



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Fellow/Officer in European Urban Security
Faculty of Social Sciences



Salary: Grade 7 (£33,797 - £40,322)

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 £36,914 p.a.

Reference: ESLLW1139

Interview dates: 30/31 March 2020

Fixed term for 24 months, available from 1 June 2020 (or as soon as possible thereafter)

Research Fellow/Officer 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 a doctorate (or close to completion) that is relevant to this research field and proven experience of empirical research, you will work with and support project work, that will include: conducting research activities and fieldwork; collecting data; synthesising existing evidence, developing research collaborations, 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 Fellow/Officer your main duties will include:

- Reviewing the existing research evidence and synthesising key findings from the literature;
- Collecting data from researchers, practitioners and stakeholders regarding best practice findings;
- Leading on the preparation of 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;
- Liaising with project partners across Europe and reporting to the project leads at the European Forum on Urban Security;
- Maintaining an up to date subject-knowledge relevant to the research you are engaged in and continuing to update and develop your skills;
- Using your initiative and creativity to identify areas for research, develop new research methods and extend the existing research programmes of the project;
- Collaborating on publications for major refereed journals and leading publishing houses, as well as on project-related reports and other outputs;
- Presenting research findings to academic and professional audiences and communicating complex ideas in accessible ways;
- 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 Fellow/Officer 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 subject area. This could include, but is not limited to, criminology, sociology, urban studies, public administration, international relations or political science;
- Knowledge and understanding of theories and scholarship pertinent to the project, including: crime prevention and urban security in Europe, youth crime, the governance of public spaces, trafficking and organised crime and/or terrorism and extreme violence;
- Advanced qualitative research skills with demonstrable experience of semi-structured interviews and/or participatory action research;
- An ability to synthesise large volumes of data and research findings and an understanding of methods of research synthesis;
- A track record of high quality publishing and writing, as well as demonstrable potential for co-authorship of papers in leading academic journals;
- Experience carrying out research related activities, including collating/analysing data, and participating in international/interdisciplinary research projects;
- Availability to travel to research sites and European partners, including extended periods of fieldwork;
- Experience of presenting accessible research findings to professional and/or academic audiences;
- 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;
- Excellent organisational skills with an ability to manage time effectively and prioritise tasks;
- Excellent IT skills.



You may also have:

- Written, reading or conversational language skills in one or more of the following European languages: German, French, Italian, Spanish or Portuguese;
- Previous relevant research experience in other European countries or a good working knowledge of the culture, laws or politics of the countries in which the six cities are located (namely the Netherlands, Latvia, Germany, France, Italy and Portugal);
- In depth research awareness and familiarity with existing scholarship on relevant topics of: youth crime, the governance of public spaces, trafficking and organised crime and/or terrorism and extreme violence;
- Developed research experience that might be demonstrated through: high-quality publications; preparation of major grant applications; organisation of workshops/conferences; and/or, experience of network-building and stakeholder engagement at national and international levels;
- Experience of communication and impact-building activities for academic research.

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



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 assistant (Grade 6) will be appointed at Leeds to work as part of the team (for 12 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.

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.

