

Reference: R210082

Salary: Grade 8, £33,797 to £40,322 per annum

Contract Type: Fixed Term (18 months)

Basis: Full Time

Closing Date: 23.59 hours BST on Thursday 08 April 2021

Interview Date: Monday 19 April 2021

Biomass Policy Fellow

Candidate brief



Job description

This post has been created to support the development of an informed and enabling policy framework for sustainable bioenergy and biorefining in the UK.. The postholder will provide a link between the Supergen Bioenergy hub (SGBH), three BBSRC Networks in Industrial Biotechnology and Bioenergy (NIBB) and the UK/international policy community. They will work with SGBH and NIBB researchers to extract policy-relevant outputs and connect them with relevant parts of the policy community. They will work with policy makers in UK government and beyond to better understand their information needs and communicate this back to relevant researchers. This is an exciting opening for applicants who want to work at the science/policy interface. You will have a unique opportunity to work across several universities and disciplines, bringing together academics, industrialists and policy makers to deliver policy impact and build closer connections between the research and policy communities

A steering group composed of SGBH and NIBB representatives will be created to help the post holder to define key areas for engagement and support with contacts and links in different sectors. The postholder will work closely with the SGBH stakeholder engagement manager (who has built up a strong network of policy contacts across different government departments) and report directly to the SGBH Director to develop and fulfil a policy engagement strategy that meets the needs of policy-makers, delivers impact for researchers and supports sustainable bioenergy and biorefinery deployment. It is anticipated that this will include regular meetings with the Biomass Strategy team at BEIS, production of briefing material for stakeholders and a range of other appropriate communications activities.

The post holder will report to the SGBH director, who is based at Aston University. However, the postholder may (with agreement of the relevant local investigator) be physically based at any of the SGBH and NIBB partner institutes (currently University of Aberystwyth, Aston University, University of Bath, University of Manchester, Imperial College, Southampton University, Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (Lancaster), Nottingham University and the University of York. Consideration may be given to working at another SGBH or NIBB institute if suitable local arrangements can be made. It is anticipated that the fellow will undertake travel to all SGBH and NIBB institutes and government departments. This may include secondment to particular departments as key issues arise during the work programme

Main Duties and Responsibilities

Specifically the post holder will:

- ▶ Familiarise themselves with SGBH and NIBB research and develop an understanding of the perspective of the associated industrial and policy partners.
- ▶ Identify SGBH and NIBB research that is policy relevant and report/synthesize/communicate that work in a timely and appropriate manner to relevant officials.
- ▶ Develop and manage professional working relationships with individuals and groups in key government departments focused on sustainable bioenergy development, COP26, the Biomass Strategy and Industrial Strategy.
- ▶ Work with government department officials to identify gaps in existing knowledge that could be filled by the UK research community.
- ▶ Liaise with SGBH and NIBB researchers to communicate the information needs of policy-makers, the practicalities of the policy development process and support them in adapting and developing their research plans to fill those gaps where appropriate.
- ▶ To communicate (using social media, press-releases, web-sites etc.) key information on sustainable bioenergy deployment to different policy audiences.
- ▶ To develop, present and implement a policy engagement plan that develops and extends the existing SGBH and NIBB stakeholder engagement plan to specifically focus on the needs of COP26 and the Biomass Strategy.
- ▶ To collate information on policy engagement activities for reporting and monitoring purposes.

Additional responsibilities

- ▶ Engage in continuous personal and professional development in line with the demands of the role, including undertaking relevant training and development activities to develop themselves and support the development of others.
- ▶ Ensure and promote the personal health, safety and wellbeing of staff and students.
- ▶ Carry out duties in a way which promotes fairness in all matters and which engenders trust.
- ▶ Promote equality of opportunity and support diversity and inclusion as well as working to support the University's environmental sustainability agenda and practices.

Person specification

	Essential	Method of assessment
Education and qualifications	First degree in a relevant subject (e.g. science, engineering, policy, economics)	Application Form
Experience	<p>Knowledge of climate change, renewable energy and sustainability</p> <p>Experience of science/industrial policy development</p> <p>Experience of communicating scientific concepts to non-specialist audiences in written form</p>	<p>Application Form and Interview</p> <p>Application Form</p> <p>Application Form</p>
Aptitude and skills	<p>Demonstrated aptitude for developing interdisciplinary insights</p> <p>Experience of verbally communicating scientific concepts to non-specialist audiences</p> <p>Experience of proactively engaging with researchers and policy stakeholders</p> <p>Strong data analysis/analytic skills</p> <p>A demonstrable track record of independent working, time management and successful delivery of objectives</p> <p>Well-developed IT skills to monitor, organize, synthesize and communicate key concepts</p> <p>Extremely highly-developed interpersonal and team-working skills.</p> <p>Excellent written and oral communication skills</p>	<p>Interview</p> <p>Interview and assessment test</p> <p>Application form/interview</p> <p>Application form/interview</p> <p>Interview and application form</p> <p>Interview and application form</p> <p>Interview and application form</p> <p>Interview, application form and test</p>

	Desirable	Method of assessment
Education and qualifications	Higher degree in a relevant subject	Application form
Experience	<p>Experience of scientific policy engagement/impact</p> <p>Experience of working with government and policy makers</p>	Application form and interview

How to apply

You can apply for this role online via our website <https://www2.aston.ac.uk/staff-public/hr/jobs>. Applications should be submitted by 23.59pm on the advertised closing date. All applicants must complete an application form, along with your CV.

Any CV sent direct to the Recruitment Team and Recruiting Manager will not be accepted. If you require a manual application form then please contact the Recruitment Team via jobs@aston.ac.uk.

Contact information

Enquiries about the vacancy:

Name: Patricia Thornley

Job Title: Director or EBRI

Email: p.thornley@aston.ac.uk

Enquiries about the application process, shortlisting or interviews:

Recruitment Team via jobs@aston.ac.uk or 0121 204 4500.

Additional Information

Visit our website <https://www2.aston.ac.uk/staff-public/hr> for full details of our salary scales and benefits
Aston University staff enjoy

Salary scales: <https://www2.aston.ac.uk/staff-public/hr/payroll-and-pensions/salary-scales/index>

Benefits: <https://www2.aston.ac.uk/staff-public/hr/Benefits-and-Rewards/index>

Working in Birmingham: <https://www2.aston.ac.uk/birmingham>

Employment of Ex-Offenders: Under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974, a person with a criminal record is not required to disclose any spent convictions unless the positions they applying for is listed an exception under the act.

Eligibility to work in the UK:

Post-Brexit transition period / EU Settlement Scheme

The post-Brexit transition period ended on 31 December 2020. If you are an EU/EEA citizen and you were a resident in the UK before 31 December 2020, you and your family members (including non-EU citizens need to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme to continue to live, work and study in the UK beyond 30 June 2021. The deadline for applying to the EU settlement scheme is 30 June 2021. You can apply via the Government webpage <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

Irish Nationals do not need to apply for settlement as they retain the right to work in the UK.

New immigration system for EU/EEA and Swiss Nationals who were not resident in the UK before 31 December 2020

A new immigration system has been introduced for people arriving in the UK from EEA countries with effect from 1 January 2021. In addition to those who have always required a visa, EU citizens moving to the UK to work will need to get a visa in advance. You can find more information on the following website. Candidates should check their eligibility to enter or remain in the UK in advance of making any job application via the UKVI website <https://www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/work-visas>. Before applying you should ensure that you meet the requirements. If you do not meet the eligibility criteria, any application for a work visa would be unsuccessful.

If you require a visa to work in the UK the most common types of visa are:

Skilled Worker Visa

<https://www.gov.uk/skilled-worker-visa>

Global Talent Visa

If you are a leader or potential leader in one of the following fields you may be eligible to apply for a Global Talent Visa:

- Academia or Research
- Arts and Culture
- Digital Technology

Please click the following link for further information and to check your eligibility for this visa.

<https://www.gov.uk/global-talent>

Equal Opportunities: Aston University promotes equality and diversity in all aspects of its work. We aim to ensure, through our admissions policies for students, and our staff recruitment and selection processes that we encourage applications from all groups represented in the wider community at a local, national and international level.

The University will endeavour not to discriminate unfairly or illegally, directly or indirectly, against student or potential students, staff or potential staff. This commitment applies to all functions of the University and to any stage of an individual's career.

An Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form is included within the application form. Data you provide on the Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form will be included in a general database, for statistical monitoring purposes, enabling the University to monitor the effectiveness of its Policy, Codes of Practice and Guidelines on Equal Opportunities in Employment. Individuals will not be identified by name.

Data Protection: Your personal data will be processed in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation ((EU) 2016/679) ("GDPR"). The University's Data Protection Policy and Privacy Notices, including the Job Applicant Privacy Notice can be found at <https://www2.aston.ac.uk/data-protection>. Your application will only be used to inform the selection process, unless you are successful, in which case it will form the basis of your personal record with the University which will be stored in manual and/or electronic files. Information in statistical form on present and former employees is given to appropriate outside bodies.

Full details of our terms and conditions of service and associated policies and procedures are available online at <https://www2.aston.ac.uk/staff-public/hr/policies>

