



Research Associate

Department: Centre for Vulnerability and Policing Futures

Hours of work: Full-time

Contract type: Fixed term from 1st May 2022 - 30th April 2027 (5 years)

Salary: York Grade 6 (£33,309 - £40,927 per year); Leeds Grade 7 (£34,304 - £40,927 per year).
The salary spine point is subject to external funding conditions



Main purpose of the role

You will work within the new ESRC funded research centre 'Vulnerability and Policing Futures', jointly led from York and Leeds universities by Professor Charlie Lloyd and Professor Adam Crawford along with a team of over 25 leading researchers from diverse social science disciplines. Working with a large team that includes data scientists, qualitative researchers, Associated PhD researchers and professional support staff, and alongside 38 regional, national and international partners, you will play an important role, assuming significant fieldwork and data collection responsibilities, as well as contributing to data analysis and writing up the findings. With a doctorate (or equivalent research experience) 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.

Key responsibilities

(Role holders will be required to undertake some or all of the duties below)

- Work with and in support of the research centre 'Vulnerability and Policing Futures' on the centre's research agenda, research projects and publications;
- Conduct research fieldwork and data collection under the supervision of senior colleagues, including surveys, interviews, focus groups, deliberative events, structured observations and other methods of data collection;
- Contribute to the analysis of this diverse data and the writing up of the findings for various audiences;
- Work flexibly as part of a large team of academics based at institutions across England, including Durham, Lancaster, Liverpool, Manchester, Sheffield and UCL;
- Collaborate closely with police and partners from health, social care, housing, education and other local service providers;
- Work alongside cohorts of data scientists to combine qualitative social science insights with advances in data analytics;
- Draft project reports and prepare conference talks and project report contributions;
- Present the research and its findings in different formats to professional, lay and academic audiences, including communicating complex data in accessible ways;
- Engage in the dissemination and communication of the research and its findings, including preparing and collaborating on publications;
- Attend Centre meetings, reporting on progress and emerging findings and contributing to the development of the Centre research agenda;
- Balance the competing pressures of research demands and deadlines;
- Role holders will be based at either York or Leeds, with the expectation that a minimum of two days per week will be campus-based.
- As we are seeking to fill six posts to contribute to the team as a whole, some post-holders may have skills in more qualitative social research or experience of public engagement, while others will have quantitative skills or data science experience. However, all researchers will work collectively integrating these diverse types of methods and will be committed to mixed methods approaches and open to developing their own research skills.

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

Condition of Employment

This role is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act. Consequently, all applicants will be asked to declare both unspent and spent convictions on their application form. Appointment of the successful candidate will be conditional on a Disclosure and Barring Service check.

Person specification

	Essential / Desirable
Qualifications	
A PhD (this includes work submitted for assessment but not yet examined) in a relevant subject area or equivalent research experience. This could include, but is not limited to the disciplinary fields of criminology, social policy, sociology, psychology, public administration, management studies or political science.	Essential
Knowledge	
Knowledge and understanding of vulnerability, contemporary policing, crime and harm reduction scholarship pertinent to the programme of research of the <i>Vulnerability and Policing Futures</i> Research Centre.	Essential
Knowledge and understanding of the challenges in researching and working with vulnerable groups and awareness of relevant ethical issues pertaining to data collection	Essential
In depth research awareness and familiarity with existing scholarship on relevant topics of: domestic abuse, County Lines, online child sexual exploitation, modern slavery or the policing of the mental ill or homeless.	Desirable
Skills, abilities and competencies	
Advanced qualitative research skills with demonstrable experience of semi-structured interviews, focus groups and/or participatory action research	Essential
Excellent organisation skills with an ability to manage time effectively and prioritise tasks as well as excellent IT skills.	Essential
Advanced quantitative skills, experience of survey design and analysis and/or Q Methods.	Desirable
Experience	
Experience or understanding of mixed methods social science research and an openness/desire to explore the combination of qualitative insights with data analytics.	Essential
A track record of high-quality publishing and writing, as well as demonstrable potential for co-authorship of papers in leading academic journals.	Essential
Experience of carrying out research related activities independently, including collecting/analysing data, and participating in international and/or interdisciplinary research projects, as well as the capacity to combine independent initiative and working successfully as a team member.	Essential

Experience of presenting accessible research findings to professional and/or academic audiences and a commitment to realising research-informed institutional and social change.	Essential
Previous experience of research involving vulnerable groups and/or the police.	Desirable
Developed research experience that might be demonstrated through: high-quality publications; preparation of significant grant applications; organisation of workshops/conferences; and/or, experience of network-building and stakeholder engagement at national and international levels.	Desirable
Experience of communication, research application and impact-building activities for academic research.	Desirable
Personal attributes	
Availability to travel to research sites throughout the UK, including extended periods of fieldwork. It is expected that post-holders will be available to spend at least two days per week on campus in the Centre offices in York or Leeds or other designated locations.	Essential
Excellent interpersonal and communication skills, including writing skills and the ability to communicate effectively with a wide range of audiences.	Essential