



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

**Research Fellow/Officer in Crime Data Analytics, Faculty of Education,
Social Sciences and Law**



Salary: Grade 7 (£32,548 – £38,833 p.a. pro-rata)

The salary spine point is subject to external funding conditions, which will limit the salary at which an appointment can be made to a maximum of £32,548 p.a. pro-rata.

Reference: ESLLW1108

Closing date: 17 August 2018

**Part time, fixed term, 50% of full time equivalent (2.5 days/week)
available until 30 April 2019**

Research Fellow/Officer in Crime Data Analytics

School of Law, Faculty of Education, Social Sciences and Law

Are you an ambitious researcher looking for your next challenge? Do you have a research interest in crime data analytics? Do you want to further your career in one of the UK's leading research-intensive Universities?

You will work on a research project funded by the N8 Policing Research Partnership ([N8 PRP](#)) led by Professor Graham Farrell with Dr Dan Birks (both School of Law) and Dr Nick Malleson (School of Geography), in collaboration with a consortium of eight police forces with West Yorkshire Police as the lead.

Police forces collect extremely large volumes of data from their Automated Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) systems. These are placed strategically to identify vehicles that are associated with crime in some way. Although these systems have been collecting substantial amounts of information about the movements of vehicles, there has been very little work looking at their efficacy beyond assisting with criminal investigations, nor how forces might make the best use of this complex data set. The successful candidate for this role will have responsibility for key aspects of data analysis and data collection and will assist in the data analysis, writing of interim and final reports and the dissemination of the findings.

With a Master's level degree in computing, data science or equivalent relevant experience, you will possess excellent research, analytical and writing skills and the ability to deal with a variety of tasks to set deadlines. The ability to work alone, as part of a team and with a range of people is essential, along with strong organisational skills. You may be required to undertake background checks including a Disclosure and Barring Service check.

The University of Leeds is a diverse, multi-cultural environment. We welcome applications from all sections of society and the successful applicant will be expected to work within University values and policies which are designed to promote dignity, diversity and inclusiveness.



As part of your application, please could you submit copies of your two strongest publications? These should represent your best work in terms of originality, significance and rigour and both should be published since January 2014. One could be a draft that has been submitted or is close to submission.

What does the role entail?

As a Research Fellow/Officer in Crime Data Analytics your main duties will include:

- Working with and in support of Professor Graham Farrell, Dr Dan Birks and Dr Nick Malleson on their research agenda, research projects and publications;
- Being an active researcher, conducting research, planning and undertaking fieldwork/conferences and aspects of analysing data. Depending on your skills and experience this may include aspects of machine learning;
- Leading on the collection of data comprising a survey of the eight police forces, their operations and needs relating to ANPR;
- Leading on the administrative responsibilities for the project;
- Contributing to the writing of interim and final reports to the collaborative partners and to funders;
- Contributing to the planning and execution of dissemination and impact activities for policy-makers and criminal justice professionals including preparing reports and briefing papers;
- Working with the research team on the presentation of research findings to academic and professional audiences and communicate complex data in accessible ways;
- Being involved in the preparation of significant publications that disseminate the scientific learning of the project;
- Participating actively as a member of the Centre for Criminal Justice Studies in the School of Law;
- Balancing the competing pressures of research demands and deadlines;
- Maintaining an up to date subject-knowledge relevant to the research you are engaged in and continuing to update and develop your skills.

These duties provide a framework for the role and should not be regarded as a definitive list. Other reasonable duties may be required consistent with the grade of the post.



What will you bring to the role?

As a Research Fellow/Officer in Crime Data Analytics you will have:

- An honours degree in the social sciences or relevant allied subject;
- A postgraduate qualification in computing, data science, or the social sciences (or related subject) or relevant work experience at an appropriate level;
- Experience of working with large data sets and analysing qualitative and quantitative empirical research data;
- Experience of compiling reports for policy makers and the potential to deliver high quality written work for academic publication;
- Excellent organisational skills with a demonstrable ability to manage time effectively, to prioritise tasks and meet internal and external deadlines;
- A willingness to travel to and within the areas of jurisdiction of the collaborative partners for the duration of the project, and to attend national meetings/conferences such as may be required;
- Experience of using statistical data analysis packages;
- Ability to work independently and on own initiative;
- Ability to develop a survey instrument, conduct fieldwork and collate and analyse the resulting information.

You may also have:

- Experience of research project management, including working effectively with collaborative partners;
- Experience of presenting research findings to professional and/or academic audiences;
- Experience with machine learning;
- Experience of research user engagement and network building at local, national and/or international levels;
- A portfolio of academic publications consistent with the nature of the post.

How to apply

You can apply for this role online; more guidance can be found on our [How to Apply](#) information page. Applications should be submitted by **23.59** (UK time) on the advertised closing date.



Contact information

To explore the post further or for any queries you may have, please contact:

Graham Farrell, Principal Investigator

Tel: +44 (0)113 343 5950

Email: G.Farrell@leeds.ac.uk

Additional information

About the role

You will be responsible to the Dean of Faculty and report to the Head of School.

You will work on a research project funded by the N8 Policing Research Partnership (N8 PRP) and led by Graham Farrell with Dr Dan Birks (both School of Law) and Dr Nick Malleon (School of Geography) in collaboration with a consortium of eight police forces with West Yorkshire Police as the lead. The project is titled '*Emerging Technology and Big Data Analytics: Realising the Potential of Automatic Number Plate Recognition*'. The increased use of ANPR in recent years means there is major data capture, but analysis and understanding of how the data might best be used is under-developed. This project aims to progress analysis and identify further potential to inform policing in relation to ANPR, crime prevention and detection.

Based in the Centre for Criminal Justice Studies in the School of Law and liaising with the Leeds Institute for Data Analytics, you will have responsibility for all aspects of project administration, data collection and analysis. Depending on your skillset this may include different aspects of data analysis and fieldwork at police forces to collate information on needs. You will be involved in the writing of interim and final reports and the dissemination of the findings.

Working at Leeds

Find out more about the benefits of working at the University and what it is like to live and work in the Leeds area on our [Working at Leeds](#) information page.

Candidates with Disabilities



Information for candidates with disabilities, impairments or health conditions, including requesting alternative formats, can be found on our [Accessibility](#) information page or by getting in touch with us at disclosure@leeds.ac.uk.



To find out more about the [School of Law](#), please visit the [School website](#).

For more information on the [N8 Policing Research Partnership](#), please visit [their website](#).

Criminal record information

Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974

The post may be subject to DBS checking once the final ambit of the post has been defined. The successful applicant may be required to give consent for the University to check their criminal record status through independent verification (from the DBS). Information will be kept in strict confidence. Your offer of appointment will be subject to the University being satisfied with the outcome of these checks.

Applicants who have unspent convictions must indicate this in the 'other personal details' section of the application form and send details to the Recruitment Officer at disclosure@leeds.ac.uk.

Any offer of appointment will be in accordance with our Criminal Records policy. You can find out more about required checks and declarations in our [Criminal Records](#) information page.

