



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Assistant, Faculty of Social Sciences



Salary: Grade 6 (£33,951 - £39,906 p.a.)

Location: University Campus (with scope for hybrid working) and at the premises of our collaborative police force project partner.

Fixed-term for 6-months at 50% FTE

Research Assistant in the School of Law

Are you an early career researcher looking for your first challenge? Do you have a background in criminal justice and criminology, expertise in qualitative research methods, and extensive knowledge of the academic, policy and practice literatures on VAWG and domestic abuse? Do you want to further your career in one of the UK's leading research-intensive Universities?

We are looking for a Research Assistant to support our research with a large metropolitan police force. The project will examine the use of generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) by call handlers to identify self-harm and suicidal ideation in the context of domestic abuse. The researcher will compare risk of harm assessments by call handlers with those by a large language model (LLM), working with redacted police documents. Additionally, they will conduct a rapid review of the academic literature on risk factors for self harm and suicidal ideation / suicide amongst domestic abuse victims, support interim and final report writing, and assist in presenting the findings to our police partner.

What does the role entail?

As a Research Assistant your main duties will include:

- Assessing the information contained in redacted risk assessments completed by human operatives and GenAI;
- Undertaking literature reviews, writing reports, preparing presentations and feeding into publications, with guidance as necessary;
- Working both independently and as part of a larger team of researchers and stakeholders;
- Supporting research activities, including contributing to research results and outputs and to the generation of independent and original ideas, ensuring a successful programme of investigation;
- Collating and analysing information;
- Contributing to the research culture of the Centre for Criminal Justice Studies and the School, where appropriate;
- Continually updating your knowledge, understanding and skills in the research field.

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 Masters degree in criminology, criminal justice or a closely allied discipline and be undertaking doctoral research related to VAWG, domestic abuse, and the policing of domestic abuse;
- Good interpersonal and communication skills, both written and verbal and the ability to communicate effectively with a wide range of stakeholders;
- Well-developed qualitative research methods skills;
- Good time management and planning skills, with the ability to meet tight deadlines;
- A proven ability to work well both individually and in a team;
- The ability to work unsupervised and to use your own initiative.

You may also have:

- Work experience with policymakers or practitioners in policing / criminal justice / VAWG.

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:

Dr Sam Lewis, Associate Professor of Criminology & Criminal Justice, School of Law, University of Leeds.

Email: lawsjl@leeds.ac.uk

Additional information



Our University

As an international research-intensive university, we welcome students and staff from all walks of life (and from across the world). We foster an inclusive environment where all can flourish and prosper, and we are proud of our strong commitment to student education. Within the Faculty/School of Social Sciences we are dedicated to diversifying our community and we welcome the unique contributions that individuals can bring, and particularly encourage applications from, but not limited to Black, Asian, people who belong to a minority ethnic community; people who identify as LGBT+; and disabled people. Candidates will always be selected based on merit and ability.

Working at Leeds

We are a campus based community and regular interaction with campus is an expectation of all roles in line with academic and service needs and the requirements of the role. We are also open to discussing flexible working arrangements. 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 (Exceptions) Order 1975

This post may require an enhanced and barred list criminal record check from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), and any equivalent overseas authorities where relevant. The successful candidate will be required to give consent for the University to check their criminal record status. All applicants are required to make a self-declaration where applicable.

Additionally, the successful candidate will be required to undergo vetting by the police project partner, before accessing the redacted police data.

Any offer of appointment will be subject to the University and police project partner being satisfied with the outcome of these checks, in accordance with our Criminal



Records policy. You can find out more about required checks and declarations in our [Criminal Records](#) information page.

