

Job Description

Role Title:	Research Assistant (E2I)
School / Dept:	Faculty of Social Science, Humanities and the Arts for People and the Economy
Reference:	MPF4101
Grade:	Grade 6
Full or Part time:	Part time
Hours:	0.5FTE
Reports to:	Principal Investigator, Engage2innovate Project

Overview

The Research Assistant will contribute to the delivery of research within the Horizon Europe Engage2innovate (E2i) project, specifically supporting the Greater Manchester Police (GMP) demonstrator activities within Work Package 4. The University of Salford will undertake elements of the research originally assigned to GMP. The postholder will therefore work closely with University colleagues and GMP partners to support the design, delivery and analysis of applied research activities in real-world policing and community safety contexts. The role will involve supporting human-centred security research and innovation, including engagement with practitioners and stakeholders, data collection and analysis, and contribution to project outputs.

The postholder will be expected to work collaboratively across organisational boundaries, ensuring that research is grounded in operational practice and aligned with the broader objectives of the E2i project. The position forms part of a wider programme of work aimed at strengthening the effectiveness and real-world impact of security research and innovation, recognising that successful outcomes depend on close alignment between research design, operational needs, and implementation contexts. There is an expectation that the successful post holder will work flexibly across locations, including at the University, from home, and, where required, at Greater Manchester Police premises (e.g. GMP Headquarters), to support project delivery.

Role Purpose

To contribute to the day-to-day delivery of Work Package 4 of the University of Salford Engage2innovate project

Principal Duties & Responsibilities

- Build capability of community researchers to conduct qualitative research within pre-defined geographical areas so that they are empowered and skilled to conduct focus groups and interviews with stakeholders;
- Work collaboratively with a range of stakeholders in Greater Manchester Police and relevant partners to effectively develop the community's capacity to carry out research;
- To conduct reviews of the literature to support the E2i project, as necessary;
- Design, implement, test and document appropriate research methods associated with the area of research;
- Liaise with other researchers, both internal and external, and collaborate to create project deliverables;

- Develop and maintain skills in relevant research methodologies;
- Carry out high quality scientific research in the specified area;
- Liaise regularly with the principal investigator about project progress and lead on and contribute to academic publications and progress reports as required;
- In collaboration with the principal investigator and other E2i researchers disseminate outcomes from the project through internal and external conferences/seminars and academic journal papers at suitable times throughout the project's progress;
- To engage with and participate in the University's PDR process as reviewer and/or reviewee, as appropriate;

Generic Duties

- Perform any other duties appropriate to the grade as may be required by the Head of School/Head of Division etc.
- Comply with the personal health and safety responsibilities specified in the University Health and Safety policy.
- To engage with the University's commitment to put our students first and deliver services which are customer orientated, represent value for money and contribute to the financial and environmental sustainability of the University when undertaking all duties and aspects of the role.
- Advance equality, support our work towards eliminating unlawful discrimination, foster an inclusive study and work environment for students, staff and visitors in accordance with our public sector equality duties and university policy.

This role detail is a guide to the work you will initially be required to undertake. It may be changed from time to time to meet changing circumstances. It does not form part of your Contract of Employment.

Person specification follows on next page

Person Specification

The successful candidate should demonstrate the following, which are 'Essential' (E) or 'Desirable' (D)

Qualifications

1. A good undergraduate degree (1st or 2:1) in Design, Criminology, Psychology, Social Sciences or related discipline (E)
2. A postgraduate qualification in Design, Criminology, Psychology or Social Sciences involving a research element (E)

Background and Experience

3. Knowledge and experience of undertaking quality research in an academic or consultancy environment (E)
4. Knowledge and experience of employing (participatory) qualitative research methods in data collection and analysis (E)
5. Experience of working with external research commissioners in the public and/or private sector (D)
6. Previous experience of conducting research with community groups / in a community setting (D)
7. Experience of designing and/or facilitating training (D)

Knowledge

8. Engaging in non-discriminatory practice (E)
9. Knowledge of current debates and practice in policing, crime prevention and community development (D)

Skills and Competencies

10. Excellent communication skills with the ability to present information clearly to a range of audiences both written and verbally (E)
11. Ability to use qualitative methods to gather and analyse data (E)

12. Ability to write academic and non-academic outputs for a variety of audiences in a clear and accessible style (E)
13. Ability to work in a team in an open, sharing manner (E)
14. Ability to engage in independent working for periods at a time (E)
15. Ability to be flexible with regard to research responsibilities; and working locations (E)
16. Capability and willingness to undertake administrative tasks necessary for the effective management of the project (E)