**Dean of Law**

**⏵Job Description**

To provide academic leadership, developing and enhancing the research, teaching and external engagement activities of the Business and Law Schools.

Responsibilities

**Management and leadership**

1. To develop, maintain and execute a strategy for the continued growth of Aston Law School.
2. To contribute to the management and leadership of the Business School, as part of the faculty-level Senior Management Team.
3. To provide thought leadership within the broader institution.
4. To take an ambassadorial role in relation to Law and the Business School within the institution and with external stakeholders.
5. To be accountable for the general, strategic and people management responsibilities within the Law School.
6. To contribute to the development of teams and individuals through formal management processes including giving advice, guidance, coaching and feedback, and acting as a personal mentor to peers and colleagues.
7. To embed the SQE into the curriculum and respond positively to the opportunities presented by the changing landscape of legal education.

**Business/professional engagement**

1. To raise the regional, national and international profile and impact of Aston Law School.
2. To forge relationships with key local, national and international bodies and engage with the professional and business community through, for example, contribution to policy development and the commercial exploitation of research and intellectual property.
3. To build and maintain a reputation as a respected authority in their field to external client groups.
4. To work with the legal community on a national and international scale but also to actively engage and network with the wider business community.
5. To work positively with the regulators and seek to influence the development of the reforms to legal education.
6. To continue to grow and develop our external facing activities, for instance, through the Law Clinic.

**Learning and Teaching**

1. To champion Aston Law School’s ethos for high-quality student support, with an emphasis on approachability and employability, reflecting the diversity of student experience.
2. To lead the development of innovative approaches to legal education within the institution and nationally which seeks to improve the educational and career outcomes for students.
3. To lead and motivate an established high-performing team to demonstrate initiative with regard to curriculum development and professional practice in teaching, learning and delivery, and to explore opportunities for working across academic disciplines and with external organisations.

**Research**

1. To lead and develop internal and external networks with other research, educational and professional bodies and the professional and business community, fostering collaboration and promoting Aston Law School, the Business School and University.
2. To lead and co-ordinate research activity in their area of Law and within the School.
3. To collaborate in research initiatives and contribute to the research environment with colleagues in Aston Law School, the Business School and the University.
4. To have a full appreciation of the importance of the research strategy for the school and of other post holders who work in research specific roles.

**Other related activities and functions**

1. To ensure the implementation of the University’s strategic plans.
2. To undertake relevant training and personal development as directed by the Executive Dean.
3. To continue to grow the Law School as part of the wider Aston Business School and to harness the opportunities for collaboration across departments within ABS and/or wider university.

# **Person specification**

|  | **Essential** | **Method of assessment** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Education and qualifications** | A PhD in a relevant area of law, or equivalent qualification or equivalent experience gained at the highest level of practise. | Application form |
| **Experience** | Substantial experience within a specific discipline/specialism of Law that aligns with the needs of our beneficiaries (students, business and society).  An established and extensive record of achievement in at least one of the following: learning & teaching, research or community engagement obtained in academia or practise.  Experience of successful management at departmental, school/group or organisational level including board.  Substantial experience of raising the profile of law through representation on professional bodies (or equivalent).  Experience of innovation in legal education and training either in academia or practise through the training and development of colleagues and/or clients at all levels.  Experience of mentoring and coaching colleagues to nurture professional development.  Experience of leading a team, group or organisation through significant periods of external change. | Application form, interview and presentation |
| **Aptitude and skills** | Excellent leadership qualities and a high level of management skill and judgement.  Ability to create positive and productive working environments through inclusive and reflective management and leadership.  Excellent communication / presentation skills across a variety of media and a range of audiences.  Ability to lead and manage in a changing HE environment.  Positive attitude towards student pastoral needs and available support services.  Willingness to travel overseas and to contribute to the delivery and development of programmes linked to the School’s portfolio | Interview and presentation |
| **Other** | A willingness to undertake further training as appropriate and to adopt new procedures as and when required.  Commitment to observing the University’s Equal Opportunities policy at all times |  |

|  | **Desirable** | **Method of assessment** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Education and qualifications** | Current membership of relevant professional bodies and relevant practise experience  Professional teaching qualification | Application form |
| **Experience** | Ability to diversify income streams.  Consulting and/or experience of continuing professional development delivery  Experience of managing or leading interdisciplinary teams | Application form, interview and presentation |
| **Aptitude and skills** | Willingness to engage with professional firms and bodies. | Interview and presentation |