



THE Awards 2019 – Business School of the Year

Institution/Nominee	Aston Business School, <i>Aston University</i>
Title	Aston Business School - Transforming the Regional Economy through working intensively with SMEs
Key personnel	David Farrow, Executive Director of Regional & Civic Engagement
URL	https://www.enterpriseresearch.ac.uk/publications/uk-local-growth-dashboard-2018
Submission	<p>During 2017/2018, over 500 high-growth potential SMEs from the West Midlands participated in specialist business support programmes at Aston Business School, derived from our cutting-edge research on entrepreneurial growth. Evaluation evidence about our programmes shows significant impact on firm-level growth, jobs created, student start-ups and investment for the region.</p> <p>Aston’s commitment to ambitious small business leaders stands out amongst business schools, and our work is unique due to its scale – the number of businesses participating, the number of targeted initiatives, and the size and significance of our regional peer-to-peer network that currently stands at over 1,000 entrepreneurs.</p> <p>2017/2018 established Aston Business School and its Centre for Growth as trusted partners in the business support ecosystem, supporting Aston’s ambition to become the leading business school for scale-up support for growth-orientated businesses, and champions of genuine inclusive growth due to our work with social enterprises and marginalised business communities.</p>