



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Fellow in Crime Science, Faculty of Social Sciences



Salary: Grade 7 (£33,797 – £40,322 p.a.)

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: ESLLW1142

Full time, fixed term until 9 December 2021

Research Fellow in Crime Science School of Law, Faculty of Social Sciences

Are you an academic with a crime science background? Are you an ambitious researcher looking for your next challenge? 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 Economic and Social Research Council under the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) open call on COVID-19, to address the crime harms of covid-19 policies. The project is led by Professor Graham Farrell with Dr Dan Birks (both School of Law) and Professor Nick Malleson (School of Geography), in collaboration with a consortium from University College London and partners in police and other agencies. The project is funded for 18 months and the length of the appointee's contract will depend on the speed with which we can make the appointment.

The COVID-19 pandemic has rapidly changed the face of crime. While there are signs that some crimes such as shoplifting have declined (due to shop closures), there are worrying signs that other crimes, including domestic violence and various types of fraud, have increased. It is increasingly apparent that changes to crime rates are occurring at least partly as a result of social distancing and lockdown policies. The research project aim is to reduce the crime harms of COVID-19 policies. This will involve the collation and analysis of data and other information relating to crime and existing responses from the police and other agencies, with a view to informing policy and practice.

With a PhD in social science or 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.



What does the role entail?

As a Research Fellow your main duties will include:

- Liaising with police and other partners with respect to the collation and analysis of crime data and other information;
- Day-to-day project management
- Working closely with the team of investigators to develop different aspects of the research relating to different types of crime;
- Being flexible and adaptive in the context of ongoing changes to both policy and knowledge that inform the research in the context of the global COVID-19 pandemic;
- 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 findings 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;
- Demonstrating a commitment to the University's agreed values;
- Integrating the University value of inclusiveness into all appropriate aspects of the job; respecting the dignity and diversity of all members of the University community and of visitors to the University;

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 you will have:

- An honours degree in the social sciences or relevant allied subject;



- A postgraduate qualification in the social sciences, data science (or related subject) or relevant work experience at an appropriate level (this includes work submitted for assessment but not yet examined);
- Experience of working with large data sets and analysing qualitative and quantitative empirical research data;
- Experience collating and analysing data and other information relating to crime and its prevention, particularly police recorded crime 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;
- Experience of using statistical data analysis packages;
- Ability to work independently and on own initiative;
- A willingness to – if needed over the duration of the project - 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
- 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 compiling reports for policy makers and the potential to deliver high quality written work for academic publication;
- Experience of presenting research findings to professional and/or academic audiences;
- Experience of research user engagement and network building at local, national and/or international levels;
- A portfolio of academic work 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:

Professor Graham Farrell, Professor of Crime Science

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.

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 project administration, liaison with partners, data collection and analysis, and the identification of potentially innovative policies and practice. This may include different aspects of data analysis and fieldwork at police forces to collate information as needed. You will be involved in the writing of briefings, reports and the dissemination of the findings. This is a rapidly evolving area of research, and there is an expectation that the appointee will need to be flexible and adaptable.

The appointee will need to be able to work from home. The duration of working at home and related issues is determined by broader policies from the University, Faculty and the School of Law.

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 may be required for this position. 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.

