

# UNDERGRADUATE PROSPECTUS 2014



**BUSINESS SCHOOL**  
PROGRAMMES





# WELCOME TO ASTON UNIVERSITY



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# ASTON UNIVERSITY

## A FORMULA THAT WORKS

### Come and see us

#### OPEN DAYS:

Tuesday 18 June 2013

Wednesday 18 September 2013

Saturday 19 October 2013

[www.aston.ac.uk/opendays](http://www.aston.ac.uk/opendays)

Visits welcome at other times,  
call 0121 204 4771.

#### CAREER FOCUSED DEGREE COURSES

Aston's close and established links with business, the public sector and the professions ensure that our degree programmes are inspiring, challenging and constantly updated to equip you with essential work-related skills and experiences.



#### HIGH QUALITY TEACHING

We are committed to academic excellence and to providing the highest standard of education to our students and we are ranked highly in the National Student Survey.



#### STRONG INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS

Our reputation is well established: Aston University was founded in 1895 and has been a university since 1966. We have strong relationships with national and international graduate employers as well as smaller and local employers. These relationships are extremely important and make a real contribution to graduate employability.



# 89.2%

**GRADUATE  
EMPLOYABILITY  
– UK TOP TEN**

89.2% of Aston graduates go on to a graduate level job within six months – a higher proportion than Oxford and we are in the UK Top Ten. The majority of Aston students choose to take an integrated placement year or year abroad, making them very attractive to employers.

# WHY CHOOSE ASTON UNIVERSITY?

## Aston key information

- ▶ Aston has been a leading university for graduate employability since its foundation in 1966
- ▶ 89.2% of Aston graduates go on to a graduate level job within six months – a higher proportion than Oxford and one of the best in the UK outside London
- ▶ Over 200 graduate employers come on to campus each year to meet our students
- ▶ The majority of Aston students choose to take an integrated placement year or year abroad, making them very attractive to employers
- ▶ A top 30 UK University (Guardian University Guide 2013) providing the highest standard of education to our students
- ▶ According to the Daily Telegraph, Aston is in the Top Ten for producing millionaires
- ▶ The new £215 million student accommodation on campus provides 2,300 new rooms built to the highest standard with a first year guarantee in place
- ▶ Birmingham, one of Europe's liveliest cities, is home to 70,000 students
- ▶ Students from over 120 countries provide a truly international experience.

## A significant scholarship programme

Our generous scholarship programmes help to ensure that anyone who is qualified to come to Aston University can afford to do so, regardless of their financial circumstances. Aston scholarships allow a choice between campus accommodation discounts, tuition fee discounts or other support towards living costs. The Aston placement year or year abroad is also heavily subsidised and is fee-free for the majority of our UK/EU students. Therefore a degree from Aston will cost you less than it would from many other universities, helping a great experience become an even better one. We have scholarships aimed both at high achievers and those from families with low incomes. [www.aston.ac.uk/scholarships](http://www.aston.ac.uk/scholarships)

## Student achievement

Aston recruits and retains high achieving students from diverse backgrounds. We encourage entrepreneurship and give students the confidence to lead and start their own businesses.

## Global citizenship

The Aston 'Languages for All' programme enables our students to learn a new language for free.

## Positive placement years

We want to encourage students to take a placement year or year abroad, so we have set the tuition fee for this year at just £1,000; and for all unpaid or overseas placements there is no fee. A placement year greatly enhances your graduate employment prospects. Research shows that students who do a work or study placement as part of their degree enhance their employability and increase their degree classification.

## Small and focused

Aston has a strong focus on innovation in teaching, and excellence in employability, scholarships and research. Our small but compact campus means you will be part of a friendly, welcoming community yet enjoy a truly global feel. At Aston, we welcome students from over 120 countries and from all parts of the UK.

## Birmingham – vibrant student city

Studying in the UK's second city, home to 70,000 students, Aston students have access to excellent nightlife, culture, sport, shopping and work – all just a short walk from the university campus.

## Modern, green campus

Our self-contained green campus in the centre of Birmingham is something we are very proud of. All facilities are on-site.



## Graduate level jobs

1. Imperial College, London 95%
  2. London School of Economics (LSE) 93.5%
  3. Kings College London 91.9%
  4. University of Buckingham 90%
  5. University College London (UCL) 90%
  6. University of Cambridge 89.7%
  7. University of Bath 89.3%
  8. **Aston University 89.2%**
  9. City University (London) 89%
- UK average 70%. Aston above 15 of the 24 Russell Group Universities. Source: HESA, Sunday Times University Guide – September 2012 Employed Graduates in 'Graduate Level Full-time Employment.'

2013 Undergraduate applications are up by over 25%, proving Aston University is a very popular choice with students from all over the UK and beyond.

To find out more, visit:  
[www.aston.ac.uk](http://www.aston.ac.uk)



# VICE-CHANCELLOR JULIA KING



Thank you for considering Aston University. You will struggle to find a university anywhere that is more attuned to the needs of business and industry, or one that is more committed to graduate level employment. Choosing Aston could be a very good decision for you to make.

At Aston we are proud of the fact that 89.2% of our graduates go straight into graduate level jobs – which puts Oxford in the shade. Our pioneering integrated placement year, which enables our students to work in a business or professional environment, helps set us apart from other universities.

Our commitment to global citizenship is also highly distinctive. Employers look for more than just a good degree. For students to shape the ideas and the communities of tomorrow, they need a portfolio of skills. We have introduced free foreign language tuition and mentoring programmes, and we support entrepreneurship.

Aston University has a strong reputation for academic excellence and inspiring teaching embedded in an educational heritage that can be traced back to 1895, and more recently to 1966 when we were awarded our University Charter.

We have always had a strong belief in social mobility, and the power of higher education to transform lives. This is reflected in our research where we are delivering solutions to global challenges such as increased demand for telecommunications technologies, the links between enterprise and high growth business, and energy solutions that will meet tomorrow's needs.

If you choose Aston you will be joining a community where students from 120 nationalities live and work together, and you will benefit from an investment plan which has helped to transform the campus and the student experience. The new Chemical Engineering laboratories, the Sir Doug Ellis Woodcock Sports Centre and the Library are examples of stunning new buildings, whilst our new personal tutoring programme demonstrates our support for Aston students.

Aston is a vibrant university in a vibrant city. Our Students' Union has over 120 clubs and societies and Birmingham city centre is a five minute walk away. I hope you will visit us at one of our Open Days and come and see for yourself why Aston is such a popular choice.

With best wishes

**Professor Dame Julia King DBE FREng**  
**Vice-Chancellor**

“You will struggle to find a university in Britain more keenly attuned to the needs of business and industry.”

The Sunday Times University Guide 2012

“Not even Oxbridge can boast a higher proportion of students gaining graduate level jobs than Aston.”

The Sunday Times University Guide 2012

“Universities such as Aston can only stand to benefit – for this is an institution that does what it says on the tin. It turns out some of the most highly sought after graduates in Britain.”

The Sunday Times University Guide 2012

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# STRONG INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS

## Get ahead in your career – we have an outstanding track record of graduate employment

The employability of our graduates – and their continuing success – is of great importance to us. Our excellent employment record is a major attraction to students year after year, across all degree programme areas; our graduates have outstanding success in finding graduate level employment and in building great, life long careers.

Our excellent reputation for teaching and learning coupled with our extensive work with industry leaders means that our courses equip students with the skills and professional acumen employers are seeking. Many employers target particular courses and look to recruit our students fresh from graduation.

The annual *High Fliers* employer survey places us in the top 20 of all UK universities targeted by the largest number of prestigious graduate employers – so it comes as no surprise that our final year students are some of the most optimistic in the UK about finding relevant graduate employment.

89.2% of Aston's employed graduates achieve graduate level positions within 6 months of leaving the university – a higher proportion than from Oxford.

The 2013 Sunday Times University Guide

To find out more, visit:  
[www.aston.ac.uk](http://www.aston.ac.uk)

# 200 GRADUATE EMPLOYERS

Over 200 graduate employers come onto campus each year to meet our students; here are a few...

3M	Corus	Kraft Foods/Cadbury
Accenture	Deloitte	KPMG
Aldi	E.ON	L’Oreal
Armed Forces (Army; Royal Air Force; Royal Navy)	Enterprise Rent-a-car	Lloyds Banking Group
Aston Martin	Ernst & Young	Marks & Spencer
Lagonda	ExxonMobil	Microsoft
AXA	Foreign and Commonwealth Office	Morgan Stanley
BAE Systems	Fujitsu	NHS
Balfour Beatty	GlaxoSmithKline	Orange
Barclays	Harrods	PriceWaterhouseCoopers
Bentley Motors	Hewlett Packard	Procter & Gamble
BMW	HM Revenue and Customs	Rolls-Royce
Boots	HSBC	Sainsbury’s
BT	IBM	Santander
CapGemini	Intel	Tesco
Caterpillar	Jaguar Land Rover	Unilever
Co-op		Vision Express

## Careers and placements

We have a dedicated department of around fifty professionals providing careers guidance and placement support to enhance the employability and capability of all of our students and recent graduates. We are committed to ensuring that the time spent at Aston prepares you for the graduate job market enabling you to demonstrate competitive commercial awareness and thrive in a knowledge-based global economy. Student satisfaction with the Careers Service was exceptionally high in the latest National Student Survey.

Each year the majority of our students benefit from work experience gained through a placement year or year abroad. This valuable experience is especially attractive to employers who want work-ready graduates.

Placements are relevant, challenging and usually paid; even in the current economic climate we have no shortage of placements both in the UK and overseas and with more employers offering placements each year we are committed to placing ever more students.

### We can equip you for success in the global market place

At Aston, we recognise that graduates are a key part of a more dynamic and mobile global marketplace. Our students have the chance to gain the skills and confidence to be successful global citizens, and we can offer access to exciting work and study opportunities through our extensive network of world-wide partnerships with employers and universities.

### We encourage enterprise and entrepreneurship

There is a good reason why Aston is in the top ten Universities for producing millionaires – we educated 2.3% of UK millionaires based on recent research (CoreData Research UK on behalf of Skandia) and we encourage our students to develop an enterprising mind-set and support those who want to build their own business. We run innovation competitions offering financial incentives; offer specialist advice and mentoring schemes; work with partners to fund start-ups and provide incubator space to encourage and enable enterprise and entrepreneurship.

## We provide the services and support you need to get ahead

- ▶ High quality careers guidance, education and information services delivered through individual appointments, group sessions and online education services
- ▶ Individual appointments with our careers consultants and professionals with industry experience and current knowledge of the careers pathways related to our degrees
- ▶ Emphasis and support for the development of self-awareness, key competencies and transferable skills such as communication, presentation, IT, leadership and team building
- ▶ Access to the Aston Futures online system advertising graduate employment opportunities, placements and vacation work
- ▶ Arranging and publicising events on campus such as employer presentations, drop-ins and recruitment fairs so that our students can meet employers face-to-face
- ▶ Continuously forging new relationships and working closely with graduate recruiters and other providers in the UK and globally to ensure their high profile presence on campus
- ▶ Commitment to providing the latest technology and access to clear information channels enabling easy communication and interaction with relevant services and support.



To find out more, visit:  
[www.aston.ac.uk/careers](http://www.aston.ac.uk/careers)



# INCREASE YOUR LANGUAGE SKILLS

With free language tuition

Learn Arabic, French, German, Japanese, Mandarin Chinese, Portuguese or Spanish for free, while you study at Aston University.

Languages are increasingly in demand from global businesses. Learning a new language can really develop your intercultural awareness and give you a head start in a global working environment.

Free language tuition is available to all Home/EU fee paying undergraduate students at beginner, intermediate or advanced level and our experienced language tutors will support you every step of the way.

- ▶ Learn a new language or improve your existing language skills
- ▶ Enhance your CV and increase your employability
- ▶ Excellent preparation for placements abroad
- ▶ Languages are increasingly in demand from global businesses
- ▶ Increase your intercultural awareness.

To find out more, visit:  
[www.aston.ac.uk/languagesforall](http://www.aston.ac.uk/languagesforall)

## Choosing your language level

**Beginners** – modules are designed for those with no knowledge of the language.

**Intermediate** – you will need some prior knowledge of the language, usually a GCSE pass at Grade C or above.

**Advanced** – you will need a Grade C or above in the same language at AS level, or an equivalent qualification.

The course director will determine which level of study is appropriate for each student (beginners, intermediate or advanced) based on the information that you supply on your application form. If you are enrolling on an intermediate or advanced module, you may need to take a test to check your language level.

## Classes and assessment

Classes take place during the standard university teaching day and are structured around undergraduate timetables. They are two hour sessions usually held late in the afternoon or in the early evening. Assessment is by a short oral presentation and discussion, a 30 minute class listening test and a two hour examination. The exam includes grammar and vocabulary exercises, reading and written comprehension, and written composition. Feedback is given for learning purposes throughout the module in the form of informal, verbal comments on weekly activities; both formative and summative feedback are provided on the oral presentation; written feedback is also given as part of the marking process for the exam.

## For more information contact:

School of Languages & Social Sciences  
Admissions  
Tel: 0121 204 3777  
Email: [languages\\_for\\_all@aston.ac.uk](mailto:languages_for_all@aston.ac.uk)



To find out more visit:  
[www.aston.ac.uk/languagesforall](http://www.aston.ac.uk/languagesforall)



# CAREER FOCUSED DEGREE COURSES

## Positive placements and Year Abroad programmes

A placement year spent with an employer has been proven to enhance graduate employment prospects and degree performance. Aston has over 50 years of experience in providing students with integrated employer placement opportunities and was one of the pioneers of this approach to university degrees.

**A placement year** gives students the opportunity to apply what they have learnt on their course, whilst at the same time gaining valuable professional and paid experience with an employer. A placement year in the UK or abroad has been proven to enhance students' employment prospects and can often help them with their career choices when applying for graduate employment.

**A sandwich placement** is a validated work experience opportunity which forms part of a university degree programme (usually in the third year of a four year course). This could involve working within your chosen field, studying abroad, or a mixture of both. During your placement, you have the opportunity to put into practice theory learnt through your first two years of study at Aston University and see how this applies to real work place situations.

The Placements Team provides a programme of support to students throughout their placement search and whilst on placement. Each School has a dedicated Placement Coordinator who will provide students with the most relevant placement information for their degree programme.

You will be supported throughout the application process, with CV and skills workshops, presentations, sample application materials and one-to-one advice. The application process for a placement is similar to applying for a graduate job, which is excellent experience in itself.

Aston University has developed relationships with a considerable number of organisations from large blue chip companies to small local businesses. Each year we advertise a wide variety of placements to our students – last year we advertised over 4000 placement opportunities via our website and regular bulletins.

A large number of employer events are held on campus throughout the year so that students can network with employers and find out more about placement opportunities.

The majority of our undergraduate students take a placement year, pre-registration year or year abroad, and our placement support networks and links are unrivalled.

## Aston rated in world top 50

Aston University has been ranked 47th in a new index of the world's leading universities under the age of 50. The 2012 league table, compiled in partnership with the Guardian and international rankings agency QS, is designed to identify who might become 'the next Harvard' and provide the 'next generation of global thought leadership'. The table also places Aston 3rd for its employer reputation.

## Overseas placements

Have you ever thought of doing a placement overseas? How about spending your placement year in Spain, Italy, Germany, Chile or Hong Kong, for example?

We collaborate with a wide range of companies and partner universities overseas and send over 250 students abroad on placement every year from a variety of degree programmes. Aston University has a flexible approach to the year abroad, and offers options including working abroad, studying abroad or becoming a language teaching assistant.

Overseas placements include English speaking and foreign language placements; so students who don't speak a second language can also take advantage of these exciting worldwide opportunities.

**A placement year abroad** is compulsory for all students studying a modern foreign language. Your third year will be spent in a French, German or Spanish speaking country, increasing fluency in your language and adding value to your degree by immersing yourself in an exciting new culture and society. If you are studying two languages you will normally divide your time equally between the two countries where each language is spoken.

Aston University has a dedicated International Placements Team that provides specialist support to students undertaking work and study placements overseas.

## Aston Placement Scholarships

We want to encourage as many students as possible to take a placement year or year abroad, so we have currently set the tuition fee for this year at £1,000. Thanks to our range of scholarships, we estimate that the majority of Aston students will not pay any tuition fees for their placement year. Currently Aston University students securing placement opportunities can benefit from financial support through the British Council's Erasmus Lifelong Learning Programme to work or study in Europe. We offer opportunities in 32 countries including France, Germany and Spain.

## Extensive Aston Scholarships

Aston University's tuition fee and scholarship levels for 2014 entry will be confirmed in Summer 2013. Extensive scholarships will be available for eligible UK/EU students applying to Aston University for 2014 entry. Aston scholarships are focussed on tuition fee or campus accommodation discounts or other support towards living costs, giving you a choice. See our website for further details, terms and conditions. [www.aston.ac.uk/scholarships](http://www.aston.ac.uk/scholarships)

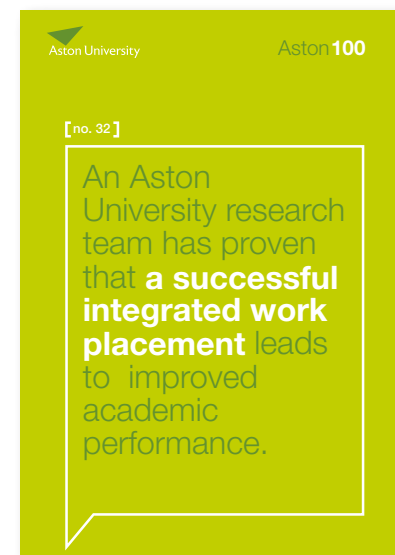
## Aston Placement Scholarship for unpaid placement years

Most placement students are paid a salary by their employer but if you take an unpaid placement year or year abroad you will not have to pay any placement year tuition fee. The Aston Placement Scholarship is offered irrespective of family income.

## Highly rated courses

In 2012 an independent recruitment survey of the UK's 100 top employers has again rated Aston University among the top 20 UK universities they turn to for graduate employment.

For the second year running Aston University has been ranked 17th overall by the UK's top 100 leading businesses with Apple, Goldman Sachs, Procter & Gamble, Rolls Royce and IBM among the companies surveyed by [www.highfliers.co.uk](http://www.highfliers.co.uk)



To find out more, visit:  
[www.aston.ac.uk/placements](http://www.aston.ac.uk/placements)

# EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AND RESEARCH

Aston promotes and supports academic excellence in everything that we do. You will be taught by academic staff with international reputations in their fields. You will benefit from their insight, expertise and skills. Access to quality library, learning resources and information technology is an essential part of any university experience and at Aston this is given a high priority. Our learning and teaching facilities are modern, easy to access and user-friendly.

## How we teach and how you will learn

Our staff are passionate. Our teaching sets out to be inspirational. Your learning experience is our focus. We offer a variety of learning, teaching and assessment methods tailored to suit the subject area and the aims and learning outcomes of your course.

**Lectures** are delivered by experienced, enthusiastic academic staff who can discuss the latest developments in their area. Lectures often 'set the scene' giving you the first insight into your programme and an idea of the areas you should study in more depth. Lectures form the basis of your independent study, provide inspiration for further discussion and reading, and provide an introduction to the module learning outcomes.

**Tutorials and seminars** expand on the subject area of a lecture and cover theories, new ideas and connections between subjects. Seminars give you an opportunity to discuss topics linked to your subject and clarify anything in the lecture that needs further explanation.

**Laboratory classes** will help you develop subject-specific skills but you will also learn generic skills, such as team work. Practical sessions can give you an idea of how experienced practitioners of your subject area think about problems.

**Supervisions** are small-group teaching sessions. During supervision sessions you can explore and discuss particular aspects of the course, and you are positively encouraged to use these sessions to explore new approaches to learning and topics outside of the lectures.

**The Active Engineering Initiative** was developed with input from academics, industry, engineers and students. It allows you to tackle real problems and engage in practical, cross-disciplinary project-based work.

Engaging in practical projects can really help to develop your learning and technical knowledge and allow you to build on your personal skills, attributes, teamwork and communication.

**Blackboard** is our virtual learning platform which gives you access to one central resource for learning. You will benefit from a simple and more efficient learning tool where all course information, including course content, assignments and discussion topics, are stored and accessible from one place.

**MAP – My Aston Portal** is a web based system which is a single point of contact for many of the university services you use as a student. With MAP you can access your personalised teaching timetables, module lists, finance and accommodation information. You can also use MAP to keep the university up-to-date with your current addresses and personal details.

**Aston Replay** is a service allowing staff to record their teaching sessions. Students can then search and view material in their own time.

## Come and see us

OPEN DAYS:  
Tuesday 18 June 2013  
Wednesday 18 September 2013  
Saturday 19 October 2013  
[www.aston.ac.uk/opendays](http://www.aston.ac.uk/opendays)  
Campus tours and visits welcome.

## Research that makes a difference

Aston has an excellent reputation for research that makes an international impact. We focus on research which is exploitable and makes a substantial and beneficial difference to people, organisations and society. As a student you will learn from star researchers and in some cases work alongside them, for example...

### A cup of herbal tea could help fight breast cancer

Scientists at Aston University and Russell Hall Hospital have discovered an extract from a plant, *Fagonia Cretica*, can kill cancer cells in breast tissue without damage to normal cells, under laboratory conditions. The plant is commonly used in herbal tea and traditionally used as a folklore remedy to treat women in rural Pakistan with breast cancer. The study now aims to identify which element(s) of the plant are specifically responsible for killing the cancer cells.

### 'Under reported' use of anti-psychotic drugs

The scale of the challenge to reduce the use of anti-psychotic drugs by people with dementia may be under-estimated, according to researchers from Aston University and the University of East Anglia, working with NHS Kent and Medway. There is a key public health challenge to reduce the prescribing of anti-psychotic drugs to people with dementia as they are thought to be associated with up to 1,800 deaths a year. Academics believe usage may be up to 46% greater than official figures suggest.

### Give your business the edge

The Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses programme provides high quality, structured and practically focused support to leaders in small business and social enterprises who are seeking to grow their business. Participants learn alongside other ambitious small business owners, and with the support of Aston Business School and a range of experienced practitioners from the business community. At the end of the programme, participants join an active and enthusiastic 10,000 Small Businesses national alumni network consisting of hundreds of the UK's most exciting small businesses.

## The only paediatric MEG scanner in Europe housed at the Aston Brain Centre

A brain scanner specifically for children – one of only three in the world – forms part of pioneering new research facilities at Aston University. The Aston Brain Centre (ABC) brings together a unique suite of equipment and facilities for related areas of brain research, from child development to healthy ageing. The Centre specialises in areas including epilepsy, dyslexia, autism, ADHD, sleeping disorders and metabolic disease. The ABC will also provide a referral service for the National Health Service (NHS), providing innovative diagnostic services unavailable within the NHS.

## Renewable low carbon technologies

Aston has developed new £16.5m engineering laboratories to showcase and develop renewable low carbon technologies for industry and business. Funded by the European Regional Development Fund and Aston, facilities include a waste-fuelled power plant capable of turning sewage, wood, straw and grass cuttings into energy, and giant 'radiators' that can grow algae for fuel. The demonstration plant will act as a living laboratory by producing the heat, electricity and cooling needed to power the building and create biochar for use as an agricultural fertiliser.

investing  
in your future  
European Regional Development Fund  
European Union



## How work in forensic linguistics can help to convict criminals

Aston's Centre for Forensic Linguistics has been influential in the conviction of several criminals thanks to their expertise in analysing language. Professor Malcolm Coulthard was influential in securing the conviction of David Hodgson for the murder of Jenny Nicholl, a teenager from North Yorkshire who disappeared in 2005.





Discover Aston  
Achievers on Twitter  
#AstonStudent100

# ASTON STUDENTS – HIGH ACHIEVERS AND ENTREPRENEURS

Aston's high achievers have a fantastic track record, from winning national prizes to starting successful businesses. Developing your entrepreneurship skills is important if, like many of our graduates, you want to start your own business after university. Employers look for people who have well-rounded entrepreneurial skills: graduates who not only have great ideas, but can also make things happen.

## Aston's student achievements

At Aston we work hard to make sure our students develop the technical, professional and transferable skills they need to be successful entrepreneurs. Hundreds of our students and graduates have set up their own successful businesses. For example,



Nick Holzherr, runner-up on the BBC show, The Apprentice (pictured left) graduated from Aston University with a BSc in International Business and Modern Languages.

Nick chose to study at Aston Business School because of its 'high-achieving reputation, its post-graduation employability record and its friendly feel'.

During his time at Aston University he was a member of the SIFE (Students in Free Enterprise) society where students work on projects to aid economic development within the Midlands region. Nick has already launched two successful business ventures. His new concept 'Whisk' is a web tool offering a new way to create recipes and purchase ingredients.

## Aston Enterprise

Aston University is committed to supporting students in developing enterprise and entrepreneurial skills. We organise a range of workshops every year to help you to develop your expertise including ideas generation, pitching skills and business plan writing. The annual Aston Enterprise Competition and the Aston Research Business Plan Competition are designed to encourage students to present innovative business ideas in a structured format.

To find out more about Aston University's Enterprise activities, please email: [enterprise@aston.ac.uk](mailto:enterprise@aston.ac.uk)

## An innovative scheme to support young entrepreneurs



If you're interested in setting up your own business either whilst you're a student or after you graduate, BSEEN can help. BSEEN offer incubator support, training, mentoring and career guidance, giving you the tools you need to succeed. There are also great networking opportunities

with BSEEN's city-wide network of entrepreneurs, who can give you much needed peer support and access to the regional economy.

BSEEN is a partnership between Aston University, University of Birmingham and Birmingham City University.

## Denys Zhadanov – Graduate

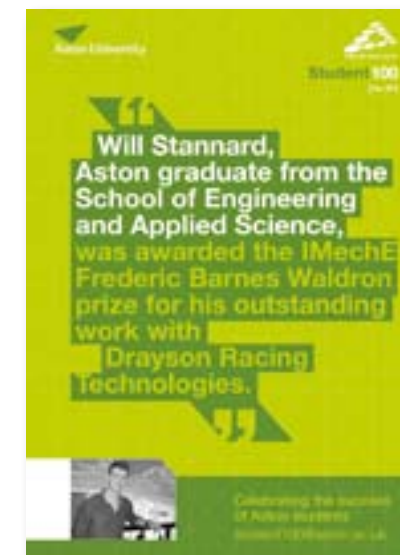


"On the day the iPhone launched we saw the opportunity to help people be more productive and efficient, stay paperless and keep our planet green. With my brother and two friends, we came up with the idea of making a file management/reader application for iPhone.

ReaddleDocs was in the AppStore on the first day of its launch and quickly became popular. With this early success, our business grew rapidly. Readdle has become well known for its iOS business and productivity applications, hitting the top of the AppStore charts. Our applications currently serve over 3.5 million active users worldwide.

Aston equipped me with the most important tools for running a successful business: the ability to network and analyse. It was a great year for me and despite the challenging course, I managed to socialise and explore different cultures."

For more success stories, visit:  
[www.aston.ac.uk/study/graduate-employability](http://www.aston.ac.uk/study/graduate-employability)



To find out more, visit:  
[www.astonentrepreneurs.com](http://www.astonentrepreneurs.com)



As an Aston student, you'll get the best of both worlds: a green, well-equipped, friendly campus in the heart of a vibrant city. Plus, all of our social, support and academic facilities are based on campus, so you never have far to go. Our self-contained, green campus in the centre of Birmingham is something we are very proud of. Trees, shrubs and water features, including the 'Chancellor's Lake' give our campus a natural feel. We are improving our facilities all the time and as we do, we are working on a number of projects to improve our sustainability and reduce our environmental impact.

### **Committed to becoming a more sustainable university**

#### **People and Planet Green League**

We are very proud that our commitment to sustainability here at Aston has been recognised in this year's 'People and Planet Green League'. Aston has been awarded 'First Class Honours' for our ranking at number 11 out of the 152 UK universities and HE institutions. It is the fourth year running that Aston University has achieved a top 20 ranking.

#### **Platinum EcoCampus award**

EcoCampus provides a framework to embed best practice in carbon and environmental management, and is widely recognised as a source of support and guidance for Higher Education Institutions in target setting and in the delivery of carbon management strategies and plans. We have achieved the Platinum EcoCampus award for our Environmental Management System, one of only 7 universities to have reached this level.

Aston has also been a Fairtrade accredited university since 2007 and we are proud of our commitment to Fairtrade products which help producers in other countries to achieve a better standard of living.

"Congratulations to Aston University for becoming one of the UK's greenest universities, and to all its staff and students who have shown a collective commitment to Fairtrade and for recognising their global responsibility. The awareness that this is raising among the student population will help make a better future for producers in the developing world".

**Veronica Pasteur**  
Head of Campaigns at Fairtrade.

# A GREEN, SUSTAINABLE CAMPUS

To live and study



Aston University

Aston100

[no. 71]

Aston is in the top ten of the 'People and Planet Green League', making the University **one of the most environmentally friendly universities in the UK.**



# HIGH QUALITY, AFFORDABLE ACCOMMODATION

The university's attractive, safe and compact campus makes living in residences a very sociable and enjoyable experience. Studying and living away from home is a big decision, but you can feel assured that our modern accommodation provides a high quality and affordable place to live. Living on campus will allow you to experience the full range of academic and support services the university has to offer.

### Living on campus

Choosing to live on campus means that you're only ever a couple of minutes walk from all of the university facilities and services and less than 10 minutes' walk from Birmingham City Centre. It's also really easy to make friends, as there are over 3,000 other students living within close proximity.

We guarantee accommodation on campus for all first year students who choose Aston as their Firm Choice university. We also welcome and encourage applications from students wishing to stay on campus beyond their first year (please refer to the Accommodation website for Allocation Policy details).

Our accommodation is managed by friendly and professional university residential services staff, ensuring that it is clean, safe and secure, with 24/7 welfare provision. Residences are also supported by a 24 hour on-site security team with swipe card access to all of the residences.

Rooms are currently offered on a 39 week licence period for returning and new Home students, 40 week licence for International and EU (non-British) students and 52 weeks for care leavers. This means that the room is yours throughout the academic year, so there's no need to move out during the Christmas and Easter holidays.

Low cost, high speed broadband with WiFi provided by an external service provider is available in all bedrooms on campus for an additional, but affordable, annual charge of £9.99.

### For more information contact:

Accommodation Office  
Tel: 0121 204 4704/4707  
Email: [accom@aston.ac.uk](mailto:accom@aston.ac.uk)  
Find us online at:  
[www.aston.ac.uk/accommodation](http://www.aston.ac.uk/accommodation)



### Allocation policy/rents

For more information, visit our website at:  
[www.aston.ac.uk/accommodation](http://www.aston.ac.uk/accommodation)

### Students with disabilities

We have a number of specially adapted rooms on campus to cater for those with disabilities. Please discuss your individual needs with the Accommodation Officer once you have been made an offer by Aston University.

You are encouraged to view the accommodation before or after you apply so that you can see the campus and discuss arrangements well in advance.

### Car parking

We are unable to offer students car parking spaces on campus. Parking is however, available for students with specific disabilities. Pay and display car parking is available close to the campus at the time of going to press but we recommend you visit our website or contact the accommodation office for confirmation of prices.

### Brand new student residences

We have recently completed Phase 1 of our new residences project, which has provided 1,307 brand new, en suite bedrooms on campus. Phase 2 of this project is due for completion in September 2013 when we will have over 3,000 bedrooms on campus, all of which are self-catering and en suite with a fully fitted, ergonomically designed and spacious study space and excellent storage. Flats are available in five and seven bedroom units with the five bedroom flats having a larger floor area and shower pod, more storage and larger size beds, each flat sharing a well-equipped kitchen and communal area.

### Lakeside

Lakeside residences provide 647 bedrooms on campus, arranged into flats for between six and ten students, with shared kitchen facilities. Each bedroom has an en suite bathroom, and telephone and television points are available in every room. Launderette facilities are also provided.

### Accommodation prices 2013-14

39 weeks (40 weeks for international students)

The prices quoted below also include all utility costs and communal cleaning charges, so budgeting whilst living on campus is easy. All rooms are single study bedrooms.

	Lakeside	William Murdoch James Watt Mary Sturge Harriet Martineau	
Rent (per week)	£121	£126	£134
Utility bills	Included	Included	Included
High speed internet	New and improved high speed internet available to ALL residences at a nominal fee		
En-suite	Yes	Yes	Yes
No of students per flat	6 – 10	7 bed units	5 bed units

Please note: this information is correct at the time of going to press but we recommend you visit our website or contact the accommodation office for confirmation of prices.





# LIBRARY AND IT FACILITIES

An ideal place for study

## The University Library offers you a welcoming and flexible space for group and individual study.

The Library has four floors and contains 150,000 volumes with over 800 reader places. There is online access to over 20,000 electronic journals in all subject areas and all journals, e-books and other key online information resources can be accessed from any computer on campus, or other locations off-campus.

Access to a modern, quality library, learning resources and information technology is an essential part of your university experience and at Aston university this is given high priority. Our facilities are extensive and accessible.

- ▶ Access to modern IT and computing facilities 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- ▶ Specialist staff provide support on IT and library resources throughout your studies
- ▶ Wireless internet access available in all accommodation and most cafés, common rooms and academic areas.

## IT facilities

There are more than 50 computer labs across the Aston Campus, many of which can be accessed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You will have access to a range of networked software packages, database systems, modelling tools and online research tools.

IT facilities are free to Aston University students and are linked by our Local Area Network, which spans the campus and provides high speed access to other networks worldwide. We also have an extensive wireless network throughout campus which allows you to use your own laptop to access the internet and many university services.

Many teaching rooms are equipped with ICT facilities for presentations, and specialist rooms are equipped with facilities to support research activities. An increasing number of events and lectures are also recorded in multimedia and made available online for students working remotely or for later review.

## Library facilities

Our online Library SmartSearch discovery tool tells you what is in the Library, enables you to check the recommended reading for your course, and lets you reserve and renew books. You can issue and return books yourself by using our self service machines. Multiple copies of titles on reading lists are available in the library and copies of core texts can also be found in the short loan section.

With PC labs, laptops for loan, wireless internet access, photocopiers, printers, group and silent study areas, the Library is an ideal place to study. The entire ground floor is a modern social learning space with a cafe and vending area. This is our major group study area with a range of seating, plus meeting 'pods' where you can work as a group in a more isolated atmosphere. Specialist equipment for students with additional needs is also available on the ground floor. The emphasis is on accessibility and user-friendliness.

The Library has 24 hour access, six days a week, at key times throughout the year. The Library is also open during all university vacations, except for those days when the university is closed.

As a new student you will be given an induction to the Library to ensure you are aware of all the facilities and services available to you. Our experienced and knowledgeable Library staff are on hand to help and online support is available through the 'Library Matters' virtual learning module.





# A WELCOMING, VIBRANT PLACE TO BE

Aston Welcome Week is rated as one of the best in the country for enjoyment and support.

## Aston University – The Students' Union

Aston Students' Union is home to the majority of the social life that takes place on campus, as well as a wide range of services, societies and clubs.

## Aston Welcome Week

Aston University holds an International Orientation Week followed by a Freshers' Week for all new students, which is designed to help you settle in and adjust to student life.

Second and final year students called 'Aston Aunties' will help to look after you throughout these two weeks. The Aunties provide a friendly face and help guide you around the campus, show you the sights and answer any questions that you may have. The university provides Academic Arrival Guides, based in each School to answer your questions on arrival and show you around the School.

Throughout the two weeks the Union organises activities with the aim of welcoming you to the university lifestyle. Day trips and tours introduce you to Birmingham and the key features of the city, and in the evening the Union hosts different themed events from stand-up comedy to fancy dress.

At the end of the week, all of Aston's clubs and societies promote themselves to new students at the Freshers' Fair. External organisations such as nightclubs, banks and supermarkets will also be there to tell you about what they offer. Various independent magazines and guides rate the Aston Welcome Week as one of the best in the country for enjoyment and support.





# A STUDENTS' UNION THAT WORKS FOR YOU

The Students' Union aims to provide a wide range of services and support, to help make student life as easy and enjoyable as possible. As the Union is run by students for students we'll always do our best to provide whatever you want, and help you out if you run into any difficulties. Supporting your Students' Union makes good sense because (unlike off-campus businesses) any surplus revenue generated by the Union's commercial services is invested straight back into improving our facilities just for you.

Key services include:

- Advice & Representation Centre (ARC)
- B4 Bar
- Clubs and Societies
- Students' CopyShop
- Students' JobShop

The Union also offers: Subway sandwich outlet; a shop (selling magazines, newspapers, stationery, food, sandwiches); cash points; a bookshop; the Strand Hair Salon; The Loft (a social study area with IT and presentation facilities) and prayer rooms.

## Entertainment

B4 Bar is open throughout the day serving good quality food at affordable prices. The bar shows most of the major live sporting events and hosts great entertainment most nights of the week.

The Union Hall hosts a variety of daytime events from Careers' Fairs to poster sales, and is available for clubs and societies to book for rehearsals and practice sessions. For Union night-time events, the ENTS Crew transform the Union Hall into a great party venue catering for every taste in music and entertainment. There is one main event each month (usually with a fancy dress theme) as well as other events including roller discos, wrestling, talent shows and comedy.

## Communication

The Union team work hard to keep students up to date with all the latest campus news, details of events, and anything else they might find useful.

The Union website ([www.astonunion.com](http://www.astonunion.com)) pulls together all the information you should need but you can also join the Aston Students' Union Facebook Group or follow @aston\_union on Twitter.

The iAston is Aston's student magazine with 'hot off the press' news from in and around the university. It's published once a month to take a more detailed look at what's been going on around campus.

**To find out more, visit:**  
**[www.astonunion.com](http://www.astonunion.com)**

# OVER 120 CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

All of our clubs and societies are run by students for students. With so many to choose from, you're bound to find a club or society to suit you, and if you can't, you can set one up. Clubs and societies are a perfect way to meet new friends, try something that you've never done before and can even enhance your career prospects.

Here are a few you may be interested in....

Clubs	Societies		
Badminton	Afro-Caribbean	Extreme BBQ	Psychology Society
Ballroom	Ahlul Bayt	Fusion	Radical Youth
Basketball	AIIESEC	German	Raise And Give (RAG)
Cricket	Airsoft Society	Growing in Faith & Truth	Rock
Equestrian	Asian	Healthy Cookery	Romanian/Moldovan
Fencing	Aston Bright Futures	Hindu	Rotoract
Five-a-side Football	Aston Entrepreneurs	Hip Hop	SAMEEM
Gaelic Football	Aston Institute of Photonic Technologies	Hope Fellowship	Sikh
Golf	Aston Trading & Investment Society	Hong Kong	Spanish
Hockey	Astonishing Voices	i-Aston Magazine	Sri Lankan Society
Jitsu	Bangladeshi	Islamic	Travelling
Kabaddi	Banking & Finance	J-Soc	UNICEF
Kayak	Beer, Ale & Cocktail	Kanz-ud-Dawah	Vietnamese
Men's Football	Bhangra	Krishna Conc.	
Men's Rugby	Biomedical Science	Law	
Mountaineering	Board & Table Gaming	Lesbian, Gay, Bi & Trans	
Netball	Bulgarian	Links (St Johns Ambulance)	
Salsa	Chemical Engineering & Applied Chemistry Society	Lithuanian	
Snow	Chinese Students	Live Music Society	
Squash	Chinese Student Scholar Association	Malaysian	
Swim & Water polo	Christian Union	Marketing	
Table Tennis	Computer Science	Mathletes	
Taekwon-Do	Economics	Model UN & Debating	
Tennis	Empowerment	Music	
Thai Boxing & MMA	Ents Crew	Northern	
Ultimate Frisbee	Erasmus & Exchange	Optics	
Volleyball		Oxfam	
Wildkatz		Photography	
Women's Football		Poker	
Women's Rugby			

To find out more, visit:  
[www.astonunion.com/clubsandsocs](http://www.astonunion.com/clubsandsocs)

**ATIS (Aston Trading and Investment Society)** is a student-led society dedicated to demystifying the world of financial markets. As well as educating our members, we help you realise a potential career in investment banking and adjoining industries, and there are great networking opportunities via our corporate relations team. Keynote events for this year include Instructus Trading Seminar, a FOREX trading game and Thomson Reuters Certificate accreditation.

**Latin and Ballroom Dance** is a great way to meet new people, stay fit and learn some fun moves. Ballroom dances include Waltz and Tango, while Latin ones include Samba and Rumba. Throughout the year we invite guest teachers and show dancers to hold workshops; plan trips to watch professional dance competitions; organise competitions within the society and hold social events for students.

**Taekwon-Do** is a Korean martial art of unarmed combat designed for self-defence. Lessons are varied and you can learn and practise all aspects of Taekwon-Do. Everyone is welcome, whatever experience you have!

**Women's Football** – the Aston Sharks – are Aston University's women's football team, affectionately known as the Sharkies! We train on campus with skilled coaches, and compete in matches as part of the BUCS league against other universities around the country. New members are always welcome to join at any point throughout the year and it is a great way to meet new friends, get fit and adapt to university life.

**LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans)** is free to join and open to anybody who wants to join in our activities. We offer welfare advice and support to those who need it, as well as a variety of social events throughout the year to help relieve the stress of university life! So come along (it's free) and see for yourself what we can offer you! Many straight people enjoy being social members of our friendly society – where else are you going to be able to dance to a DJ set that has Steps, S-club, and Britney back to back?

**Aston Chinese Student Society** aims to promote Chinese culture to non-Chinese students and to unite Chinese students. Activities include clubbing around Birmingham and day trips, such as Alton Towers. We are also developing a group competition called 'the Aston Game' where UK universities are invited to participate in sports.

**The Aston Psychology Society** offers a range of events throughout the year whether you are studying psychology or not. We provide excellent support for psychology students; introduce guest speakers from experts in psychology to sufferers of neurodegenerative disorders; host movie nights showing films with a psychological twist; hold tours of the Aston Brain Centre and trips to museums nationwide.

**Enactus** is a global business society promoting business with ethics which gives you the opportunity to have practical, hands on experience of running a business. If you have an idea for your own business project, Enactus is the best way to go about it. We run a variety of events for members from CV workshops to networking and at a national competition in Canary Wharf, London, Enactus societies across the UK compete by presenting their projects to top business advisors.

Gaelic Football Club



The Hindu Society





# A GREAT PLACE FOR SPORT



Aston University students have the benefit of accessible and affordable high quality sports facilities right on the doorstep. Whether you want to train, compete, keep fit or just have fun with friends, Aston can provide you with a great range of opportunities.

Campus sports facilities are typically open from 7am to 10pm Monday to Friday and from 10am to 7pm at weekends. Access is through your Aston University ID card and prices provide excellent value-for-money with discounts for multi-visit passes. Our facilities are staffed by trained instructors, first-aiders and lifeguards.

## **The Sir Doug Ellis Woodcock Sports Centre – on campus**

- ▶ 25m swimming pool, sauna and steam room
- ▶ Fully equipped 100+ station fitness suite with a variety of cardiovascular, resistance and free weight stations
- ▶ Dance and martial arts studios
- ▶ Fitness and yoga classes including aerobics, aqua aerobics and spinning classes
- ▶ Large sports hall for badminton, netball, volleyball, basketball etc with seating and viewing gallery.

New for spring 2013, The Sir Doug Ellis Woodcock Sports Centre will have a new, large sports hall for football, netball, basketball, indoor cricket, badminton and volleyball. It will also have glass back squash courts and additional changing facilities.

## **Sport Aston Gym at the Sir Doug Ellis Woodcock Sports Centre**

100+ stations including cardiovascular, fixed resistance, plate loaded equipment and dumbbells. Cardiovascular machines have individual TVs and headphone jacks to enhance your workout. Fitness appraisals, personal fitness programmes, and personal training from a team of qualified gym staff are also available. Membership of the gym for Aston University students costs the equivalent of around £4 per week.

## **Classes and courses**

We offer a full programme of instructed classes including aerobics and dance classes, yoga, Pilates, badminton and squash. Instruction is available for both beginners and improvers. National Pool Lifeguard Qualification courses are also run throughout the year. This qualification is required for lifeguard work in swimming pools and leisure centres across the UK. The course is typically run over three weekends, minimising the impact on studies, and is heavily subsidised for Aston University students.

## **Clubs, tours and competitions**

Over 35 sports clubs are run by the University Athletic Union and whether you are a total novice or an elite performer, they are always on the lookout for new members. All clubs attend the Freshers' Fair to meet and recruit new members. Clubs train and compete, many in the British Universities & Colleges Sport (BUCS) leagues, but they also organise lots of events for the less sporty members to take part in.

## **Sports scholarships**

Aston University's scholarship programme is designed to develop potential excellence in a wide range of competitive sports. A bursary may be available to students who have achieved a level of excellence within their chosen sport.

A wide range of activities, instruction, training and clubs can be found at our sport centre on campus and at the off campus Recreation Centre.

## **Outdoor recreation centre – off campus**

Six miles north of campus the Recreation Centre, covering 46 acres, is the site for Aston University's grass football, rugby, hockey and cricket pitches. A full size floodlit synthetic pitch provides facilities for hockey and other team sports. A minibus service operates to and from campus on competition and training days.

**To find out more visit:**  
**[www.aston.ac.uk/sport](http://www.aston.ac.uk/sport)**

# HELPING AND SUPPORTING YOU

**Aston University has a wide range of services to support and help you during your time here**

There is a wide range of support on offer to Aston students to ensure your time here is a success in academic, social and personal terms. The close-knit community on campus helps to ensure that our students know where and who to turn to if they have issues or concerns. This support is available whether you are living on or off campus.

## Academic support

### Personal Tutor system

You will be allocated a Personal Tutor and will be encouraged to make regular contact with him or her throughout your studies. Personal Tutors are there to help discuss academic and, in some cases, personal issues. If appropriate they will refer you to the other specialist services available at Aston. Personal Tutors can also often offer support by writing references for placement/graduate employment and academic research.

### Learning Development Centre

The Learning Development Centre (LDC) provides innovative and practical support to enhance your learning at Aston. The LDC is an inclusive service, committed to helping all Aston students develop the skills necessary for their academic and professional success.

The LDC brings together a range of services to support learning including advice on writing for assignments and research, a maths support centre staffed by specialist tutors, programming support and general study skills guidance covering exam and revision techniques, presentations, working in groups and much more. The LDC provides a range of online resources and equipment for student use, such as wireless internet access, laptop computers and bookable audio visual student support equipment to support group work and presentations. Expert advice is also available for students using or requiring adaptive software and technologies. The LDC is located on the first floor of the Library.

### Peer Mentoring

Peer Mentoring is a great way for you to maximise your Aston experience. Aston University's Peer Mentoring programme offers support for students by students at every point of your university career. We offer mentoring opportunities throughout your student life cycle, from pre-entry to graduation and beyond. This service is available to all students.

For more information visit [www.aston.ac.uk/current-students/get-involved/mentoring-at-aston-university](http://www.aston.ac.uk/current-students/get-involved/mentoring-at-aston-university)

### Student volunteering and outreach

Volunteering looks great on a CV and can help give you skills that employers look for. Aston's Outreach Office supports the university's student volunteering and outreach initiatives. Students provide support and act as role models in local schools and colleges to pupils of all ages – from primary to sixth form. Students can also work in the local community as volunteers with a focus on sport, drama, music and the arts.

### JobShop

Students looking for part-time work can use the Students' JobShop based in the Students' Union. All term time work offered to Aston students is advertised here as well as unskilled work for vacation periods. Skilled vacation work is handled by the Careers and Employability Centre on the first floor of the South Wing. The JobShop follows the university policy that paid work must not detract from academic work, with a recommended maximum number of weekly hours during term time.

## Personal support

### The Hub Advice Zone

*'If it matters to you, then it matters to us.'*

Based on the ground floor of the Main Building, the Hub is the place to go to access the central student support services of the university.

Staff at the Hub Advice Zone reception desk will provide you with information, give you a leaflet or application form or arrange for you to see a specialist adviser. The Hub desk also acts as the reception, and makes appointments, for the Counselling Service and the Disability and Additional Needs Unit (DANU).

The Hub is the place to visit for queries which range from council tax to counselling; disability support to academic advice; student finance to student visas and work visas.

### Advice & Representation Centre (ARC)

The ARC is the Student Union's independent representation centre. Contact the ARC if you need representation at hearings or if your query requires advice which is independent of the university. The ARC also manages Aston 'Studentpad' the best source of non-campus accommodation for Aston students.

### Counselling service

Accessed through the Hub, the Aston University Counselling Service is a well-established, professional service, staffed by qualified and experienced counsellors. Meeting with a counsellor offers the opportunity to talk about a range of issues that may be affecting you personally or impacting on your studies. Counsellors do not tell you what to do. Their role is to help you understand your difficulties and to identify ways of coping with or resolving them.

### University Health Centre (Halcyon Medical)

The university provides a full confidential health service from our modern Health Centre based in Boots the Chemist, opposite Marks and Spencer, less than a ten minute walk from the campus. All treatment is given under the NHS and students are encouraged to register at the start of term. Our team of male and female doctors and nurses offer a full range of medical advisory services and there is emergency cover at all times for registered students. All students on courses of 6 months or more are eligible to register with the Health Centre.

For convenience during term time, there is a small health clinic, as well as a dental surgery and optician, on the campus itself. These are all based in the Aston University Health Clinics building, situated behind the campus Library and are open on weekdays.

### Security and safety on campus

Aston's team of fully trained and friendly security staff are there to help ensure the safety and security of the Aston University community. Our campus is safe and friendly and is covered by extensive CCTV and security patrols. We enjoy excellent relations with the local West Midlands Police, with officers covering the campus 'beat'.

Crime on the campus is very low (the lowest of any Midlands university) and our security measures and friendly atmosphere aim to keep it that way.

### Nursery

The Aston University Nursery, for children of staff and students, is run by our team of fully qualified and experienced staff who provide specialist developmental and fun activities for children aged between six weeks and five years. Children up to the age of 11 can also join the holiday clubs which offer a range of activities tailored to the age and developmental stage of your child.

### Religious provision

The university Chaplains are there for students of all faiths or of none. The Chaplains provide a welcome for all. There is a programme of events at the Martin Luther King Multi-Faith Centre which is based on campus near the Library entrance. Faith societies and other groups use the Centre for meetings, reflection and worship.

There are a range of Students' Union societies which offer you the chance to meet, talk and worship with other people who share your faith. There is also a prayer facility within the Students' Union.





### Support for care leavers

Aston welcomes applications from students from a care background.

If you are a care leaver and you are considering coming to Aston you can expect:

- ▶ A dedicated care leaver contact who can offer tailored, individual and sustained support throughout your time here
- ▶ A care leavers' non-repayable bursary
- ▶ Help in accessing financial assistance, guidance and support
- ▶ A guaranteed place in university accommodation
- ▶ The Buttle Trust UK Grant Scheme. If you are a young person who is estranged from their family and entering higher education, you may apply for a grant from the Buttle Trust UK; grants are awarded to help with your living costs and to help you gain an academic qualification
- ▶ Each application for care leaver support will be considered in confidence on an individual basis by our designated support staff.

For more information visit

[www.aston.ac.uk/current-students/hub/money/care-leavers](http://www.aston.ac.uk/current-students/hub/money/care-leavers)



### Mature students

We encourage applications from mature students and will consider each application on its individual merits. You will usually need to provide us with evidence of successful recent study in relevant subjects, or relevant professional qualifications and/or experience.

New students are invited to a 'Mature Students' Induction', held before the start of term, where you can meet other mature students and find out about services available at Aston. This event incorporates both academic skills sessions and more informal activities.

The 'Mature Students' Society' run by a student committee, with its own common room based in the Students' Union, offers guidance and support. If you need help with childcare, the Aston University Nursery caters for children up to school age, with half-term and holiday clubs open to children up to the age of 11.

### Hardship funds and money management

The Funds Administrator, accessed through the Hub Advice Zone, assesses eligibility and entitlement to the Access to Learning Fund and other hardship funds. These funds are there to assist you if you are experiencing financial hardship so contact the Hub Advice Zone to find out if you are eligible. There are also some limited funds to assist you if you are an EU or international student experiencing financial hardship resulting from an unexpected change in circumstances such as one of your parents losing their job.

The Student Advisers, based in the Hub, offer advice and guidance on student funding including welfare benefits and debt management.

For more information visit

[www.aston.ac.uk/current-students/hub/fau](http://www.aston.ac.uk/current-students/hub/fau)

### Finance Centre

The Finance Centre provides a 'One Stop' environment where you can get expert advice on resolving financial issues, all in a safe and secure environment. The area consists of the cashier desk where you can make payments, and the fee collection helpdesk where you can discuss financial matters arising from tuition and accommodation fees. The Finance Centre staff work very closely with colleagues in the Hub and Registry, to provide you with a complete financial advisory service on paying fees.

You can visit the Finance Centre on the Ground Floor of the Main Building, adjacent to the Hub.

For more information visit

[www.aston.ac.uk/current-students/finances/paying](http://www.aston.ac.uk/current-students/finances/paying)



## Students with disabilities and specific learning difficulties

We welcome applications from students with disabilities or long-term medical conditions. Your application will be considered on academic merit, and any support needs you may have will be considered separately by our Disability and Additional Needs Unit.

### Applications

We advise you to disclose any disability or support needs via your UCAS form. A copy of your application will be sent to the Disability Team who may ask you for additional information relating to disability issues. We may invite you for an interview so you can discuss any arrangements in advance.

### Campus access

All teaching is carried out on our single flat campus, where our student residences are also located. The distance from residences to most facilities is no more than 400 metres. Most buildings are equipped with lifts, and kerbs have been lowered to allow ease of access for wheelchair users.

You can check out campus maps and guides on the web site

[www.aston.ac.uk/about/directions](http://www.aston.ac.uk/about/directions)

### Accommodation

We have a number of specially adapted rooms on campus, catering for students with disabilities. Accommodation on campus may be guaranteed for the duration of your course if your individual circumstances warrant this. You can talk to our Accommodation Officer and the Disability and Additional Needs Unit (DANU), for advice, once you have been made an offer. Rooms are available which have ground floor/lift access, larger floor space, en suite bathrooms, vibrating alert/doorbell systems, shower seats, grab rails etc.

### The Disability and Additional Needs Unit

To help you plan and prepare for university life, DANU, accessed through The Hub, can provide advice and support to applicants and students with disabilities and additional needs. All enquiries are dealt with on a confidential basis. The Disability Team assist and organise academic related support for students with disabilities, utilising in-house specialist support services and external support workers through Clear Links. Support work can include note taking, reading, transcription, photocopying, keyboard manipulation, mobility assistance, access to qualified British Sign Language interpreters and dyslexia/study skills tutors, amongst others.

We may assist you by liaising with other departments in the university on your behalf, helping with applications for funding, through to the provision of information at open days and interview visits, as well as general advice and support throughout your studies.

### The Disabled Students' Allowance

Students with disabilities from the UK may be eligible for extra financial support. The Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA) is a non-means tested grant, paid by Student Finance Companies, (SFC) designed to help meet the costs of extra study support needs. When you have accepted an offer from the university, contact your SFC and ask them for further advice about applying for a DSA. As this process can take a few months, you are encouraged to apply early, so that all your support needs are known by the time you start university. For non-UK students, please contact DANU as soon as possible to discuss your support needs in more detail.

### Information

For more information, advice or for information in an alternative format, please contact the DANU team:

Tel: 0121 204 4007

Email: [danu@aston.ac.uk](mailto:danu@aston.ac.uk)





# OUR INTERNATIONAL STUDENT COMMUNITY

A world-class education

Students from over 120 countries study at Aston University each year, living in a lively, safe and friendly atmosphere. Our students make the most of their time on campus with a high level of participation in clubs, societies and sports.

Aston University is a popular choice for international students. We recognise and welcome the important academic contribution and cultural diversity international students bring to our university environment.

## **Internationally recognised degrees**

British universities are highly respected throughout the world for the quality of their education and at Aston we demonstrate this clearly in the excellent teaching quality and research ratings of our degree programmes. Many of our degree areas have world-class research and teaching rankings.

## **Excellent employment prospects**

Aston University graduates are highly sought after by major international companies. Aston University is consistently near the top of the league tables for graduate employment year after year.

Our degree programmes are continually reviewed and updated to ensure that you will have the necessary skills demanded by companies.

## **Professional work experience/study placements**

International students have the opportunity to undertake a year of paid professional experience relevant to their degree subject by choosing to follow a sandwich degree programme. Aston has over 50 years of experience in providing students with integrated employer placements and was one of the pioneers of this approach to university degrees. We have developed relationships with a large number of local, national and international employers, who come back to us year after year to employ our students. With the globalisation of business, graduating from Aston with professional experience will make you highly attractive to future employers.

## **Guaranteed accommodation**

We guarantee university campus accommodation for all of our international students for the full duration of their degree programme (applications need to be made by the deadline each year). All students living on campus have their own single study bedroom and en suite bathroom, with shared kitchen facilities. We are sensitive to individual student needs and can also offer single-sex accommodation.

The university provides support for students wishing to live off campus, including providing the details of estate agents in Birmingham who can offer family accommodation. The city centre location of the campus means it is easily accessible for students commuting from private accommodation.

**To find out more visit:**  
[www.aston.ac.uk/international](http://www.aston.ac.uk/international)

Reasonable cost of living

Your living expenses will vary depending on your lifestyle, but the cost of living in Birmingham is generally lower than in many other areas of the UK. As a guide we would recommend you allow approximately £800 per month for living expenses such as accommodation, food, books, clothing, travel and other incidentals.

International student scholarships

Many of our degree programmes offer scholarships for international students proven to excel in their subject area. Scholarships are based on merit and given to applicants with a record of academic excellence.

For more information visit [www.aston.ac.uk/international-students](http://www.aston.ac.uk/international-students)

Advice and support for international students

The International Student Advisers, based in The Hub Advice Zone, will offer you advice and support with your application for a new visa to study at Aston University. Their service is free of charge.

Once you have arrived at Aston, the International Student Advisers will assist you with all your immigration related queries such as renewing your student visa, inviting your family to visit you whilst you are in the UK, sorting out a UK bank account and helping you with work visas once you have completed your course.

Aston University is renowned for being a friendly and welcoming university, and International Welcome Week at Aston is designed to help you settle into student life quickly, meet new people, and to be a lot of fun! During Welcome Week, second and final year student volunteers, the famous ‘Aston Aunties’ (male and female), will provide a friendly face to help guide you around the university, show you the sights and answer any questions that you may have.

Aston Students’ Union and international student societies

Aston Students’ Union is a service run by students for students. It is also at the heart of every student society. Aston has a vast number of international student societies which hold various social and cultural activities; this is an excellent way to meet new people and make friends. There are many international societies that students can join including; African and Caribbean, Bangladeshi, Chinese, Sri Lankan, Asian, Kazakh, Vietnamese, Hanguk, Sikh, Islamic and many more. If you can’t find the right society to suit you Aston gives students the opportunity to set up their own society offering valuable managerial experience.

There are also a wide range of other sports and general societies for all students to get involved with at Aston, from popular sports societies such as basketball and cricket to the more unusual ultimate frisbee and mountaineering societies. We also have a number of subject related societies, such as the Maths Society, Pharmacy Society, and Aston Entrepreneurs.

English language support

If you need help with academic English whilst studying at Aston University, free support is available from the Centre for English Language and Communication at Aston. The staff can give you advice on essay, report and project writing, giving presentations, understanding lectures and reading effectively and efficiently. We have a fully-accredited IELTS (International English Language Testing System) test centre on campus. Test dates are available throughout the year – for dates and booking details call into the centre or visit the website.

For more information visit [www.aston.ac.uk/ielts](http://www.aston.ac.uk/ielts)

Aston International Year Abroad programme

This programme is for students outside the UK who wish to improve their English ability and gain experience of studying in the UK. Most students are near the end of their undergraduate studies or have completed them. For further information contact the School of Languages and Social Sciences.

For more information visit [www.aston.ac.uk/lss](http://www.aston.ac.uk/lss)

Applications and entry qualifications

All undergraduate applicants must apply through UCAS, details of which can be found on pages 75.

For our degree programmes we consider international applications throughout the year, but recommend that you apply as early as possible in the UCAS cycle. Entry requirements are listed in this prospectus in terms of A Level and International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma qualifications. The university also accepts equivalent international qualifications and international access/ foundation programmes.

We are also happy to consider suitably qualified UCAS applicants for direct entry into the second year of selected programmes. Direct entry to the final year of any of our degrees is not permitted, reflecting the high quality and professional integrity of our programmes.

If you have studied in an overseas education system which is not equivalent to GCE A level you can apply for the International Foundation Programme (see page 44 for details). You can make a direct application for this programme via our website.

International visits

Staff from the International Office and the academic Schools often travel overseas to attend education exhibitions and hold information seminars. This is an ideal opportunity to talk to us and find out more information.

For more information visit [www.aston.ac.uk/international-students/forthcoming-visits](http://www.aston.ac.uk/international-students/forthcoming-visits)

We also work with a network of overseas educational representatives in many countries, who can provide support throughout the application process, assist with your visa application and pre-departure arrangements.

For more information visit [www.aston.ac.uk/international-students/overseas-agents](http://www.aston.ac.uk/international-students/overseas-agents)

English language requirements for direct entry to undergraduate programmes

We want to ensure that you do well in your studies and we therefore look for evidence of competence in written and spoken English. The minimum IELTS requirements for each School’s programmes are as follows:

School	Reading	Writing	Listening	Speaking	Overall
Aston Business School	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.5
Engineering & Applied Science*	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	6.0
Life & Health Sciences	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.5
Language & Social Sciences	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	6.0

\*Except Logistics Management, Transport Management and Computing for Business, where you will need a 6.5 overall (minimum of 6.00 in writing and speaking, and 5.5 in listening and reading).  
We also accept TEOFL and Pearson qualifications. Please contact the International Office for further information.

Come and see us

OPEN DAYS:  
Tuesday 18 June 2013  
Wednesday 18 September 2013  
Saturday 19 October 2013

[www.aston.ac.uk/opendays](http://www.aston.ac.uk/opendays)  
Campus tours and visits welcome.

Find us online at:  
[www.aston.ac.uk/international](http://www.aston.ac.uk/international)





## International Foundation Programme for International Students

Aston University's International Foundation Programme is a one year course designed for International students who do not have the required GCSE A levels or equivalent qualifications for entry to Aston University undergraduate degree programmes. The programme is equivalent to the UK's Year 13 and is designed to prepare international students for a university education in Britain. The programme also provides students whose first language is not English with the opportunity to improve their academic English communication skills.

Progression to an undergraduate Bachelor's degree at Aston is guaranteed upon successful completion of the International Foundation Programme, where students have met the specific academic and English language grades.

### Learning, teaching and assessment

The programme is taught over three teaching terms, beginning at the end of September and ending in June the following year. It has been designed to ensure that you gain the right skills, experience and knowledge for degree level study.

You will be based on the Aston University campus, which is the same campus as all other undergraduate and postgraduate students. You will also live in the same accommodation and have access to all of the same facilities, including computer facilities, laboratories and the library. Most of your lecturers also teach on the other degree programmes so you will meet them again in your undergraduate studies.

A combination of teaching methods is used so that you will be prepared to progress onto the undergraduate programme of your choice.

### Progression onto the undergraduate Bachelors degree programme

Progression to an undergraduate Bachelors degree at Aston is guaranteed upon successful of the International Foundation Programme, where students have met the specific academic and English language grades.

### Entry requirements for International Foundation Programme

You must be at least 18\* years old at the start of the IFP in September and must have attained excellent grades in your secondary school leaving certificate (Year 12) or equivalent. You will also need to have a recognised English language qualification. IELTS or TOEFL are the most common ones but we also accept other English language qualifications; please contact us for further information.

\* We may consider 17 year olds in exceptional cases and upon evidence of a UK based guardian.

### The programme provides:

- ▶ An excellent introduction to studying your chosen subject
- ▶ A good grounding in the study skills needed to be successful at a high quality British university
- ▶ Coaching to help improve your English language skills if required.

There are three subject streams available, which act as an excellent introduction to studying your chosen subject at undergraduate level.

- ▶ Business & Social Sciences stream: progress onto Business degree programmes or Social Science degree programmes (excluding language & translation programmes)
- ▶ Engineering stream: progress onto Engineering & Applied Science degree programmes
- ▶ Health Science/Science stream: progress onto Life & Health Sciences degree programmes.

Your English language ability will determine which language stream you will take. The minimum English language requirements for the IFP are:

- ▶ IELTS: Min 5.5 overall, with a min 5.0 in each section
- ▶ TOEFL iBT: Min 71 overall, with a min 17 in reading, writing and listening, and 19 in speaking
- ▶ Pearson: Min 48 Overall with a minimum 42 in each section.

### How to apply

You should complete the IFP application form on the university website [www.aston.ac.uk/apply](http://www.aston.ac.uk/apply)

You must:

- ▶ Supply copies of your academic and English language qualifications achieved so far
- ▶ Give details of the courses you are currently studying, along with any results you are waiting for
- ▶ Select which undergraduate degree programme you want to progress onto.

For other enquiries, please contact us: [international@aston.ac.uk](mailto:international@aston.ac.uk)





# BIRMINGHAM – AN AMAZING PLACE TO LIVE

Birmingham is Britain's second city and internationally recognised as a leader in leisure, entertainment, shopping and sport. Birmingham is an international centre for business, commerce and industry, housing numerous UK and overseas banks, law firms and Europe's second largest insurance market. Birmingham attracts 25 million visitors each year and contributes billions to the national economy through manufacturing and engineering.

To find out more, visit:  
[www.aston.ac.uk/birmingham](http://www.aston.ac.uk/birmingham)



## Easily accessible

Whether by road, rail or air, travelling to and from Birmingham is easy. The university campus is central to an extensive network of motorways and railways – Birmingham International Airport is only ten minutes away and London is only ninety minutes away by train. Within the city getting around is easy, with cheap and efficient buses, trains, trams and taxi services. The central location of the campus and pedestrianised city centre means walking is safe and easy.

## Nightlife

With over 70,000 students Birmingham is one of Europe's liveliest cities. Having more than 100 bars, clubs and pubs Birmingham has something for everyone, from dance, house, drum and bass to hard rock, 70s, 80s, lounge, soul, jazz and garage. Most are only a short walk from Aston's campus. Each night you can be guaranteed some kind of student event, whether it's 'Propaganda' at the O2 or 'The Full Moon Party' at the HMV Institute, you will never be short of a night out. Most of the clubs, including Snobs, Oceana, Island Bar and Reflex are within walking distance or no more than a five minute taxi ride away.

## Europe's shopping capital

Birmingham is 'Europe's new shopping capital'. With the £500 million Bullring shopping mall in the city centre you will only be a short walk from the equivalent of over 26 football pitches worth of shops, boutiques and restaurants, including the iconic Selfridges store. Situated next to the Bullring is the Bullring market, housing over 1,000 stalls. The city centre has a compact pedestrian centre with many undercover malls offering both major High Street names and smaller high fashion boutiques.

## Entertainment

Birmingham has one of the highest concentrations of live theatre outside of London's West End and over 50 cinema screens, from the large multiscreen complexes and smaller art house cinemas. Many are within walking distance of the university's campus. A number of fine art collections can be found in Birmingham. The City Museum and Art Gallery, the Gas Hall and the Barber Institute of Fine Arts provide spectacular settings for classical and modern works. For music, the LG Arena (NEC) and the National Indoor Arena (NIA) showcase major artists, whilst the Birmingham O2 Academy hosts indie, rock and alternative acts in a more intimate setting. For classical music the Symphony Hall is home to the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO). The city hosts many festivals throughout the year including the Clothes Show Live; the BBC Good Food Show and the Frankfurt Christmas Market.

## Sport and leisure

Birmingham is at the heart of sporting action. Football clubs, including Aston Villa and Birmingham City, have their home grounds within the city. Warwickshire County Ground at Edgbaston provides International Test and County cricket games. Major tennis tournaments are held at Edgbaston Priory and international golf tournaments at the Belfry. A number of large athletics events are held in the City at the Alexandra Stadium and the National Indoor Arena. Leisure activities include indoor climbing, snowboarding and skiing.

Discover Birmingham  
on Twitter

#bullring  
#birmingham  
#mailbox  
#brumlife



## Joint Honours Programmes

Joint Honours degrees at Aston University allow you to study two separate subjects to Honours level in a way which integrates the two academic areas. Our Joint Honours degrees reach the same level as a Single Honours degree, but each subject covers less ground to allow you to diversify across two academic areas.

### Dedicated student support

Joint Honours students benefit from subject-based academic support just like Single Honours students. You will have access to our excellent university support services including careers advice, welfare and learning support. You will also be allocated a personal tutor.

### Placement year – gaining real world experience

Joint Honours students normally undertake a placement as part of their third year of study and many of our degrees include a compulsory placement year, but please refer to the relevant course page and check with the School. Aston University is famous for its professional placement year. It provides a boost in life skills and specific work-based knowledge to bring back to the final year, and usually some much needed cash.

A placement increases the chance of gaining a better class of degree and a good job after graduation, greatly enhancing your CV with a year's professional experience.

Aston University has a programme of placement and employment training equipping you with the necessary skills for gaining a placement, summer internships, and a graduate job. We will assess your placement experience and this contributes to your degree.

### Learning, teaching and assessment

You will learn alongside Single Honours students in each subject, having the same access to academic staff, resources and specialist facilities as Single Honours students.

“I am studying IBML German and Aston was the only university which provided me with the opportunity to mix the studying of business and a chosen language. My placement was a wonderful experience and staff were always willing to help me deal with any difficulties I faced. I secured my placement in a globally recognised and successful company and I know this is an invaluable opportunity. The industrial placement at Aston is meant to help you stand out in the job market one day and this idea is embedded in Aston Business School culture and traditions.”

**Marina Konova**

**International Business and Modern Languages (IBML) German**

### Benefits of Joint Honours

- ▶ Study two subjects to Honours level in a way which integrates the two disciplines
- ▶ Keep your career options open and develop multiple skills
- ▶ Combine new subjects with familiar favourites
- ▶ 4 year sandwich degrees with a compulsory placement year
- ▶ Paid and voluntary placement opportunities in the UK and abroad
- ▶ Excellent career prospects for graduates offering employers two subjects to Honours level.

### Applying for Joint Honours

You apply to our Joint Honours course via UCAS (see the grid on page 51 for the full list of UCAS codes.) Some course combinations require specific subjects at GCSE/A-level or equivalent – see the detailed subject information to find out more about the entry requirements for each course in the full prospectus.

If you have any questions about the course or the entry requirements, you will find contact details for the admissions staff on the pages listed above.

If you are made an offer you will be invited to an Open Day to meet staff and students. You will have a talk about both of the subject areas that you are interested in studying and a tour of the university and student residences, enabling you to ask questions and get a feel for what it would be like studying at Aston.

## Joint Honours degree courses

A Joint Honours degree at Aston University:

- ▶ Integrates two academic areas
- ▶ Is based on popular subjects
- ▶ Has a range of combinations to enhance your employability.

**Below is a list of all our Joint Honours courses which integrate two subjects.**

Business & International Relations – **LN21**  
Business, Management & Public Policy – **LN41**  
Business & Politics – **LN2C**  
Business & Sociology – **LM31**  
Computing Science & Mathematics – **IG11**  
English Language & German – **QR32**  
English Language & Social Policy – **LQ43**  
French & English Language – **QR31**  
French & German – **RR12**  
French & International Politics – **RL92**  
French & Sociology – **LR41**  
French & Spanish – **RR1K**  
German & International Politics – **RL92**  
German & Spanish – **RR2K**  
International Business & Modern Languages – French – **NR19**  
International Business & Modern Languages – German – **NR19**  
International Business & Modern Languages – Spanish – **NR19**  
International Business & Modern Languages – French & Spanish – **NR19**  
International Business & Modern Languages – French & German – **NR19**  
International Business & Modern Languages – German & Spanish – **NR19**  
International Business & Modern Languages – Combinations with Arabic/Chinese – **NR19**

International Politics & Languages – French, German, Spanish, Arabic, Mandarin Chinese – **RL92**  
International Relations & English Language – **LQ23**  
International Relations & Social Policy – **LL2K**  
Mathematics & Business – **GN11**  
Mathematics with Economics (two thirds Mathematics, with a third Economics) – **G1L1**  
Politics & Economics – **LL12**  
Politics & English Language – **QL32**  
Politics & Social Policy – **L201**  
Politics & Sociology – **LL42**  
Psychology & Business – **CN81**  
Psychology & Sociology – **LL83**  
Psychology & English Language – **CQ83**  
Sociology & Social Policy – **LL24**  
Sociology & English Language – **QR34**  
Sociology & International Relations – **RL92**  
Spanish & English Language – **QR34**  
Spanish & International Politics – **RL92**  
Spanish & Sociology – **LR34**  
Translation Studies: French – **R110**  
Translation Studies: French & German – **RRC2**  
Translation Studies: French & Spanish – **RR14**  
Translation Studies: German – **R210**  
Translation Studies: German & Spanish – **RR24**  
Translation Studies: Spanish – **R400**



**For a full list of courses  
visit our website at  
[www.aston.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/  
courses/joint-honours/](http://www.aston.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses/joint-honours/)**



# ASTON BUSINESS SCHOOL

Aston Business School

## Why choose us?

- ▶ Outstanding record of graduate employment success. 88% of graduates finding employment go straight into graduate level positions (UK average approx 61%)
- ▶ Full range of business subjects available – including broad-based and specialist degrees
- ▶ Integrated placement year gives you real business experience: over 30% of our students are offered jobs with their placement employer on graduation
- ▶ Over 35 years' experience of building relationships with employers; many big name companies actively target our business students for recruitment
- ▶ Average salary for the work placement is £15,000 whilst the placement year fee is just £1,000.

## Degree Programmes

### BSc

- 57 Accounting for Management
- 58 Business and Management
- 60 Business Computing and IT
- 61 Economics and Management
- 62 Finance
- 63 Human Resource Management
- 64 International Business and Economics
- 65 International Business and Management
- 66 International Business and Modern Languages
- 68 Marketing

### LLB

- 70 Law with Management
- 71 Law

### Related programmes

See main prospectus

To find out more, visit:  
[www.aston.ac.uk/abs](http://www.aston.ac.uk/abs)

T: +44 (0)121 204 3030  
E: [absugentry@aston.ac.uk](mailto:absugentry@aston.ac.uk)

- 
- ▶ Aston is very proud of its reputation and is among just 1% of business schools worldwide that have triple accreditation from the leading authorities – EQUIS, AACSB and AMBA.

## A UK business school with an international reputation

Our undergraduate degrees have one simple aim – to get students ready for a life at the forefront of business. To this end, our curriculum is robust, relevant and rooted in the real world. A deep understanding of the needs of business, combined with a thorough, practical approach, mean that our graduates are able to contribute from the moment they start their first job. The knowledge and skills our students acquire has resulted in our enviable track record in graduate-level employability.

We were one of the first UK business schools to introduce a placement year for undergraduate students, and we're proud that a third of our graduates are then offered full-time employment at their placement companies.

You can be confident in the depth of expertise within the Business School. The latest (2008) Research Assessment Exercise included 96% of our academic staff, and the majority of their published research was judged to be either 'world leading' or 'internationally excellent'.

Aston is very proud of its reputation and is among just 1% of business schools worldwide that have triple accreditation from the leading authorities – EQUIS, AACSB and AMBA.

### The first year

The first year of all our Single Honours degrees (excluding Law and Law with Management) covers a range of modules designed to give you a broad foundation and knowledge of business and management.

You will be introduced to the key areas of business as well as carrying out project work which will help draw together the subjects you have studied.

#### First year modules include:

- ▶ Introduction to Organisational Behaviour
- ▶ Introduction to Management Accounting
- ▶ Perspectives on Business and Management
- ▶ Financial Accounts
- ▶ Business Analytics
- ▶ Introduction to Marketing Management
- ▶ International Perspectives in Organisations
- ▶ English Legal Method and Contract Law
- ▶ Information Technology for Business
- ▶ Economics

#### Transferring between degrees at the end of your first year

Our common first year gives you the opportunity to experience different areas of business and management. This feature is particularly useful if you have not studied business before and/or are not sure which element of business particularly interests you. Upon completion of the first year you will have a better understanding of the various areas of management and may find that you would like to transfer from a broader business and management degree to one of our specialist degrees, or vice versa.

### Learning, teaching and assessment

You will experience a wide variety of learning and teaching methods, including:

- ▶ Lectures, tutorials and seminars
- ▶ Business games and case studies
- ▶ Group and individual project work
- ▶ Extensive use of on-line learning resources.

### Professional recognition

Our degrees are designed to offer accreditation from a wide range of professional bodies, giving exemption from many of their exams. Further information on specific degree accreditation can be found within the relevant subject entry and on our website.

### The placement year

The professional placement year is an essential and integral part of Aston Business School (ABS) degree programmes. This period of paid employment will give you experience of the practical problems of management, lay the foundations for your final year, and is highly attractive to potential employers.

You will benefit from ABS's excellent links with the business world. Opportunities exist in a wide range of organisations, from large multinationals to small firms, in both the private and public sector. Our dedicated Placements Team will help you throughout your placement search and provide you with support during the placement year.

In addition to our work placement opportunities, all students have the chance to study at one of our partner institutions abroad. Students studying International Business and Modern Languages or International Business and Management are expected to spend their placement year abroad.

The average salary for our placement year is around £15,000 whilst the placement fee is just £1,000. Some placements within the voluntary sector are also available. Each year, many of our students are offered a graduate job by their placement employer – proof that the placement year is an excellent 'springboard' to a future career. Please see pages 16-17 for information on tuition fees and scholarships for the placement year.

Please note: the placement year is compulsory for all students except for those paying overseas fees.

**To find out more, visit:**  
**[www.aston.ac.uk/abs](http://www.aston.ac.uk/abs)**

**T: +44 (0)121 204 3030**  
**E: [absugentry@aston.ac.uk](mailto:absugentry@aston.ac.uk)**



## Excellent career prospects

As an ABS graduate, you will be able to draw on the goodwill enjoyed by our programmes, which has built up over many years.

Over 6,000 of our graduates are active in the business world, many in senior management positions. Well-known organisations actively target our students for recruitment during their final year of study and after graduation.

Recent employment figures show that 88% of our graduates found graduate level employment within six months of graduation compared with a national average of 61%. This is one of the highest graduate level employment rates in the UK.

### Recent graduates have found positions in:

- ▶ Accountancy and auditing
- ▶ Marketing and market research
- ▶ Sales administration
- ▶ Personnel and human resources
- ▶ Information management
- ▶ Operations management
- ▶ General management
- ▶ Business consultancy
- ▶ Civil Service and local government
- ▶ Police and armed forces
- ▶ Banking and finance

### Companies who target our graduates and placement students include:

<b>Accenture</b>	<b>Johnson &amp; Johnson</b>	<b>E.ON</b>
<b>Goldman Sachs</b>	<b>Danone</b>	<b>NHS</b>
<b>BMW</b>	<b>Mattel</b>	<b>Ernst &amp; Young</b>
<b>IBM</b>	<b>Deloitte</b>	<b>Warner Brothers</b>
<b>Caterpillar</b>	<b>Microsoft</b>	<b>General Motors</b>
<b>Intel</b>	<b>Disney</b>	<b>Xerox</b>
<b>Citibank</b>	<b>Morgan Stanley</b>	

“Aston Business School (ABS) offers programmes that are interesting, flexible and industry-focused; the lecturers are fantastic and are always willing to go beyond expectations to help and advise. The careers service is excellent: while I was placement hunting they provided in depth advice, 1-1 meetings, and CV checking within 24 hours. I will be starting a graduate role at Capgemini as an SAP Technology Consultant in the next few months and can honestly say that ABS has changed my life.”

**Gemma Wilcox**

**To find out more, visit:**  
**[www.aston.ac.uk/abs](http://www.aston.ac.uk/abs)**

**T: +44 (0)121 204 3030**  
**E: [absugentry@aston.ac.uk](mailto:absugentry@aston.ac.uk)**

## What will I study?

Accountants play a key role in the formulation and implementation of business decisions, both strategic and tactical, through their uniquely analytical approach to the assessment of the financial implications of business plans. Accounting for Management focuses on the crucial role which financial information plays in decisions made by management teams, and in the monitoring and planning of a business organisation's objectives.

## How does it work?

### Programme outline

#### Year 1

Common first year covering all major business functions to help underpin your studies. See page 55 for further information.

#### Year 2

Explore financial and management accounting and finance in depth, participate in events organised in conjunction with accountancy firms, visit businesses and undertake an interactive business game.

Modules include: Business Policy; Business Game; Strategic Finance; Financial Management; Financial Accounting; Making Managerial Decisions using Accounting Information; Principles of Intellectual Property Law; International Business Economics; Advanced Spreadsheet Systems; Doing E-Business.

#### Placement year

The 4 year sandwich course incorporates spending the third year in a professional placement gaining valuable practical business experience. See page 55 for further information.

#### Final year

Accounting studies are taken to a more refined level, similar to professional qualification standard, but retaining theoretical analysis.

Modules include: Strategic Management; Advanced Financial Accounting; The Organisational Context of Management Accounting; Taxation: Policy and Practice; Principles of Company Law; Auditing and Professional Ethics; International Finance.

## What else should I know?

### Professional recognition

Our graduates can claim exemptions from the examinations of a number of professional bodies including:

Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA)  
Association of International Accountants (AIA)  
Chartered Insurance Institute (CII)  
Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA)  
Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (CIPS)  
Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW)  
Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators (ICSA)

### Key facts

4 year sandwich course  
3 year course without placement available for non-EU students only.  
**UCAS code: N420**  
**Typical offer level**  
A Level: AAB  
BTEC National Diploma: DDD  
IB: 35 points  
Other qualifications see pages 74-75.

### Specific subject requirements

GCSE: Maths Grade B and English Grade C.

### Key benefits

- ▶ An accounting degree set within a broad management context
- ▶ Internationally recognised for research
- ▶ Paid professional placement year and excellent graduate opportunities
- ▶ Extensive accreditation and professional exemptions.

### What are my career prospects?

Of our most recent Accounting for Management graduates, 94% went into graduate level employment within six months of graduation. Below are examples of the graduate positions they have obtained:

**Barclays** – Financial Analyst  
**BP** – Trainee Chartered Accountant  
**Deloitte** – Graduate Accounts Manager  
**Deloitte** – Tax Associate  
**Ernst & Young** – Auditor  
**Goodrich Activation Systems** – Finance Analyst  
**Grant Thornton** – Audit Trainee  
**Heartlands Foundation** – Accountant  
**IBM** – Financial Management Consultant  
**KPMG** – Associate Auditor  
**Kroll Ltd** – Accountant  
**Mazard** – Tax Advisor  
**Nasdaq OMX** – Graduate Scheme  
**PwC** – Accountant  
**RSM Bentley Jennison** – Internal Auditor  
**Xerox** – Accountant

### Key facts

4 year sandwich course  
3 year course without placement available for non-EU students only.  
**UCAS code: NN12**  
**Typical offer level**  
A Level: AAB  
BTEC National Diploma: DDD  
IB: 35 points  
Other qualifications see pages 74-75.

**Specific subject requirements**  
GCSE: Maths Grade B and English Grade C.

### Key benefits

- ▶ Flexible broad-based degree allowing specialisation in two areas of business and management
- ▶ Aston Business School is ranked highly for its business degrees in university league tables
- ▶ Outstanding reputation for research (RAE 2008)
- ▶ Excellent paid professional placement and graduate opportunities.

### What are my career prospects?

Of our most recent Business and Management graduates, 91% went into graduate level employment within six months of graduation. Below are examples of the graduate positions they have obtained:

**Accenture** – Business Analyst  
**Deloitte** – Corporate Finance Associate  
**Deutsche Bank** – MIS Analyst  
**Ford Motor Company** – Human Resources Officer  
**IBM** – Information Systems Analyst  
**O2** – Marketing Manager

### What will I study?

This degree provides a comprehensive understanding of the various functions of management, whilst allowing the opportunity to focus your studies within two specific areas. You will develop the breadth and depth of knowledge required by managers in the 21st century.

### How does it work?

#### Programme outline

**Year 1**  
Common first year covering all major business functions to help underpin your studies. See page 55 for further information.

**Year 2**  
In addition to studying the four core modules (Strategic Finance; Business Policy; Business, Government and Society; Business Game) you study all the modules from your choice of two subject streams table opposite.

**Placement year**  
The 4 year sandwich course incorporates spending the third year in a professional placement gaining valuable and practical business experience. See page 55 for further information.

**Final year**  
You take a double core module of Strategic Management and then you can either:

- ▶ Continue with both subject streams from year 2 or
- ▶ Continue with just one subject stream and then tailor your degree by selecting modules from any of the subject streams listed opposite.

### What else should I know?

#### Professional recognition

As an ABS graduate, you can claim exemptions from examinations of a number of professional bodies, depending on the specific options you have followed, including:

Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA)  
Association of International Accountants (AIA)  
Chartered Insurance Institute (CII)  
Chartered Institute of Marketing (CIM)  
Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA)  
Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (CIPS)

“When I started at Aston University I was still unsure what I wanted to do in my future career. The first year of Business and Management is so broad that I was able to gain an insight into every aspect of business in order to find the area that I was interested in the most.”

**Nicola Maxfield**  
Business and Management

### Second year subject streams

#### Accounting

Financial Accounting♦; Making Managerial Decisions Using Accounting Information♦.

#### Business & Government

Comparing Public Policies; Environmental Policy; Government, Globalisation and Money; Global Society.

#### Business Psychology

Theories and Practice of HRM♦; Psychology and Work♦.

#### E-Business

Doing E-Business; IT and Web Development; Principles of Intellectual Property Law; E-Marketing.

#### Economics

Principles of Microeconomics; Principles of Macroeconomics; Industrial Organisation and Strategy; Introduction to Econometrics.

#### Information Systems

Systems Analysis; Systems Analysis project; IT and Web Development; Databases.

#### International Management

Effective Teamwork; International Business Environment; International Business Economics; Emerging and Transition Economies.

#### Law

Principles of Criminal Law; Principles of Intellectual Property Law; Principles of Business Law.

#### Management Science

Operational Research Techniques 1 & 2; Management Science Method; Introduction to Econometrics.

#### Marketing

Market Research♦; Consumer Behaviour; Marketing Communications; E-Marketing; Principles of Services Marketing.

#### Operations Management

Doing E-Business; Enterprise Resource Planning; Total Quality Management♦.

### Final year subject streams

#### Accounting

Advanced Financial Accounting♦; Organisational Context of Management Accounting♦; International Finance; Derivatives.

#### Business & Government

British Governance; Sociology of Work and Employment; The Governance of Economic Development; Corporate Power in a Globalised World; Risk, Environment and Society.

#### Business Psychology

Contemporary Issues in Human Resource Management; Employee Relations and Legal Issues in HRM; Theory and Practice of Leadership.

#### E-Business

Advanced Business Computing; E-Business Systems Development; Supply Chain Management♦; Innovation♦.

#### Economics

Economics of Business Organisations; Economics of Multinational Enterprises; Economics of Entrepreneurship; Competition Policy and Economic Regulation; Economics of Innovation.

#### Information Systems

Effective Project Delivery♦; World-wide Management of IT; Knowledge at Work; Simulation; Advanced Business Computing.

#### International Management

International Finance; International Marketing♦; International Operations♦; Derivatives.

#### Law

Principles of Company Law♦; Principles of Employment Law 1 & 2; Principles of International Sales and Transportation Law♦.

#### Management Science

Data Envelopment Analysis; Simulation; Effective Management Consultancy♦; Management Science Project♦.

#### Marketing

International Marketing♦; Marketing Strategy♦; Marketing Communications; Advanced Marketing Communication.

#### Operations Management

Operations Strategy♦; Supply Chain Management; International Operations♦.

♦ Double module



Key facts

4 year sandwich course  
3 year course without placement available for non-EU students only.  
**UCAS code: NG45**  
**Typical offer level**  
A Level: AAB  
BTEC National Diploma: DDD  
IB: 35 points  
Other qualifications see pages 74-75.

**Specific subject requirements**  
GCSE: English and Maths Grade C.

Key benefits

- ▶ Integration of business with computing and IT
- ▶ Paid professional placement year
- ▶ No previous IT knowledge assumed
- ▶ Excellent paid professional placement opportunities and graduate prospects.

What are my career prospects?

The outstanding reputation of Aston Business School, the experience gained on the placement year and the broad-based nature of our degrees means that BCIT graduates are well prepared. Our recent graduates were extremely successful in finding employment in specialist business IT, consulting and general management roles, including:  
**Accenture** – Business Analyst  
**Capgemini** – IT Consultant  
**Desk Force** – IT Consultant  
**Fujitsu** – Project Manager  
**Jaguar Land Rover** – Graduate IT Systems and Business Analyst  
**Network Rail** – Project Manager  
**Rolls-Royce** – Graduate Trainee  
**Shell** – IT Business Analyst

What will I study?

Information Technology (IT) is vital to the management and communication of information in the modern business, and effective business computing requires managers with knowledge of human and managerial issues, as well as technical ones. This programme meets the needs of students interested in pursuing careers that will provide organisations with management support, advice and consultancy where computing and IT are involved.

How does it work?

Programme outline

**Year 1**  
Common first year covering all major business functions to help underpin your studies. See page 55 for further information.

**Year 2**  
Focus on Business Computing and IT, which will involve ‘hands-on’ work with applications ranging from spreadsheets and databases to simulations and knowledge-based systems.  
Modules include: Business Policy; Strategic Finance; Business Game; Advanced Spreadsheet Systems; Decision Support Systems; IT and Web Development; Databases; Systems Analysis Project.

**Placement year**  
The 4 year sandwich course incorporates spending the third year in a professional placement gaining valuable and practical business experience. See page 55 for further information.

**Final year**  
A double core module will be studied along with some optional and compulsory modules.  
Modules include: Business Computing and IT Project; E-Business Systems Development; Data Envelopment Analysis; Advanced Financial Accounting; Organisational Context of Management Accounting; Operations Strategy; Theory and Practice of Leadership; International Operations; Entrepreneurial Management; Supply Chain Management; Employment Law; Business Ethics; International Marketing; Innovation; Language Modules; Worldwide Management of IT; Strategic Management; Effective Management Consultancy; Advanced Business Computing; Knowledge at Work.

What else should I know?

**Professional recognition**  
Our graduates can claim exemptions from the examinations of a number of professional bodies including:  
Association of International Accountants (AIA)  
Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (CIPS)

What will I study?

This degree will give you a deep knowledge of economics, providing a theoretical and conceptual outlook on the world of business. With the broad management skills that are also taught on the programme, students can become highly attractive in the graduate employment market. Many employers regard economics graduates as key members of a business team.

How does it work?

Programme outline

**Year 1**  
Common first year covering all major business functions to help underpin your studies. See page 55 for further information.

**Year 2**  
Develops a theoretical understanding of economics while remaining true to Aston’s practical and relevant teaching tradition.  
Modules include: Strategic Finance; Business Game; Business Policy; Business, Government and Society; Financial Management; International Business Economics; Principles of Macroeconomics; Principles of Microeconomics; Industrial Organisation and Strategy; Introduction to Econometrics; Emerging and Transitional Economies.

**Placement year**  
The 4 year sandwich course incorporates spending the third year in a professional placement gaining valuable and practical business experience. See page 55 for further information.

**Final year**  
A double core module of Strategic Management will be studied along with some compulsory and optional modules.  
Modules include: Strategic Management; Derivatives; Economics of Multinational Enterprise; Applied Econometrics and Forecasting; Economics of Business Organisations; Economics of Innovation; Competition Policy and Economic Regulation; Macroeconomic Policy; International Finance; Financial Economics; Economics of Entrepreneurship; International Trade.

What else should I know?

**Professional recognition**  
Our graduates can claim exemptions from a number of professional bodies including:  
Association of Certified Accountants (ACCA)  
Association of International Accountants (AIA)  
Chartered Insurance Institute (CII)  
Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (CIPS)  
“I would definitely recommend doing a work placement. You will learn a lot about what it is like to do a full-time job and have real responsibility within an organisation. I spent my work placement at E.ON UK, a German-owned energy company.”

**Naveed Ahmed**  
**Economics and Management**

Key facts

4 year sandwich course  
3 year course without placement available for non-EU students only.  
**UCAS code: LN12**  
**Typical offer level**  
A Level: AAB  
BTEC National Diploma: DDD  
IB: 35 points  
Other qualifications see pages 74-75.

**Specific subject requirements**  
GCSE: Maths Grade B and English Grade C.

Key benefits

- ▶ Application of economics theory and practice in a real world business context
- ▶ Sandwich placement year means that graduates are sought after and well regarded by high profile employers
- ▶ Develops understanding of how changes in the economic environment influence business success
- ▶ Aston Business School is highly ranked in university league tables.

What are my career prospects?

Of our most recent Business graduates, 88% went into graduate level employment within six months of graduation. Below are examples of the graduate positions they have obtained:  
**Beiersdorf UK Ltd** – National Account Executive  
**BMW** – Finance Analyst  
**Deloitte** – Capital Allowances Consultant  
**EDF Energy** – Margin Strategy Analyst  
**Ernst & Young** – Associate  
**Fujitsu** – Management Accountant  
**JP Morgan** – Investment Banker  
**Royal Bank of Scotland** – Business Operations Consultant  
**Société Générale** – VP, Sales for Germany and Austria

Key facts

4 year sandwich course  
3 year course without placement available for non-EU students only.

UCAS code: N300

Typical offer level

A Level: AAB  
BTEC National Diploma: DDD  
IB: 35 points

Other qualifications see pages 74-75.

Specific subject requirements

GCSE: Maths Grade B and English Grade C.

Key benefits

- ▶ A finance degree set within a broad management context, combining theoretical knowledge and practical capability, is appealing to a wide range of potential employers
- ▶ Aston Business School is ranked highly for its business degrees in university league tables
- ▶ Paid professional placement year that is well regarded by high profile employers.

What are my career prospects?

On successful completion of this degree, the specialist finance knowledge gained provides excellent preparation for graduate entry into finance related careers such as investment or retail banking, financial analysis, stock broking or insurance. Also, because this degree combines broader-based business knowledge, it provides an excellent foundation for careers in general management and imparts skills that will be highly valued by graduate recruiters in both the private and public sectors. Aston Business School has an outstanding record of producing successful, highly sought after graduates. Of our most recent business graduates, 88% were in graduate level employment within six months of graduating.

What will I study?

This degree is an excellent preparation for a career in a financial environment, equipping you with a balanced mix of finance, economics, accounting and more general management knowledge, skills and expertise. You will explore many aspects of finance such as capital markets, derivatives, corporate finance, exchange rate risks, asset pricing and international finance. In addition, this degree is designed to give you a range of transferable and practical skills to help you succeed in your chosen career.

How does it work?

Programme outline

Year 1

Common first year covering all major business functions to help underpin your studies. See page 55 for further information.

Year 2

Explore finance in more depth and undertake an interactive team-based business game module.

Modules include: Making Managerial Decisions; Strategic Finance; Financial Management; Business Game; Operational Research Techniques; Business Policy; Principles of Macroeconomics; Principles of Microeconomics; Business, Government and Society; Introduction to Econometrics.

Placement year

The 4 year sandwich course incorporates spending the third year in a professional placement gaining valuable and practical business experience. See page 57 for further information.

Final year

Finance studies are taken to a more refined level, similar to a professional qualification standard.

Modules include: The Organisational Context of Management Accounting; Taxation; Policy and Practice; Derivatives; International Finance; Financial Economics; Strategic Management; Applied Econometrics and Forecasting; Competition Policy and Economic Regulation.

What else should I know?

Professional recognition

Our graduates can claim exemptions from the examinations of a number of professional bodies including:

Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA)  
Association of International Accountants (AIA)  
Chartered Insurance Institute (CII)  
Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (CIPS)  
Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators (ICSA)

What will I study?

Understanding the human side of organisations is central to their performance and effectiveness. As organisations change, grow, divide, develop and operate internationally, professional knowledge of the part played by their people is essential at both operational and board levels. This programme considers how people, processes and structures interrelate. It focuses on the crucial roles played by individuals and groups in organisations, such as decision making, planning and managing new technology.

How does it work?

Programme outline

Year 1

Common first year covering all major business functions to help underpin your studies. See page 55 for further information.

Year 2

Management of people and the strategies of human resource management.

Modules include: Business Policy; Strategic Finance; Theories and Practice of Human Resource Management; Psychology and Work; Effective Teamwork; Developing Creativity at Work; Strategy for Future Leaders; Business Game; Business Policy; Business, Government and Society.

Placement year

The 4 year sandwich course incorporates spending the third year in a professional placement gaining valuable and practical business experience. See page 55 for further information.

Final year

You will explore how organisations relate to their wider context from both a socio-psychological and socio-economic perspective.

Modules include: Contemporary Issues in Human Resource Management; Employee Relations and Legal Issues in Human Resource Management; Theory and Practice of Leadership; Strategic Aspects of Organisational Performance; Learning, Training and Development in Organisations; Global Working; Business Ethics; Strategic Management.

What else should I know?

Professional recognition

Students are eligible for full Associate Membership of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development and can claim exemptions from the examinations of a number of professional bodies including:

Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA)  
Association of International Accountants (AIA)  
Chartered Insurance Institute (CII)  
Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (CIPS)

Key facts

4 year sandwich course  
3 year course without placement available for non-EU students only.

UCAS code: N600

Typical offer level

A Level: AAB  
BTEC National Diploma: DDD  
IB: 35 points

Other qualifications see pages 74-75.

Specific subject requirements

GCSE: Maths and English Grade C.

Key benefits

- ▶ A specialist HRM degree set within a broad management context, combining theoretical knowledge and practical capability, appeals to a wide range of potential employers
- ▶ Teaching draws upon our outstanding reputation for research
- ▶ Paid professional placement year that is well regarded by high profile employers
- ▶ Professional accreditation is available.

What are my career prospects?

Of our most recent Business graduates, 88% went into graduate level employment within six months of graduation. Below are examples of the positions they secured and the organisations that employed them:

**BMW** – Human Resource Management Co-ordinator  
**GlaxoSmithKline** – Human Resources Project Manager  
**Goodman Mason** – Consultant (HR)  
**HBOS** – Manager  
**Jaguar Land Rover** – HR Consultant  
**PPS Works** – Resource Consultant  
**Sainsbury's** – Graduate Manager  
**United Biscuits** – HR Officer



Key facts

4 year sandwich course  
3 year course without placement available for non-EU students only.  
**UCAS code: LNC1**  
**Typical offer level**  
A Level: AAB  
BTEC National Diploma: DDD  
IB: 35 points  
Other qualifications see pages 74-75.

**Specific subject requirements**  
GCSE: Maths Grade B and English Grade C.

Key benefits

- ▶ Highly relevant for understanding and interpreting the world economy and globalisation of business
- ▶ Excellent placement opportunities
- ▶ A sound base for a career in international business or as an applied/business economist.

What are my career prospects?

Of our most recent Business graduates, 88% reported being in graduate level employment within six months of graduation. Recent graduate positions include:

**Allied Irish Bank** – Corporate Banking Graduate  
**Bank of America Merrill Lynch** – Compliance Analyst  
**BVCA** – Private Equity Analyst  
**Hedge Fund Investment Management** – Account Assistant  
**HKS Retail** – Data Analyst  
**HSBC** – Foreign Exchange and Money Market Dealer  
**JP Morgan** – Analyst  
**RBS** – Credit Derivatives Officer

What will I study?

With the increasing globalisation of business and the revolution in communications, no company can afford to ignore the international dimension. The international business component of the programme will develop the knowledge and skills required for assessing and developing international business strategies and operations. The economics component will develop skills required to assess the economic environment of companies and their strategies in the context of national and international environments. This combination of international business and applied economics provides a good introduction to the world of business and a solid foundation for a career in international commerce, or as an applied/business economist.

How does it work?

Programme outline

**Year 1**  
Common first year covering all major business functions to help underpin your studies. See page 55 for further information.

**Year 2**  
Focus on developing your understanding of economics, the international business environment and international operations of business.

Modules include: Strategic Finance; Business Game; Business Policy; Business, Government and Society; International Business Environment; International Business Economics; Principles of Macroeconomics; Principles of Microeconomics; Industrial Organisation and Strategy; Introduction to Econometrics; Emerging and Transitional Economies.

**Placement year**  
The 4 year sandwich course incorporates spending the third year in a professional placement gaining valuable and practical business experience. If you prefer, you can study overseas at one of our partner institutions. See page 55 for further information.

**Final year**  
Focus on the implications of managing the major functions of finance and marketing within the international context – the application of economic theories in understanding international business, analysing policy and carrying out economic research.

Modules include: Strategic Management; Economics of Multinational Enterprise; Applied Econometrics and Forecasting; Economics of Business Organisations; Economics of Innovation; Macroeconomic Policy; Competition Policy and Economic Regulation; International Finance; Derivatives; International Marketing; International Operations; Business Ethics; World-wide Management of IT; Innovation; Economics of Entrepreneurship; Final Year Project; Language modules at beginner, intermediate or advanced levels (French, German or Spanish) and beginner or intermediate levels (Arabic or Mandarin).

What else should I know?

**Professional recognition**  
Our graduates can claim exemptions from the examinations of a number of professional bodies including:  
The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA)  
The Association of International Accountants (AIA)  
The Chartered Insurance Institute (CII)  
The Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (CIPS)

What will I study?

International Business and Management offers a core strategic management focus within an international business context. This exciting degree offers the opportunity to spend your placement year abroad either working or studying in an English-speaking environment.

How does it work?

Programme outline

**Year 1**  
Common first year covering all major business functions to help underpin your studies. See page 55 for further information. This year includes studies in International Perspectives to provide a strong foundation for the second and final years. Although not compulsory, a language can be included as an extra-curricular subject.

**Year 2 and final year**  
From year 2 onwards, you will have a great deal of flexibility in tailoring your degree. In the second and final year you will specialise in two areas of management.

You will select the 'International Management' stream and/or the 'International Business Communication' stream. If only one of these streams is chosen, students may select any other stream (except Economics) from the comprehensive range of specialisms on the Business and Management programme (see page 61 for the list of streams).

**Placement year**  
The 4 year sandwich course incorporates spending the third year either working or studying abroad in an English-speaking environment. See page 55 for further information.  
Final year subject streams include:

**International Management**  
Modules include: International Finance; Derivatives; International Marketing; International Operations.

**International Communication for Business**  
Modules include: French; German; Spanish; Chinese; Portuguese or Arabic; Critical Discourse Analysis; Leadership and Management Communication; Intercultural Business Communication Research Project.

What else should I know?

**Professional recognition**  
Our graduates can claim exemptions from the examinations of a number of professional bodies including:  
Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA)  
Association of International Accountants (AIA)  
Chartered Insurance Institute (CII)  
Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA)  
Chartered Institute of Marketing (CIM)  
Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (CIPS)

Key facts

4 year sandwich course  
3 year course without placement available for non-EU students only.  
**UCAS code: NNC2**  
**Typical offer level**  
A Level: AAB  
BTEC National Diploma: DDD  
IB: 35 points  
Other qualifications see pages 74-75.

**Specific subject requirements**  
GCSE: Maths and English Grade C.

Key benefits

- ▶ Aston Business School degrees are highly ranked in the UK's university league tables
- ▶ Aston Business School is among just 1% of business schools worldwide to have secured triple accreditation from the main international bodies (EQUIS, AMBA and AACSB)
- ▶ Overseas work or study placement opportunities in the third year
- ▶ Option to learn or improve in French, German, Mandarin, Arabic or Spanish.

What are my career prospects?

Of our most recent Business graduates, 88% went into graduate level employment within six months of graduation. Below are examples of the organisations that employed them:  
**Alumwell BEC** – Trainee Teacher  
**Bank of Latvia** – Accountant  
**Deloitte** – Audit Associate  
**Financial Services Authority** – Financial Associate  
**Hewlett Packard** – Project Manager  
**Johnson & Johnson** – Finance Analyst  
**KPMG** – Trainee Auditor  
**Kraft Food UK** – Graduate Management Trainee  
**Tangible Branding** – Market Researcher

Key facts

4 year sandwich course

UCAS code: NR19

Please state your preferred degree route on your UCAS form, selecting from the following:

- French
- German
- Spanish
- French and German
- French and Spanish
- German and Spanish
- French with Chinese (or Arabic, or Portuguese)
- German with Chinese (or Arabic, or Portuguese)
- Spanish with Chinese (or Arabic, or Portuguese)

Typical offer level

- A Level: ABB-AAB
- BTEC National Diploma: DDD
- IB: 34 points
- Other qualifications see pages 74-75.

Specific subject requirements

- A Level: minimum Grade B in French, German or Spanish.
- GCSE: Maths and English Grade C
- Students with a wide range of A Levels have successfully taken this degree. It is not necessary to have previously studied Business.

Key benefits

- ▶ A degree with a first class reputation and excellent career prospects
- ▶ An integrated programme involving Business taught in French, German or Spanish (as well as English)
- ▶ Work placement abroad and/or study in a partner business school.

What will I study?

International managers need to have qualities such as drive and leadership. They need to be particularly good communicators and be sensitive to different cultures and traditions. Learning a language to a high level and living and working abroad help to develop these qualities. International Business and Modern Languages at Aston started in 1984 and its unique structure sets it apart as a market leader for students who want to study business and languages together.

How does it work?

Programme outline

This programme has been designed so that the language and business subjects support each other. In particular, part of the business teaching is carried out in French, German or Spanish. You will develop your fluency, accuracy and confidence in using the language, both in business situations and more generally. The integrated nature of the degree means that it has been designed as a whole and the structure is the same whichever language(s) you are taking. You also have the option to include the study of Chinese (Mandarin), Arabic or Portuguese as a minor subject within your degree programme.

Year 1

- Modules taught in English:
  - International Accounting; Principles of Financial Accounting; Introduction to Organisational Behaviour; Introduction to Business Analytics; Economic Environment of Business; International Business Environment.
- Modules taught in French, German or Spanish:

International Business Environment (France/Germany/Spain and Latin America); French/German/Spanish Language; History of France/Germany/Spain, which may be replaced by Arabic (beginners), Chinese (beginners) or Portuguese (beginners).

Year 2

- Modules taught in English:
  - Management Accounting; Strategic Finance; Marketing; Operations Management; Data Analysis and Modelling for Management; International Business Environment.
- Modules taught in French, German or Spanish:

International Business Environment (France/Germany/Spain and Latin America); Law; French/German/Spanish Language; Contemporary France/Germany/Spain and Latin America, which may be replaced by Arabic (intermediate), Chinese (intermediate) or Portuguese (intermediate).

Placement year

This year offers a great deal of flexibility, with options to work and/or study in a French/German/Spanish speaking country.

If you choose to do a study placement you will spend time in one of the prestigious Business Schools that we have exchange agreements with in Austria, Canada, France, Germany, Argentina, Mexico and Spain.

The year is assessed by an essay in French/German/ Spanish, deriving from the work placement, or by examinations taken in the partner business school, or both.

Further information on the placement year and partner institutions is available on our website.

Final year

- Modules taught in English:
  - International Finance; Policy Analysis and Decision Making; International Business Economics.
- Modules taught in French, German or Spanish:
  - International Business Environment France/Germany/Spain and Latin America; French/German/Spanish Language; Dissertation which may be replaced by Arabic (advanced,) Chinese (advanced) or Portuguese (advanced).

What else should I know?

Professional recognition

- Our graduates can gain exemptions from the examinations of the following professional bodies:
  - The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA)
  - The Chartered Insurance Institute (CII)
  - The Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (CIPS)

“My university experience at Aston was unforgettable, in particular my year abroad in Paris. I spent nine months at ESCPEAP European School of Management and had a work placement at Christian Dior. I chose to study abroad as I felt I would have a better chance of meeting people my own age and learning more about the culture. I saw a huge improvement in my spoken French after coming back, as well as being able to apply theory learnt in lectures to a real world focus.”

Dinal Limbachia  
IBML French

What are my career prospects?

Of our most recent IBML graduates, 85% went into graduate level employment within six months of graduation. Recent graduate positions include:

- Morgan Stanley – Stock Analyst
- L’Oréal – Graduate Management Trainee
- BNP Paribas – Administrator
- Nintendo Europe – Marketing Manager
- Reuters – Market Analyst
- Harrods – Executive Trainee
- Warner Music – Financial Analyst
- Rolls-Royce – Executive Assistant to the Board
- Estée Lauder – Account Coordinator



### Key facts

4 year sandwich course

3 year course without placement  
available for non-EU students only.

**UCAS code: N500**

**Typical offer level**

A Level: AAB

BTEC National Diploma: DDD

IB: 35 points

Other qualifications see pages 74-75.

**Specific subject requirements**

GCSE: Maths and English Grade C.

### Key benefits

- ▶ Outstanding reputation for research
- ▶ Paid professional work placement year
- ▶ Specialist marketing skills built on a broad foundation of management
- ▶ Close links with the Chartered Institute of Marketing (CIM)
- ▶ Marketing professionals participate in our undergraduate teaching.

### What are my career prospects?

Of our most recent Business graduates, 88% went into graduate level employment within six months of graduation. Below are examples of the graduate positions they have obtained:

**Barclays** – Relationship Support Manager

**BMW** – Marketing Executive

**BT** – Business Development Manager

**Coca Cola Enterprises** – Sales and Marketing Graduate

**General Motors** – Product Analyst

**Janssen-Cilag Ltd** – Marketing Intelligence Executive

**Lloyds TSB** – Business Development Manager

**Marketforce** – Retail Information Analyst

**Nectar** – Relationship Executive

**RWE npower** – Senior Planning Coordinator

**Whitbread Hotels and Restaurants** – Commercial Marketing Executive

### What will I study?

Marketing is concerned with the dynamic relationships between organisations and their customers or clients, and involves focusing organisational resources in order to identify and satisfy the needs and wants of customers better than the competition does. This programme places great emphasis on a marketing-orientated approach to business and management.

### How does it work?

#### Programme outline

##### Year 1

Common first year modules covering all major business functions including the Introduction to Marketing module to help underpin your studies. See page 55 for further information.

##### Year 2

The second year is designed to help you gain a holistic view of marketing as a function by integrating various aspects of marketing through the different modules.

Modules include: Market Research; E-Marketing; Principles of Services Marketing; Consumer Behaviour; Advanced Consumer Behaviour; Business to Business Marketing and Relationship Management; Marketing Communications; Strategic Finance; Business Game; Business Policy; Business, Government and Society.

##### Placement year

The 4 year sandwich course incorporates spending the third year in a professional placement gaining valuable and practical business experience. See page 55 for further information.

##### Final year

This year provides greater specialisation in areas including marketing strategy, distribution and retailing, international marketing and marketing communication.

Modules include: International Marketing; Retail Management; Marketing Strategy; Marketing Communications; Services Marketing Management; Strategic Brand Management; Advanced Marketing Communications and Strategic Management.

### What else should I know?

#### Professional recognition

Our graduates can claim exemptions from the examinations of a number of professional bodies including:

Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA)

Association of International Accountants (AIA)

Chartered Insurance Institute

Chartered Institute of Marketing (CIM)

Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (CIPS)

After completing the Aston BSc Marketing programme, our graduates will be able to claim exemptions from the Chartered Institute of Marketing (CIM). Most graduates will be able to proceed directly onto the CIM Postgraduate Diploma in Marketing\*.

\*Exemptions may change from time to time. You are advised to check with admissions staff regarding the current range of exemptions.

- ▶ Law has been taught at Aston for many years. We provide commercially intelligent legal education, building on our teaching experience and research expertise, in order to help our students understand the operation of the law in commercial and business contexts.

## Aston Law

Our LLB degrees are 'qualifying law degrees' and on completion our graduates can proceed directly to the vocational stage of training in order to become a solicitor or barrister. Competition for entry to the legal profession is fierce. Our aim is to help Aston law graduates stand out from the crowd. Our degrees are therefore designed to give you more than legal knowledge.

Commercial awareness and business acumen are integrated across our programmes and soft skills are developed through group work, presentations and advocacy. Mooting – taking part in a mock trial – is one way to develop your advocacy skills and there are opportunities to compete in national competitions. The placement year, for students on our four year LLB, provides another opportunity to develop soft skills and gain practical experience. The year can be spent in a legal or commercial environment.

At Aston, our experienced law lecturers deliver all our law lectures, tutorials and seminars (graduate students do not do any of the law teaching). All law students at Aston have an academic mentor – one of the law lecturers – to guide them throughout their time at Aston. We know our students individually and are proud of the friendly, supportive environment we provide. In addition we have excellent resources: a mock court room, key legal texts and access to the leading law databases.

Your formal studies at Aston University will be supported by the activities of our thriving Student Law Society. The Society arranges careers and social events throughout the academic year. Visits to local courts, and those in London, will take place throughout your time at Aston. Guest lecturers, drawing on our excellent links with Birmingham's legal firms, will provide you with extra insights.

The market for legal services is changing. The lawyer of the future will be expected to perform many roles. Legal knowledge is not enough. Our law degrees will provide you with the knowledge, skills and commercial awareness you need to succeed.

### Key facts

4 year sandwich course

3 year course without placement also available

#### UCAS code:

M1NF 3 year degree

M1N2 4 year degree with placement

#### Typical offer level

A Level: AAB

BTEC National Diploma: DDD

IB: 34 points

Other qualifications see pages 74-75.

#### Specific subject requirements

GCSE: Maths Grade B and English Grade B.

### Key benefits

- Keep your career options open by studying law alongside management
- A qualifying law degree that equips you with highly sought after commercial awareness and business skills, harnessing the research and teaching expertise within Aston Business School
- Developed with input from the legal profession to reflect the demands of legal practice and business
- One of the few UK law degrees with an integrated work placement year
- Small group teaching for all law modules and an academic mentor to provide support and guidance throughout your studies.

### What are my career prospects?

This degree will appeal to anyone interested in becoming a solicitor or barrister as well as those wanting to keep their career options open. A degree in law also provides an excellent foundation for a variety of careers in the private and public sectors where legal knowledge is needed, including taxation, accountancy, consultancy and human resource management.

### What will I study?

Legal practice is changing. A successful legal career requires more than legal knowledge: commercial acumen and soft skills are also essential. This exciting degree programme has been designed with the changing nature of legal practice in mind. It enables you to acquire a qualifying law degree along with management knowledge and skills and is ideal for those wanting to keep their career options open.

### How does it work?

#### Programme outline

##### Year 1

The first year provides the foundation for your subsequent studies. Core modules introduce the legal process, contract principles and important business principles. Research skills are developed in a specialist module which runs throughout the year.

Modules include: Constitutional and Administrative Law; Legal Skills; Contract Law; Criminal Law; Accounting; Organisational Behaviour; Economic Environment of Business.

##### Year 2

You will study tort law as well as business-related legal subjects including commercial law. Your management and business skills are developed further through Aston Business School modules including Business Policy and Business Economics.

Modules include: Law of Torts; Commercial Law; Land Law; Professional Skills and Ethics; Business Policy; Business Economics.

#### Placement year

The 4 year sandwich course incorporates a third year in a professional placement gaining valuable and practical business experience. In recent years, our students have worked in law firms, accounting and audit firms, and in the legal and corporate departments of banks and other large organisations.

#### Final year

The final year builds on the first two years of study and experience and provides you with the opportunity to learn more about the law as it affects corporate activity and employer/employee relationships. Optional modules help you tailor your studies to suit your interests and career aspirations.

Modules include: Equity and Trusts; European Union Law. Optional modules include: Company Law; International Sales Law; Employment Law; Intellectual Property Law; Dissertation.

### What else should I know?

#### Professional recognition

This is a qualifying law degree. It is recognised by the Solicitors Regulation Authority and Bar Standards Board as satisfying the academic stage of legal training for solicitors or barristers. Aston LLB graduates can therefore proceed directly to the Legal Practice Course or Bar Vocational Training Course. Our graduates can also claim exemptions from the examinations of a number of professional bodies including:

The Chartered Insurance Institute (CII)  
The Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators (ICSA)

#### Transfers between 3 year and 4 year programmes:

You are able to transfer between the 3 and 4 year programmes if your circumstances or career aspirations change.

### What will I study?

This degree has been designed with modern legal practice in mind. Successful lawyers need more than legal knowledge. In addition to core law modules on subjects prescribed by the law professional bodies, you can choose from optional modules to reflect your interests and career aspirations. Professional and soft skills are developed in specialist modules and across the law modules to enhance your employability.

### How does it work?

#### Programme outline

##### Year 1

The first year provides the foundation for your law studies. Core modules introduce the English legal system, legal processes, contract principles and criminal offences. A strong emphasis is placed on developing research skills.

Modules include: Constitutional and Administrative Law; Legal Skills; Contract Law; Criminal Law; Introduction to Jurisprudence.

##### Year 2

This year builds on the first year and extends your knowledge of the core law subjects including Land Law and Tort Law.

Modules include: Law of Torts; Land Law; Professional Skills and Ethics; Crime; Justice and Society. An optional module is also chosen.

#### Placement year

The 4 year sandwich course incorporates a third year in a professional placement gaining valuable and practical business experience. In recent years, our students have worked in law firms, accounting and audit firms, and in the legal and corporate departments of banks and other large organisations.

#### Final year

In the final year you complete your study of the core law modules and also choose optional modules to reflect your interests and aspirations. Through the dissertation you have the chance to explore in depth a legal issue or problem.

Modules include: Equity and Trusts; European Union Law; Dissertation. Optional modules include: Company Law; International Sales Law; Employment Law; Medical Law and Intellectual Property Law.

### What else should I know?

#### Professional recognition

This is a qualifying law degree. It is recognised by the Solicitors Regulation Authority and Bar Standards Board as satisfying the academic stage of legal training for solicitors or barristers. Aston LLB graduates can therefore proceed directly to the Legal Practice Course or Bar Vocational Training Course. Our graduates can also claim exemptions from the examinations of a number of professional bodies including:

The Chartered Insurance Institute (CII)  
The Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators (ICSA)

#### Transfers between 3 year and 4 year programmes:

You are able to transfer between the 3 and 4 year programmes if your circumstances or career aspirations change.

### Key facts

4 year sandwich course

3 year course without placement also available

#### UCAS code: M100 (for both programmes)

#### Typical offer level

A Level:AAB

BTEC Diploma DDD

IB: 34 Points

#### Specific subject requirements

GCSE: Maths Grade C and English Grade B.

### Key benefits

- A qualifying law degree, developed with input from the legal profession
- Core and optional modules enable you to tailor your studies to reflect your interests and career aspirations
- Gain more than legal knowledge: develop essential professional and soft skills to enhance your employability
- One of the few UK law degrees with an integrated work placement year
- Small group teaching for all law modules and an academic mentor to provide support and guidance throughout your studies.

### What are my career prospects?

This degree is for those students wanting to become a solicitor or barrister. It has been designed to help students acquire the knowledge and skills they need to become successful legal practitioners. A degree in law also provides an excellent foundation for other careers where legal knowledge is important including taxation, human resource management, accountancy, regulation and compliance.



# GET STARTED APPLY

The UCAS code is: ASTON A80

Applying to Aston University

## When to apply

For Autumn 2014 you can apply from 1st September 2013 but the last date for the receipt of applications, to qualify for full and equal treatment, is 15th January 2014. Although you should make every effort to let us have your application by 15th January 2014, we are still able to consider applications throughout the year.

## Entry requirements and admissions policy 2014 entry

UCAS forms are considered by the Admissions Tutor. If you are made a conditional/unconditional offer you will be invited to a post-application open day where you can meet staff, students and see the campus. When making offers the criteria include:

- ▶ Past performance: e.g. AS grades, GCSE
- ▶ School/college reference
- ▶ Predicted grades
- ▶ Evidence of commitment and motivation via the personal statement
- ▶ Relevant experience
- ▶ Extenuating circumstances
- ▶ Interview performance (if required)

Aston University makes conditional offers to the vast majority of UCAS applicants each year (typically 80%) including many students who are predicted to achieve one or two grades lower than our entry requirements. We would encourage students whose predicted and expected grades are close to those stated in Aston's entry requirements to apply to Aston as one of their 5 UCAS choices.

## Applying to Aston University

Aston University welcomes students from all parts of the UK and from over 120 countries around the world. These pages outline how to apply to Aston and a brief guide to our admissions policy. We look forward to receiving your application and to welcoming you to one of our open days and events.

## Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS)

Applications should be made through UCAS. The UCAS scheme covers all full-time (including sandwich) programmes leading to a first degree or diploma at university or college in the UK. For more information on courses, entry requirements and UCAS codes visit [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)

If your school, college or careers centre is registered with UCAS, you can apply through them, or through the UCAS website.

## University and programme codes

The UCAS code, ASTON A80, should be entered clearly on your application form. UCAS codes for degree programmes are listed throughout this prospectus and on the UCAS website.

## Choice of university/college

You may apply to five institutions/courses on the UCAS form, but are not obliged to use all five choices. You can enter your choices in any order.

To apply, visit:  
[www.ucas.com/apply](http://www.ucas.com/apply)

E: [ugenquiries@aston.ac.uk](mailto:ugenquiries@aston.ac.uk)

### A and AS levels

Three subjects at A-level (A2) or equivalent are required for entry to our degree programmes. For some courses you will need specific subjects at A-level. We would hope that most applicants will take at least 4 AS Levels in Year 12. Achievement at AS Level in Year 12 may be taken into account when making conditional offers but students who do not have AS results will not be disadvantaged.

Additional A/AS subjects above the standard 3-4 qualifications may also be taken into account when making offers and at results confirmation.

Aston University may offer Excellence Scholarships to students who achieve high grades in their A level subjects. For 2013 entry these were worth £4,000 over a typical 4 year Aston degree including a fee-free placement year for students who achieved AAB or equivalent at A level. Details of Aston's scholarships for 2014 entry will be available at [www.aston.ac.uk/scholarships](http://www.aston.ac.uk/scholarships) from summer 2013.

### Applied A levels

A Single Award Applied A level in place of a third A level subject will be considered for all programmes. A relevant Applied A level double award plus one relevant A level will normally be acceptable, except for programmes in the School of Life & Health Sciences.

### UCAS tariff

Some Admissions Tutors may use the UCAS points system or 'tariff' but we do not normally make offers based just on UCAS points. There will normally be a stipulation of particular grades at A level, BTEC Nationals or other qualifications in the tariff. Where points offers are made they will specify the exact types of qualifications from which the points can be gained, depending on how many units are being taken. The UCAS tariff is available from [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)

### Mature students

We encourage applications from mature students and consider each application on individual merits. You should provide evidence of successful recent study in relevant subjects, or relevant professional qualifications and/or experience. New students are invited to a Welcome Day before the start of term, where they can meet other mature students and find out about the services available to them. Aston has a thriving Mature Students Society with its own common room in the Union and services offering advice, guidance and support, both academic and personal. If you need child care our Nursery caters for children up to school age, and half-term and summer holiday clubs are open to children up to 11 years of age.

### Access courses

Aston University is a member of the Open College Network (OCN). We accept applications from Access course students at colleges which are members of OCN, or from any other QAA-accredited Access course. Offer levels vary depending on the course you are taking, the subject you are applying to and your own qualifications and experience. As a minimum, you will be expected to achieve the Access Diploma, but most subjects will require additional credits at level 3.

### Deferred entry accepted

We recognise the advantages of a gap year and our Admissions Tutors will be happy to discuss deferred entry with you. If you want to apply to Aston but defer entry until October 2015, you should indicate this on your UCAS form. You will usually be considered on the same basis as applicants for 2014 entry and receive correspondence from UCAS and Aston during the application timetable for 2014 entry.

To apply, visit:  
[www.ucas.com/apply](http://www.ucas.com/apply)

E: [uqenquiries@aston.ac.uk](mailto:uqenquiries@aston.ac.uk)

### GCSE

Minimum English at Grade C or higher. All programmes require a minimum of Grade C GCSE Mathematics. Many programmes require higher grades in relevant subjects.

### BTEC National and other Diplomas

BTEC National Diplomas and other Diplomas form part of the UCAS Tariff and offers will normally equate to points required from A levels. Demonstration of breadth of study is preferred: applications with a mix of BTEC and A levels or other qualifications are welcomed.

### Scottish and Irish qualifications

Aston regularly receives and welcomes applications from Scotland and Ireland for all our degree programmes. As a guide, UCAS tariff points required for A levels will normally equate to similar points from Scottish and Irish Highers.

### International Baccalaureate and other international qualifications

We welcome applications from other qualifications, including a wide range of international qualifications – contact the relevant Admissions Tutor for further information. If you have international qualifications and are not sure if they are acceptable for entry, please contact the International Office for advice on pages 40-45.

### English Language

English Language at GCSE Grade A\*-C, or Scottish Certificate of Education, or an equivalent English qualification. Further details of acceptable English Language qualifications for foundation programmes are given on pages 43-44.

### For international students

Aston University complies with UKBA regulations governing the recruitment of international students. To be accepted onto a programme of study international students must be able to satisfy the university's English language requirements. The level required will depend on the programme applied for.

Full details can be found at  
[www.aston.ac.uk/international-students/admissions-advice/english-language-requirements](http://www.aston.ac.uk/international-students/admissions-advice/english-language-requirements)

### Final year external entry to Aston University Degree programmes

Reflecting the high quality and professional integrity of our degree programmes, Aston University does not permit direct entry to the final year of any of its degrees. In exceptional circumstances only, applicants may be accepted onto the second year of one of our undergraduate degree programmes. Applicants are expected to present strong evidence of their suitability in such circumstances.



# PAY A VISIT TO DISCOVER MORE

We welcome visits to the university or Schools of Study by organised parties throughout the year, and also offer guided informal campus tours at key times during the year. Please see our website for details. We also have free copies of our self-guided walking tour of the campus and Birmingham. (International students: see pages 40-45)

## General Open Days:

Tuesday 18 June 2013

Wednesday 18 September 2013

Saturday 19 October 2013

**[www.aston.ac.uk/opendays](http://www.aston.ac.uk/opendays)**

Visits welcome at other times,  
call 0121 204 4771.

## Contact

Schools and Colleges Liaison,  
Aston University, Aston Triangle,  
Birmingham,  
B4 7ET

T: 0121 204 4771

E: [schliaison@aston.ac.uk](mailto:schliaison@aston.ac.uk)

W: [www.aston.ac.uk/schliaison](http://www.aston.ac.uk/schliaison)

## Degree programme information

For detailed information about degree programmes please contact the Admissions Tutor – details are on the relevant page or individual School/department websites at [www.aston.ac.uk](http://www.aston.ac.uk)

## Applications and admissions

Contact: The Registry,  
Aston University, Aston Triangle,  
Birmingham, B4 7ET

T: 0121 204 3000

(ask for the Department/School  
you wish to apply to).

## Schools and Colleges Liaison

Provides services for students, teachers, parents, careers advisers, school/college groups, individual visitors and families to our Open Days. All interested parties are welcome to attend and the days include subject presentations and demonstrations, campus and accommodation tours, general seminars and sessions for parents. All UCAS applicants to Aston who receive offers will normally be invited to post-application open days between December 2013 and March 2014. We also offer campus tours throughout the summer months and school/college vacations.

## Teacher and careers adviser visits

Whenever possible we are delighted to host groups of teachers or careers advisers wishing to look around the university, meet lecturers, Admissions Tutors and Schools and Colleges Liaison staff to discuss any aspects of Higher Education, UCAS applications or the university. Every January we hold an Admissions Conference for teachers and careers advisers where you can network with other HE professionals and meet our staff and students. Contact Schools and Colleges Liaison for details of other events held during the year.

## Parents and family of prospective students

Throughout this prospectus you will find information on courses, graduate employment, welfare provision and accommodation on campus. Parents and family of prospective students are welcome to attend Open Days before and during the application process. On many of these days, we hold specific informal sessions for parents and family, enabling you to talk to us about issues important to you and to find out more about Aston University.

[www.aston.ac.uk/parents](http://www.aston.ac.uk/parents)

## Visits to schools and colleges

We can give presentations to students and parents including general talks about Aston University, the UCAS system, life at university, or more specialist subject talks given by a member of academic staff. Speakers can be provided for staff training days or parents' evenings as well as for groups of school or college students. Services are free of charge.

## Masterclasses and Subject Enrichment Activities

We organise a programme of events aimed at providing a taster of university life and study at university, including activities designed to enrich the post-16 curriculum. Over 4,000 school/college students visit Aston University for these activities each year.

## Higher education/careers fairs

Representatives of Aston University attend local and national UCAS Higher Education fairs and conventions. These events present the opportunity for students to talk to someone from Aston about our various degree programmes, the university and Higher Education in general. Aston also attends events and fairs across Europe and the World via the International Office.

[www.aston.ac.uk/international](http://www.aston.ac.uk/international)

The information contained in this prospectus is relevant for applications to Undergraduate programmes in the academic session September 2014 – June 2015. Whilst information in this prospectus is correct at the time of going to press (February 2013), Aston University does not guarantee its accuracy or completeness. All students accepted onto any Aston University course will be required as a condition of enrolment to abide by, and to submit to Aston University's policies, rules and regulations, as amended from time to time. A copy of the current policies, rules and regulations is available on request from the Registry.

Where placements form part of a programme of study, the university makes every effort to help its students find suitable placement opportunities. However, as the availability, duration, nature and content of placements are outside the university's control, we do not guarantee that suitable placements will always be available.

The prospectus is provided for illustration purposes only and does not constitute or form part of any invitation, offer, acceptance or contractual term between the university and any other person. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this prospectus is correct and the university will use all reasonable efforts to deliver the programmes as described.

However, the university reserves the right to make variations to programme contents and methods of delivery, fees, entry requirements, to discontinue or merge or combine programmes, to alter the facilities and/or services available from or provided by or on behalf of the university and to make variations to regulations, both before and after a student's admission to the university, if such action is reasonably considered necessary by the university. Circumstances where variations may be required include (but are not limited to) industrial action, lack of demand, departure of key personnel, timetable considerations, change in Government policy, withdrawal or reduction of funding, and/or change of Law.

If, after an application for a programme has been accepted, the programme is substantially varied from that described in the prospectus for reasons other than circumstances beyond the university's reasonable control, the university will use reasonable endeavours to provide a suitable replacement programme. If the student does not wish to accept the replacement programme, the student shall be entitled to withdraw from the programme. In the event of such withdrawal an appropriate refund of tuition fees shall be made in accordance with the university's policy.

The university cannot accept responsibility and expressly excludes liability for damage to students' property, transfer of computer viruses to students' equipment and all other liabilities to the fullest extent permitted by law.

We reserve the right in the event of a student's failure to pay tuition fees as stipulated by the university to withhold award/degree certificates until the tuition fees outstanding are paid, together with any debt recovery fees charged by any debt recovery agents engaged by the university.

The university does not warrant or guarantee that:

- its position in any league table, survey or poll will be maintained throughout a student's course;
- enrolment on any particular programme will automatically result in graduation;
- a student successfully completing a course will receive any offer of employment.

## Terms 2014-2015

### Aston Welcome Week

28 September 2014

### First Term

5 October - 20 December 2014

### Second Term

11 January to 28 March 2015

### Third Term

19 April to 13 June 2015\*

\*Term 3 begins with a revision week followed by examinations.

## Please contact

T: +44 (0)121 204 3000



The Aston University campus is located in the centre of Birmingham, the centre of the national road and rail network, making it within easy reach of most of the UK and beyond.





Aston University is a campus University located in the centre of Birmingham. We recommend that visitors use public transport as Birmingham city centre is well served by train, coach and air from all parts of the UK and is close to hundreds of local bus routes. Car parking is not normally available on campus itself for visitors due to our new residences development but is available close by in pay car parks.



By train

Birmingham New Street Station is the nearest main-line station to Aston University, a short 15-20 minute walk away. New Street is the UK's most well connected station and direct services arrive here from all parts of the UK. Some regional and national services arrive at Birmingham Snow Hill and/or Birmingham Moor Street stations (including trains from London Marylebone) – please check your timetable. All stations are marked on the city centre map shown.

Our website also includes interactive walking routes via google maps: [www.aston.ac.uk/about/directions](http://www.aston.ac.uk/about/directions)

To walk to the campus from Birmingham New Street Station along Corporation Street.

The Aston University campus is an easy flat 15-20 minute walk from Birmingham New Street Station along Corporation Street. New Street Station is being redeveloped so specific directions below may change during 2013. Visit [www.aston.ac.uk/directions](http://www.aston.ac.uk/directions) for the latest information.

1. Exit New Street Station by the main exit from the concourse, following signs for New Street/ Corporation Street. Ask for directions if you are unsure.
2. From New Street (a pedestrianised Shopping Street) turn left onto Corporation Street, next to the Lloyds TSB Bank on the corner of New Street and Corporation Street.
3. Cross New Street on to Corporation Street, straight ahead towards the Phones 4 U store, then follow this main shopping street to the campus. You will pass a Mothercare store on your right, and later a large House of Fraser department store on your left. Keep walking towards the rocket-shaped tower of the Central Methodist Hall.

4. Keep walking straight ahead down Corporation Street. You will then pass the Victorian redbrick law courts on your left and the Central Methodist Hall on your right, until you reach the pelican crossing on James Watt Queensway (a main road) on the right-hand side.
  5. After the crossing, go straight ahead on to the campus past Lakeside Residences and to the left of the campus lake. The Main Building is signposted from here around 200m away.
- Taxis can be hired from the taxi rank at New Street Station and cost around £5 to Aston University. Follow Taxi signs from the main station concourse. There is also a taxi rank on Campus on Aston Street to return to New Street Station.

Train enquiries:  
+44(0)345 484 950  
[www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk)

Approximate direct journey times to Birmingham by train:

London	1h 20m
Manchester	1h 35m
Leeds	2h
Bristol	1h 30m
Nottingham/Leicester	1h 15m
Cardiff	2h
Southampton	2h 45m
Newcastle	3h 30m

Some regional and national services arrive at Birmingham Snow Hill or Moor Street stations, a short 10 minute walk from campus. The map also shows the locations of these. Please check your timetable. The Midland Metro Tram service from Wolverhampton and North West Birmingham also terminates at Snow Hill station.

By coach/bus

Most coach services operate from the new Digbeth coach station, which is a short taxi ride or 20 minutes' walk from the campus. National Express enquiries:

+44 (0)990 80 80 80  
[www.nationalexpress.co.uk](http://www.nationalexpress.co.uk)  
[www.megabus.com](http://www.megabus.com)

Network West Midlands – regional bus services

Aston University campus is close to over 100 bus service stops in the city centre from across the West Midlands. Details on bus services into Birmingham City Centre can be found on the website:

[www.networkwestmidlands.co.uk](http://www.networkwestmidlands.co.uk)

By air

There are regular international and domestic flights to Birmingham International Airport, one of the UK's largest. Frequent trains run from Birmingham International rail station to Birmingham New Street. The journey time is 15 minutes. Birmingham International Airport enquiries: +44(0)121 767 7145 [www.bhx.co.uk](http://www.bhx.co.uk)

By car

From whichever direction you are approaching Birmingham, Aston University is best reached from the M6 motorway (NOT the new M6 Toll, which bypasses the city) and A38M. The university is located in the North East part of the City Centre, close to the A4540 central ring road, and is marked on most city centre plans in road atlases.

Travel to the Aston University campus by car

1. Exit the M6 at Junction 6, and follow signs for the A38(M) to the City Centre. Ignore signs to 'Aston'. We are located in Birmingham City Centre, not Aston.
2. Stay on the A38(M) (Aston Expressway) for about two miles until you reach the third exit to the left (a filter lane). This is just after you pass the overhead 'end of motorway' signs. Aston University/University of Aston is signposted from here. You will see the Aston University Main Building on your left.
3. Take the LEFT filter lane here, and at the Lancaster Circus roundabout (next to the Fire Station) take the first exit left into James Watt Queensway.
4. Ignore the first left turn into Aston Street (this is not a through road) but keep going in the left hand lane, through three sets of traffic lights, passing the redbrick Lakeside university residences.
5. After passing the Lakeside Residences follow signs for parking at Millennium Point/Thinktank Science Museum, a left turn onto Jennens Road. The multi-storey car park entrance is on Jennens Road, B4 7AP. Parking charges are around £5 for a full day, less for 1-4 hours.
6. After parking your car the Aston University campus is across Jennens Road and is clearly visible from the multi-storey car park.
7. Cross Jennens Road (dual carriageway) using the pedestrian crossing.
8. After crossing Jennens Road turn left and then turn immediately right next to the new Student Residences – you are now on campus. Follow the map and signs for the Aston University Main Building about 200 metres away straight ahead across the campus. The Main Building and university reception is here.

To find out more visit:  
[www.aston.ac.uk/directions](http://www.aston.ac.uk/directions)  
[www.aston.ac.uk/opendays](http://www.aston.ac.uk/opendays)

T: 0121 204 4771

A – D		I – L		P – T	
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Biological Chemistry BSc	80	International Business and Economics	66	Politics with International Relations (Single Honours)	122
Biology Programmes	134	International Business and Management	67	Pharmacy	140
Biomedical Science (IBMS accredited and HCPC approved)	136	International Business and Modern Languages	68	Product Design & Management BSc	105
Business and Management	60	International Politics and Languages – Arabic, French, German, Mandarin Chinese, Spanish	118	Psychology	142
Business and Mathematics BSc	98	International Relations (Joint Honours)	124	Psychology and Business	143
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