Candidate Information

Position:	Professor in Mechanical or Aerospace Engineering
School/Department:	School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering
Reference:	26/113525
Closing Date:	Monday 14 September 2026
Salary:	Professor Range 1 £82,785 - £91,513 (from 1 Aug 2026)
Anticipated Interview Date:	Thursday 17 September 2026
Duration:	Permanent

JOB PURPOSE:

We are seeking a leading academic to join Queen's University Belfast, which is a member of the Russell Group of the 24 leading research intensive UK universities. The School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at Queen's University Belfast is a leading centre for engineering research and education, attracting outstanding students thanks to the combination of rigorous taught programs and internationally recognised research. Our research features strong partnerships with industry enabling the delivery of impactful, real-world solutions.

The postholder will spearhead an internationally leading program of research that delivers real world impact and is aligned with the research strengths of the School (as listed on: qub.ac.uk/schools/SchoolofMechanicalandAerospaceEngineering/Research/).

The School welcomes candidates with experience in addressing both single discipline engineering challenges, those with a track record working across disciplines, and in new synergistic application areas.

In particular, the School has identified:

• Data Driven methods (including topics across data acquisition, data processing & integration, data modelling, engineering design and optimisation); and

• Engineering Photonics (including precision manufacturing, materials, modelling/simulation, Micro-electromechanical Systems, Photonic Integrated Circuits) applied to Mechanical, Aerospace, or Space Engineering applications as being significant opportunities for alignment.

The postholder will lead curriculum development and define strategies for teaching and assessment in their topics and related fields, and will participate in leadership roles within the School and University commensurate with the academic profile.

In addition, the School is closely partnered with the Advanced Manufacturing Innovation Centre, a £90M investment in manufacturing innovation which provides opportunities for research linked to real world industrial challenges.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Lead a distinguished programme of international research activity applied to Mechanical, Aerospace or Space Engineering applications, disseminating original work through high-quality publications or other media, with demonstrable impact on the research agenda.
2. Provide successful supervision of PhD students and postdoctoral researchers, contributing to the development of future research leaders.
3. Make a significant, constructive, and impactful contribution to leadership initiatives that support the effective management of the school, faculty, and University.
4. Secure sustained external funding through competitive, peer-reviewed grants or awards as Principal Investigator, and attract R&D investment from national or global businesses.

5. Provide outstanding and impactful teaching at undergraduate and/or postgraduate levels, contributing to an exceptional student learning experience.
6. Promote a collegial and inclusive academic environment, supporting colleagues and students, and modelling professional behaviours.
7. Support the achievement of student recruitment targets, including international recruitment, and contribute to the development of programmes that attract a diverse and talented student body.
8. Develop and lead significant individual or collaborative research programmes at local, national, and international levels, contributing to the University's international research profile.
9. Champion the University's commitment to Athena SWAN and broader equity, diversity, and inclusion priorities across the institution.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. A degree and PhD in a relevant, closely related subject.
2. Sustained record of publication of internationally recognised research outputs, with demonstrable impact on leading researchers and the research agenda for Mechanical, Aerospace or Space Engineering applications.
3. Alignment with the research strengths of the School.
4. Proven track record of securing research income as principal investigator.
5. Evidence of developing and leading successful peer reviewed research funding applications as Principal Investigator.
6. Strong track record in securing and managing large scale grants.
7. Track record of successful doctoral and post-doctoral supervision.
8. Evidence of international recognition and esteem.
9. Evidence of successful undergraduate and/or postgraduate teaching, project supervision, assessment and feedback experience.
10. Evidence of excellent standard of teaching performance as judged by evaluation methods including student feedback or peer-review.
11. A strong track record of leadership, demonstrated as evidence of major initiatives that significantly improved education, research or administrative processes.
12. Sustained senior academic leadership in the wider research or scholarship community with demonstrable impact on the strategic direction of that community.
13. Evidence of providing leadership, line management and mentoring to staff.
14. Leadership qualities reflecting our core values.
15. Ability to communicate complex information effectively.
16. Ability to communicate effectively in English, both orally and in writing
17. A commitment to creating an inclusive and supportive academic environment enhancing equality, diversity, and supporting early career academics.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. Completed PGCHET or an equivalent teaching qualification.
2. Fit with the identified areas of Data Driven methods or Engineering Photonics.
3. Existing industrial research collaborators.
4. Evidence of management and delivery of significant projects within timescales and budgets.
5. Successful creation of undergraduate or postgraduate programmes.
6. Evidence of successful innovation in the development or modernisation of the curriculum with an impact at departmental level.
7. Evidence of successfully setting and then delivering on a strategic vision in an educational or an R&D context.
8. Evidence of education scholarship.
9. Teaching awards.
10. Evidence of social engagement and outreach activities.
11. Evidence of strong societal and economic impact derived from research or educational initiatives.
12. Demonstratable leadership in EDI activities.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Informal enquiries may be directed to: Gary Menary at g.menary@qub.ac.uk.