

Centre for Policing Research and Learning



2 PhD Studentships (part-time) starting October 2016

The Open University Policing Consortium¹ is a growing collaboration between 13 police forces and The Open University. Together, we aim to create research evidence and use it in practice as well as develop education and knowledge exchange activities. In 2015 the Consortium successfully applied for funding from the Home Office (through The College of Policing) and the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) to establish the Centre for Policing Research and Learning,

Following the success of our PhD Studentship scheme last year (with four new part-time PhDs), the Consortium is now offering the opportunity for employees of the partnering police forces and agencies to apply for a part-time PhD studentship. In line with standard policing practice with regards professional development opportunities, the studentship will cover half the costs of the registration fees for the maximum 6 year period of part-time study (N.B. this is the maximum time permitted to complete a PhD; it is possible to complete before the 6 years).

The studentships will support research in any area that is relevant to the work of the Centre, and proposals will be judged both on their academic rigour and the extent to which they address current policing issues.

Two PhD studentships will be offered, which will cover 50% of the costs of annual registration fees for the maximum 6 year period of part-time study (N.B. this is the maximum time permitted to complete a PhD; it is possible to complete before the 6 years) as long as the Consortium continues to exist. In the unlikely event of the Consortium being brought to a close, students would be expected to self-fund the remaining years left to study (currently, in 2016, the part-time annual fee is £2,026). To find out more about the work of the Consortium and Centre, please visit:

<http://centre-for-policing.open.ac.uk/>

Or by contacting the Centre Director, Professor Jean Hartley, or Centre Associate Director (Research), Professor Graham Pike via OUPC@open.ac.uk.

Application close date: Midday on 22 July 2016

Interviews will be held in July 2016, dates to be confirmed

¹ The policing partner organisations are: Avon and Somerset Police, Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Dorset Police, Gloucestershire Constabulary, Greater Manchester Police, Gwent Police, Humberside Police, Lancashire Constabulary, Merseyside Police, Metropolitan Police, National Crime Agency, Police Service of Northern Ireland, Thames Valley Police

Application process

How to apply

To apply you will need to submit:

- an application form ([downloadable here](#)), which includes a HESA monitoring form, an equal opportunities monitoring form and details of publications and/or other evidence of research experience
- a research proposal
- copies of your degree certificates
- transcripts of academic qualifications
- and, only if applicable, translations of your degree certificates and transcripts, and copies of English language qualification certificates

Your research proposal should be around 1000 words and contain information on the following:

- your policing (and any existing research) experience that you feel is useful to your application
- the topic or area to be investigated, including examples of specific research questions that you would like to investigate and a description of existing research and practice in this area
- the likely research methods and techniques to be used in the investigation
- a consideration of ethical and practical issues related to researching in this area and how you would deal with them
- how the knowledge generated in your PhD would be beneficial to both academic researchers and policing practitioners
- why you think completing a PhD will be beneficial to your policing work

The proposal enables the academic staff responsible for selecting applicants to assess:

- your competence in the proposed field of study
- your ability to conduct a research programme independently
- the nature of the supervision required.

Submitting your application

You will need to submit your application by email, to the address shown in the application form, that corresponds to the particular project you are interested in and the relevant academic area. If you are unsure, please contact oupc@open.ac.uk.

We will let you know as soon as possible after the closing date whether you have been shortlisted for interview. Further details on the selection process will also be sent to shortlisted candidates.

Applications received after the closing date will not be accepted.

Should you require the documentation in alternative formats, please contact the Research Degrees Office (research-degrees-office@open.ac.uk)

To find out more about PhD study, see: <http://www.open.ac.uk/postgraduate/research-degrees>