Data Fellowship Project 2024

HM Prison and Probation Service Creating Future Opportunities – Understanding the Link between Programme Activity and an Offender Rehabilitative Journey

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 Activity Hubs – 22 community locations where offenders receive support in a non-authoritarian environment.

During their time at the Activity Hubs, the offenders complete an initial assessment and subsequent questionnaires to assess progress in employment, education, accommodation, finance, wellbeing, and relationships. This project will look at data already obtained through the questionnaires to identify what programme activities and traits show improvements in an offender's progress.

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

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.

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.

Selection Method

In person interview at the University of Manchester

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.