



Job Description

Section 1: Job Details

Job Title:	Research Associate in Criminology
Department/School:	School of Law
Unit (if applicable):	Understanding Inequalities project
Line Manager:	Susan McVie

Section 2: Job Purpose

The post holder will work closely with Professor Susan McVie, Lesley McAra and Dr Paul Norris in the ESRC-funded Understanding Inequalities (UI) project to develop a discrete piece of research on crime and justice inequalities. The research will involve quantitative analysis of one of three large-scale datasets: the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey, the Growing Up in Scotland study or the Edinburgh Study of Youth Transitions and Crime. The aim will be to develop a jointly written paper for submission to a high quality criminological journal.

Section 3: Main Responsibilities

	Approx. % of time
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Work collaboratively with the UI Director Professor Susan McVie and collaborators Professor Lesley McAra and Dr Paul Norris. The role will involve:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. becoming familiar with the design, structure, content and weighting schemes of one of the three crime and justice datasets;b. applying good practice in data preparation and management;c. designing and implementing an appropriate analytical strategy to address a specific research topic (to be decided);d. maintaining accurate and up-to-date records documenting the research process and data management procedures;e. examining a range of relevant literature relating to this topic;f. reporting on research progress on a regular basisg. leading in the development of a research paper for submission to a criminological journal;h. and presenting the results of the research to academic and/or non-academic audiences.	100

4. Planning and Organising	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan and organise your own workload, with guidance from Professor Susan McVie, Professor Lesley McAra and Dr Paul Norris, in order to meet the aims of the project and ensure successful delivery of the research. • Ensure the research is conducted in accordance with ethical guidelines, keeping to the research timetable, and applying the most appropriate methodologies. • Maintain appropriate systems for organising, preparing, managing and keeping secure all data, syntax and output files, and ensure records of analysis are documented regularly and made accessible to all team members. • Regularly liaise and maintain good levels of communication with the Understanding Inequalities team. 	
5. Problem Solving	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolve issues that arise in the course of data access, management or analysis and ensure the safety and security of data at all times (referring to your line manager as necessary). • Develop appropriate strategies for data analysis, and use appropriate expertise to interpret research data and draw conclusions from it. 	
6. Decision Making	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good level of independent decision making. • Exercise initiative and judgement to resolve daily problems and seek advice on more complex issues. • Refer matters to line manager or other designated person as appropriate. 	
7. Key Contacts/Relationships	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main contacts will be Professor Susan McVie (Director of the Understanding Inequalities project), Professor Lesley McAra and Dr Paul Norris. • You will be a member of the Criminological Subject Area and contribute to the wider research environment of the Edinburgh Law School. This will include liaison with the School of Law Research and Knowledge Exchange and Impact Office (RKEIO). 	
8. Knowledge, Skills and Experience Needed for the Job	
<p>Essential:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A PhD in criminology/criminal justice or another relevant discipline (e.g. sociology, social policy, psychology, education, economics, geography, demography). Candidates close to completion of a PhD will be considered. • Demonstrable expertise in preparation and management of large quantitative datasets, analytical planning and documentation of analytical syntax and output files. • Methodological competence in advanced statistical methods (e.g. regression modelling, 	

structural equation modelling, methods of longitudinal data analysis, etc).

- Experience of using one or more statistical software packages (e.g. SPSS, Stata, R, etc).
- Demonstrable ability to clearly and effectively interpret, explain, and communicate the results of quantitative data analysis.
- Good interpersonal and communication skills (oral and written). Fluent in written and spoken English.
- Ability to write at a clear and publishable standard.
- Good organisational, administrative and time-management skills.

Desirable:

- Experience of writing academic papers and publishing in high quality journals.
- A good knowledge of crime and justice inequalities and awareness of the latest research in this field.
- Experience of working with data from the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey, Growing Up in Scotland study, and/or the Edinburgh Study of Youth Transitions and Crime.
- Knowledge of the Scottish policy context as it relates crime and justice inequalities and/or connections with stakeholders within the Scottish justice context.

9. Dimensions

The Understanding Inequalities project is funded by a large grant from the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). The main aim of this project is to create an innovative and ambitious research programme which transcends disciplinary boundaries to explore the causes, consequences and policy implications of social inequalities across different dimensions and spatial scales. The vision of Understanding Inequalities project is to provide robust research evidence that helps to reduce social inequalities across Scotland and beyond. Further information about the project can be found at <https://www.understanding-inequalities.ac.uk/about>

The post-holder will work closely with Professor Susan McVie and Professor Lesley McAra in the Edinburgh Law School and Dr Paul Norris in the School of Social and Political Science. The other research teams are based in the Moray House School of Education and Sport, University of Edinburgh (led by Professor Cristina Iannelli); the Sheffield Methods Institute at the University of Sheffield (led by Professor Gwilym Pryce); and the Crime and Wellbeing Big Data Centre based at Manchester Metropolitan University (led by Professor Jon Bannister).