

Candidate Information

Position:	Research Fellow (Prison ACEs)
School/Department:	School of Social Sciences, Education and Social Work
Reference:	26/113198
Closing Date:	Monday 16 March 2026
Salary:	£41,519 - £44,035 per annum
Anticipated Interview Date:	Monday 13 April 2026
Duration:	12 months or until 31 May 2027, whichever is soonest

JOB PURPOSE:

To be an active member of the School of Social Sciences Education and Social Work (SSESW) and the Centre for Evidence Based Children's Services

Travel will be expected across NI and ROI at regular intervals, with international travel at time. Evening and weekend work will be routine.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Contribute to the design of the first ever prevalence study of childhood adversity of adults in the prison system across NI.
2. To contribute to the ethical approval of the study.
3. To lead on the data collection across NI prisons.
4. To engage regularly with the Northern Ireland Prison Service staff, including governors, prison officers, educators, health staff and NGOs.
5. To contribute to the design of the qualitative element of study which will involve individual interviews with prisoners.
6. To lead on the data collection and facilitation of individual interviews.
7. To present research findings to a range of audiences, including, the Northern Ireland Prison Service, Education Authority, Department of Justice and a range of voluntary and community sector organisations.
8. To contribute to the generation of research income through the development of research proposals.
9. To prepare material for publication in national and international journals, presentations at international conferences, press releases and social media sites.
10. To carry out routine administrative tasks associated with SSESW. These might include organisation of meetings and associated documentation.
11. Other specific duties as allocated by the PI.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. An upper second class honours degree (or equivalent) in a relevant field (e.g., criminology, behavioural science, public health) or a Masters degree in a relevant area.
2. Have or be about to obtain a PhD in a relevant subject (within 6 months).
3. Experience of survey-based research in the context of sensitive and contentious topics.
4. Experience of interview based research in the context of sensitive and contentious topics.
5. Experience of working in a prison setting.
6. Experience of research in a criminal justice and/or prison setting.
7. Experience working on research project/s that relate to adversity and trauma.
8. Mixed-methods research facilitation.
9. Ability to develop high-quality publications record that is REF returnable.
10. Experience of communicating research to lay audiences.
11. Ability to work independently with an agreed workplan.
12. Ability to work in partnership with colleagues as a team.

13. Contribute to the University's outreach programme by making links with external community stakeholders.
14. Excellent knowledge of childhood adversity and the impact of ACEs on offending behaviours.
15. Excellent understanding of the key issues and challenges associated with engaging 'high-risk' groups.
16. Excellent understanding of the needs of those in the prison system.
17. Ability to work with partner effectively.
18. Ability to communicate complex information clearly, including the use of methods of data visualisation.
19. Evidence of a high standard of report writing skills.
20. Ability to build contacts and participate in internal and external networks.
21. Demonstrable intellectual ability.
22. Ability to assess and organise resources.
23. Evidence of being able to work flexibly and to meet deadlines.
24. Willingness to work as part of a team.
25. CTC clearance from UK Home Office already in place.
26. Willingness to travel .
27. Current valid driving licence and access to a car insured for business purposes OR access to transport that will enable necessary travel across NI, RoI and internationally.
28. The candidate must be available to start by 27th April.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. Experience of researching the area of ACEs.
2. Demonstrable experience of quantitative analyses and framework/thematic analyses.