



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

## CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Assistant in European Urban Security  
Faculty of Social Sciences



**Salary: Grade 6 (£27,511 - £33,797 p.a.)**

**Reference: ESLLW1138**

**Interview dates: 30/31 March 2020**

**Fixed term for 12 months, available from 1 June 2020 (or as soon as possible thereafter)**

## Research Assistant in European Urban Security School of Law, Faculty of Social Sciences

**Are you an ambitious researcher looking for your next challenge? Do you have a research interest in crime prevention and urban security? Are you committed to advancing understanding and practice on urban security across European cities in partnership with non-academic public and civic organisations? Do you want to further your career at a leading research-intensive University?**

You will work with Professor Adam Crawford, at the Centre for Criminal Justice Studies in the School of Law, to conduct and support research activities on the EU funded project *IcARUS: Innovative Approaches to Urban Security*. This is a large-scale Horizon 2020 programme of research led by the European Forum on Urban Security, involving 18 partners across Europe. It will focus on implementing change in six major European cities. Working with a team at Leeds and in collaboration with partners, you will play an important role, assuming significant fieldwork and data collection responsibilities. You will assist in the preparation of a review of the best evidence from urban security research and practice over the last 30 years to inform the implementation of an integrated, evidence-based and multi-stakeholder approach to prominent urban security problems in the partner cities.

With either a doctorate (or close to completion) or a postgraduate degree and significant work experience that is relevant to this research field, you will support project work that will include: collecting data; synthesising existing evidence, report writing and liaising with project partners.

You will have a sound grasp of crime and security issues (preferably regarding European jurisdictions), skills in interviewing and synthesis, and excellent analytical and report writing skills. The ability to work alone and as part of a team is essential, along with strong organisational skills and the ability to deal with a variety of tasks delivered to set deadlines. Applicants able to converse in and read other European languages (notably German, French, Italian, Spanish or Portuguese) are particularly welcome. The post will involve significant travel across Europe to undertake fieldwork or to attend project meetings and partner events. You will be supported to develop your own research skills profile through a dedicated training allowance as part of the project.



## What does the role entail?

As a Research Assistant your main duties will include:

- Working with and supporting Professor Crawford and the Leeds team by identifying relevant documents and research, collating information from partners, preparing team meeting and taking notes of agreed actions;
- Assisting in reviewing the existing research evidence and synthesising key findings from the literature;
- Collecting data from researchers, practitioners and stakeholders regarding best practice findings;
- Helping to inform a cross analysis of the evolution in urban security and local responses to tackle criminality over the last 30 years;
- Contributing to the project team as an active researcher: conducting literature reviews and developing thematic priorities for research/writing; designing research instruments; planning and conducting research in the field; analysing data; preparing project reports and conference presentations;
- Helping to liaise with project partners across Europe and reporting to the project leads at the European Forum on Urban Security;
- Developing your subject-knowledge relevant to the research you are engaged in and enhancing your skills;
- Actively participating as a member of the Centre for Criminal Justice Studies at the University of Leeds, including the preparation of presentations and dissemination of research findings;
- Balancing the competing pressures of internal and external research, as well as administrative demands and deadlines.

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 Assistant you will have:

- A PhD (this includes work submitted for assessment but not yet examined) or nearing completion of a PhD (this includes work due to be submitted for assessment within 3 months of taking up this position) in a relevant social science subject area OR a postgraduate degree and significant work experience that is relevant to the field of research;
- Appropriate research skills and knowledge of semi-structured interviews, participatory action research and methods of research synthesis;
- The capacity to write good quality reports and summaries of research;
- Experience of successfully conducting qualitative and/quantitative research in the field;
- Successfully completed training in social research methods, at either undergraduate or post-graduate level;
- An interest in urban security in Europe particularly with regard to the topics of: youth crime, the governance of public spaces, trafficking and organised crime and/or terrorism and extreme violence;
- Availability to travel to research sites and European partners, including extended periods of fieldwork;
- A willingness to share the School's commitment to excellence in all aspects of work and outputs, including effective contribution to the research environment at the Centre for Criminal Justice Studies;
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills, including writing skills and the ability to communicate effectively to an academic audience and other stakeholders as appropriate;
- The capacity to work both independently on own initiative and successfully as a team member;
- A high level of interpersonal and communication skills, including the ability to communicate effectively with the academic and practitioner partners and stakeholders;
- Excellent organisational skills with a demonstrable ability to manage time effectively, to prioritise tasks and meet internal and external deadlines;
- Good IT skills.



You may also have:

- Written, reading or conversational language skills in one of the following European languages: German, French, Italian, Spanish or Portuguese;
- Previous relevant research experience in other European countries;
- An understanding of existing scholarship on relevant topics of: youth crime, the governance of public spaces, trafficking and organised crime and/or terrorism and extreme violence.

## 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:

**Professor Adam Crawford**

Tel: +44 (0)113 343 5045

Email: [a.crawford@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:a.crawford@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 to support Professor Crawford in the delivery of the European Commission funded Horizon 2020 project '*IcARUS: Innovative AppRoach to Urban Security*'. The project is led by the European Forum for Urban Security in a consortium of 18 European partners. Professor Crawford and the team at Leeds will lead one of the seven project work packages on the 'review and cross analysis of urban security' and contribute to the programme as a whole. Another research fellow/officer (Grade 7) will be appointed at Leeds to work as part of the team (for 24 months).

The IcARUS project seeks to facilitate a transformation in the application and



utilisation of the knowledge base through the design of urban security policies. By rethinking tools for urban security policy, IcARUS will draw together the best evidence from urban security research and practice over the last 30 years to implement an integrated, evidence-based and multi-stakeholder approach to prominent urban security problems. Through a strategically designed process of co-production, IcARUS will integrate social and technological innovations to strengthen the strategic approach to urban security and promote a balanced vision of urban security, combining prevention, sanctions and social cohesion as mechanisms to encourage common approaches to security in the European Union. The project aims to transform the benefits to local communities in terms of urban security policies by engaging them as active co-producers of services rather than as passive recipients of public services alongside forms of multi-sectoral governance that deliver beneficial urban safety outcomes. The six cities in which the research will be implemented are: Rotterdam, Riga, Stuttgart, Nice, Turin and Lisbon. The project will focus on four priority areas of urban security, namely: youth crime, the governance of public spaces, trafficking and organised crime and/or terrorism and extreme violence.

The Leeds team will prepare a cross analysis of the evolution in urban security and local responses to tackle criminality over the last 30 years, to help identify needs, tools and institutional barriers to advance urban security.

Find out more about our [School](#) and [Faculty](#).

### **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](mailto:disclosure@leeds.ac.uk).

## **Criminal record information**

### **Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974**

A criminal record check is not required for this position. However, all applicants will be required to declare if they have any 'unspent' criminal offences, including those pending.



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.

