



Data Fellowship Project 2024

HM Prison and Probation Service Creating Future Opportunities – Assessing the Link Between Prisoner Wellbeing and a Calmer Prison Environment

Organisation and Team

HMPPS – Research and Statistics Team

Application Criteria

Essential:

- An understanding of the Criminal Justice System
- A desire to learn and understand offending behaviour
- A basic knowledge of statistical analysis
- The ability to use Word, Excel and PowerPoint to create reports and infographics

Desirable:

- Use of SPSS, R, Python (Chi-squared, odds ratios, logistic regression)

Project Outline

His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) incorporates a department called Creating Future Opportunities (CFO). Using European funding the CFO has set up specialist provision on a prison wing, in three English prisons.

During their time on the wing, the prisoners complete questionnaires, assessing things like their impulsivity, hope and resilience – known as intermediate outcomes. This project will look at data already obtained to identify if an improvement in intermediate outcomes through programme delivery also leads to an improvement in prison Key Performance Indicators (KPI) such as reducing assaults and self-harm incidence as well as increasing accommodation and employment prospects on release. The analysis will look at how intermediate outcomes support prison KPIs.

Using SPSS, Excel and Word, a report and infographic will be created to illustrate the findings.



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Practical Considerations

The work will be carried out at the HMPPS CFO Daresbury Office in Warrington. The project will last 8 weeks. Office open hours are between 07:30 and 17:00 Monday to Friday. Start and finish times will be negotiated. Public transport routes to Daresbury Park are sparse (the closest train station is Runcorn East – 1.5 miles away), driving to the office (free parking available) would be easier for the student.

Selection Method

In Person at the University of Manchester

Supporting Information

The outputs and any IP generated by the student will remain the property of HMPPS CFO. All data will be non-identifiable and supplied by the CFO research team.

Support and Training

The student will be mentored by the unit's Research and Statistic lead, evaluation manager as well as supported by policy and performance/delivery colleagues. The student will experience first-hand how provision is delivered, with visits to HM prisons, probation, and Activity Hubs to gain an understanding of the criminal justice system. The student will be working within a team with many years' experience of working with offenders with multiple barriers.

The student will be exposed to large datasets and helped with data analysis, utilising any existing Excel, R, Python and SPSS skills (primarily explanatory statistics, Chi-squared and odds ratios) and developing communication skills – both verbal briefings with PowerPoint and written dissemination of Word document.