



Job title	Research Assistant	Job family and level	Research Level 4a
School/ Department	School of Sociology and Social Policy	Location	Based at University Park Campus, though it will also be necessary to travel within the East Midlands (Derby).

Purpose of role

The post holder will work with Professor Stephen Farrall as part of a research project funded by the Canadian Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council. The project will explore how different criminal justice systems and community partners have been able to assist former-prisoners during the COVID19 pandemic, where a wide-spread shift to the 'remote delivery' of personal services was initiated. The research will examine many challenges faced by former-prisoners and how these can be addressed in order to assist them in the new 'virtual' and the real world. The research team is led by Professor Isabelle DuFour (Laval University, Quebec, Canada) and includes colleagues in Finland (led by Dr. Eeva Järveläinen, Laurea Universities of Applied Sciences, Helsinki, Finland).

The COVID19 pandemic exposed numerous disparities and inequalities, including differences in access to justice, problems relating to prison-overcrowding, over-stretched criminal justice, welfare and healthcare systems, challenges to resilience, and highlighted the difficulties facing those individuals trying to cease offending. The project will explore how different criminal justice systems and community partners have been able to assist former-prisoners during the pandemic, where a wide-spread shift to the 'remote delivery' of personal services was initiated. The many challenges faced by former prisoners must be addressed in order to assist them in the new 'virtual world'. In order to build a more resilient, inclusive and sustainable society, we must understand why people stop offending, cope with challenging situations and how we can foster desistance. We need to know:

1. How the new 'digital-service-era' affects processes of desistance/resilience;
2. Whether there are disparities in the digital service era between countries with different welfare systems and how it affects desistance/resilience;
3. How different state-level organisations (criminal justice/welfare), levels of social capital, economic inequality and institutional arrangements affect desistance/resilience in a post pandemic world;
4. Which processes explain variations in rates of desistance/resilience.

We will recruit 25 men and 10 women in each country (Canada, England, Finland) who were prisoners during the pandemic as well as 15 practitioners whom assist them in their re-entry/desistance (total 150 participants). Our qualitative comparative analysis and our interdisciplinary international collaboration will highlight how the digital-service-era varies in different countries and how it affects processes of desistance from crime and re-entry to support and inform decision-making.

An illustration of Prof Farrall's interests can be found in these key publications:

- Villeneuve, M-P, F.-Dufour, I., and Farrall, S. (2021) *Assisted Desistance in Formal Settings: A Scoping Review*, **Howard Journal of Crime and Justice**, 60(1):75-100.
- Farrall, S., Gray, E. and Jones, P. M. (forthcoming) *Life-Courses, Social Change and*

- *Politics: Evidence for the Role of Politically-Motivated Structural-level Influences on Individual Criminal Careers. Criminology and Criminal Justice.*
- Farrall, S., Sharpe, G., Hunter, B. and Calverley, C. (2011) *Theorising Structural and Individual-Level Processes in Desistance and Persistence: Outlining an Integrated Perspective, Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology*, 44(2):218-34.

	Main responsibilities (Primary accountabilities and responsibilities expected to fulfil the role)	% time per year
1	Theoretical engagement and development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To engage with and critique existing research and literature pertaining to desistance and rehabilitation, the pressures faced by, and the specific experiences of people who are rejoining society after a period of imprisonment. ▪ To engage with the research team in the development of findings, theories and research design. 	20
2	Data production and analyses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To contribute to qualitative data collection, interviews as part of the team and individually. To also be proactive in liaising with key partners and stakeholders in Derby. 	65
3	Writing and publication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To support the planning of the final publication. 	10
4	Research sustainability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To contribute ideas regarding future research developments following completion of the project. 	5

Person specification:

	Essential	Desirable
Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ability or very clear potential to produce theoretically informed work across disciplinary boundaries ▪ Ability to contribute to analyses of qualitative data 	
Knowledge and experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Qualitative research interviewing experience ▪ An understanding of debates and research relating to desistance from crime and rehabilitation ▪ Experience of semi-structured interviewing and analysis of qualitative datasets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Experience of working or researching within the criminal justice experience (or lived experience of the criminal justice or allied systems, subject to pre-employment checks) ▪ Experience researching sensitive issues and/or demonstrable ability to engage with difficult topics ▪ A track record of academic work and experience commensurate with career stage
Qualifications, certification and training (relevant to role)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Appropriate academic degree in the social sciences or cognate disciplines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Appropriate academic qualification and/or working towards a PhD in a relevant discipline



The University of Nottingham is focused on embedding equality, diversity and inclusion in all that we do. As part of this, we welcome a diverse population to join our work force and therefore encourage applicants from all communities, particularly those with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010.

Expectations and behaviours

The University has developed a clear set of core expectations and behaviours that our people should be demonstrating in their work, and as ambassadors of the University's strategy, vision and values. The following are essential to the role:

- Valuing people** Is friendly, engaging and receptive, putting others at ease. Actively listens to others and goes out of way to ensure people feel valued, developed and supported.
- Taking ownership** Is clear on what needs to be done encouraging others to take ownership. Takes action when required, being mindful of important aspects such as Health & Safety, Equality, Diversity & Inclusion, and other considerations.
- Forward thinking** Drives the development, sharing and implementation of new ideas and improvements to support strategic objectives. Engages others in the improvement process.
- Professional pride** Is professional in approach and style, setting an example to others; strives to demonstrate excellence through development of self, others and effective working practices.
- Always inclusive** Builds effective working relationships, recognising and including the contribution of others; promotes inclusion and inclusive practices within own work area.

Key relationships with others

