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Planning

## Postgraduate Research Management System

ASTON UNIVERSITY

UK2: Preliminary market engagement notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2026/S 000-007373

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-06105b

Published 28 January 2026, 9:13am

### Scope

### Reference

1206

### Description

Aston University is seeking to engage with the market to better understand available solutions that can strengthen the support and management of our Postgraduate Research (PGR) student community.

This notice is issued for market engagement purposes only and does not constitute a commitment to procure, nor does it form part of any formal procurement process at this stage. The University is seeking information to inform future decision-making and potential next steps.

#### 2. Context and Objectives

Aston University is exploring options for a digital solution that provides end-to-end lifecycle management for PGR students, supporting academic, administrative, and

regulatory processes from application through to award.

Our objective is to identify solutions that are mature, widely adopted within the UK Higher Education sector, and capable of supporting PGR lifecycle processes in a robust, efficient, and largely out-of-the-box manner.

### 3. Scope of Functional Requirements

The University is interested in solutions capable of supporting the full PGR lifecycle, including but not limited to:

- Admissions
- Applications for all forms of PGR study (funded and non-funded)
- Student Onboarding
- Enrolment
- Induction processes
- Programme Management
- Learning agreements
- Training and development, including:
  - Training Needs Analysis (TNA)
  - Module and course information
  - Attendance tracking
  - Certification and records
  - Supervision and Engagement
  - Supervisory meeting scheduling and records
  - Progression and Assessment
  - Progression milestones
  - Qualifying / Upgrading / Transfer reports

- Annual progress reports
- Student Status Changes
- Extension requests
- Leave of Absence / Suspension of Study requests
- Examination and Completion
- Initial thesis submission
- Viva management
- Examiner reports
- Final thesis submission
- Award processing

#### 4. High-Level Technical and Service Requirements

At a high level, Aston University anticipates that any potential solution would:

- Have proven implementation and strong adoption within the higher education sector
- Provide robust PGR recruitment, admissions, and progression functionality
- Support all lifecycle activities listed above
- Require minimal customisation and operate largely "out of the box"
- Offer fully documented and maintained REST APIs to enable integration with the University's Azure based middleware
- Be delivered as a SaaS solution with a transparent 12month development roadmap and UK/EU based hosting (preferably in Microsoft Azure)
- Support single sign on via OpenID Connect or SAML2 through Microsoft Entra ID
- Have security-based certifications that confirm commitment to maintaining a security focussed infrastructure, such as Cyber Essentials (Plus), ISO 27001 or equivalent
- Consideration will also be given to usability and user experience.

## **Contract dates (estimated)**

- 15 June 2026 to 14 June 2029
- Possible extension to 14 June 2031
- 5 years

## **Main procurement category**

Goods

## **CPV classifications**

- 48190000 - Educational software package

## **Contract locations**

- UKG31 - Birmingham

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## **Engagement**

### **Engagement deadline**

28 February 2026

### **Engagement process description**

Prospective suppliers who meet all of the listed requirements are encouraged to contact [procurement@aston.ac.uk](mailto:procurement@aston.ac.uk).

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## **Participation**

### **Particular suitability**

- Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)
  - Voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSE)
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## **Submission**

### **Publication date of tender notice (estimated)**

15 March 2026

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## **Contracting authority**

### **ASTON UNIVERSITY**

- Companies House: RC000904
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PTLB-7496-TPTR

Aston Triangle

Birmingham

B4 7ET

United Kingdom

Contact name: Sarah Carrington

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

Website: <https://www aston.ac.uk/>

Region: UKG31 - Birmingham

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government