriate consideration is given to comparison of cohorts across location and provider.
 - the reliability, fairness and transparency of the setting, maintenance and application of academic standards through rigorous assessment processes.
 - course content, balance, and structure of programmes and modules.

- To review and pass comment on all credit-bearing assessment briefs (including examination papers), and provide formal approval where appropriate.
- To assure the integrity of academic practice and ensure that the institution operates fit-for-purpose mechanisms to enable this.
- To attend relevant Boards of Examiners as set out in General Regulations for the Conduct of Boards of Examiners, with at least one Board attended within any 12-month period, either virtually or in person.
- To arbitrate or adjudicate on problem cases (General Regulation of the Code of Conduct for Boards of Examiners).
- To endorse the decisions and conduct of assessment of the Boards of Examiners of which the External Examiner is a member.
- To consider and comment on the experience of students on relevant courses of study, based on student feedback.
- Provide an annual report to the University, within one month of the relevant examination board, identifying and commenting on good practice and areas for enhancement or improvement.

Next

- Aston University Regulations