

PhD Opportunities 2019

PhD Studentships (part-time) starting October 2019

The Centre for Policing Research and Learning is a growing collaboration between The Open University and 21 police forces/agencies¹. Together, we aim to create research evidence and use it in practice as well as develop educational and knowledge exchange activities. The Centre was founded in 2015 following a successful application for funding from the Police Knowledge Fund (the Home Office, through The College of Policing, and the Higher Education Funding Council for England), which also established our PhD programme for police officers and staff. Since then, we have awarded studentships to 9 officers and staff from our member forces/agencies, and are now seeking to recruit additional students to the programme to start in October 2019.

The studentships 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. Studentships are only available to those working within partner forces.

In line with standard policing practice with regards to professional development opportunities, the studentship will cover half the costs of the registration fees for the maximum 8 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 8 years). Students will be required to fund the remaining fee themselves (which was £1,065 annually in 2018).

To find out more about the work of the Centre, please visit:
<http://centre-for-policing.open.ac.uk/>

Or contact the Centre Director, Professor Jean Hartley, or Centre Associate Directors (learning) Dr Zoe Walkington and Dr Paul Walley via OUPC@open.ac.uk.

Application close date: Midday on 15 March 2019.
Interviews will be held in April 2019, dates to be confirmed.

¹ Policing partner organisations: Avon and Somerset Police, Bedfordshire Police, British Transport Police, Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Dorset Police, Essex Police, Gloucestershire Constabulary, Greater Manchester Police, Gwent Police, Hampshire Constabulary, Hertfordshire Constabulary, Humberside Police, Lancashire Constabulary, Merseyside Police, Metropolitan Police Service, National Crime Agency, North Yorkshire Police, Police Service of Northern Ireland, South Yorkshire Police, Thames Valley Police, West Midlands Police.

Application process

How to apply

To apply you will need to submit:

- an application form (download from <http://www.open.ac.uk/postgraduate/research-degrees/how-to-apply/mphil-and-phd-application-process>) 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>