



## JOB DESCRIPTION

<b>Job Title:</b>	Research Assistant in Law and Criminology, seconded to HM Inspectorate of Prisons: fixed term
<b>Department /Faculty:</b>	Law and Criminology
<b>Grade:</b>	RHUL 7
<b>Hours:</b>	Full Time or Part time (job share considered): fixed term 4 months (longer duration if PT) with the possibility of extension subject to funding
<b>Reporting to:</b>	Professor Rosie Meek and Professor Nick Hardwick
<b>Location:</b>	HMIP offices (London) with regular travel to Royal Holloway's Egham campus

### Job Purpose

This post offers a unique opportunity for the successful candidate to utilise their existing research expertise to undertake a scoping study by navigating extensive data sets derived from surveys distributed to people in places of detention as part of the routine work of HM Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP) over the last 20 years. HMIP is an independent organisation, and an arms-length body of the Ministry of Justice, employing approximately 70 people in total. HMIP has a remit to inspect all prisons in England and Wales as well as other forms of detention, including immigration detention and court custody facilities. Inspections of police detention are carried out jointly with HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Service and inspections of Secure Training Centres with Ofsted. The Chief Inspector of Prisons reports directly to the relevant Secretary of State on the treatment of and conditions for those detained in these types of custody.

This fixed term post has come about as the result of an exciting new partnership between a small team of academics from Royal Holloway (Professors David Denney, Nick Hardwick and Rosie Meek) and HMIP. We believe that the historical survey data collected by HMIP over the last 20 years has the potential to be a significant resource for those seeking to understand penal environments and contribute to more effective future policy. A primary part of the role therefore will involve conducting a feasibility study to examine the potential for other uses of this historical and growing dataset, through the use of exploratory statistical methods and the application of an understanding of trends in prison policy over this 20 year time period.

This feasibility study will require the post holder to, amongst other things:

- a. Establish the extent and quality of the survey data the inspectorate holds, using a range of statistical techniques to explore the dataset
- b. Identify any ethical issues that may limit access to the data and suggest solutions
- c. Identify any practical and technical issues that require to be resolved and suggest solutions

<p>d. Identify any specific limitations on data-sharing (in relation to specific data-sets, types of analysis etc) and/or additional work required to enable wider access</p> <p>e. Develop a dissemination strategy and contribute to co-authored peer-reviewed publications</p> <p>f. Assist in developing funding proposals for the future use of the data.</p>
<p><b>Key responsibilities and outcomes:</b></p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Responsibility for exploring the dataset, recommending and applying a range of statistical techniques, and writing-up findings for a range of audiences.</li> <li>2. Responsibility for exploring ethical issues (in particular concerning consent, identification of respondents and prisons), ensuring compliance with GDPR and seeking necessary ethical approvals where required.</li> <li>3. Engaging with Undergraduate, MSc and PhD students, delivering guest seminars and/or lectures where appropriate.</li> <li>4. Managing own workload and liaising with the project steering group.</li> <li>5. Present ongoing work at regular team meetings and prepare the agenda/minutes for each team meeting, together with formal internal reports.</li> <li>6. Contribute to the preparation of funding applications.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Other duties:</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To observe and comply with all College and HMIP policies and regulations.</li> <li>• To contribute to public dissemination of the research and project outcomes, including through the college web site and social media outlets.</li> <li>• To take part in outreach activities, both associated with the project and within the Law and Criminology Department.</li> <li>• Any other duties as required by the line managers that are commensurate with the grade.</li> </ul>

***The University is committed to equality and diversity, and encourages applications from all sections of the community.***