Data Fellowship Project 2025

HM Prison and Probation Service Creating Future Opportunities - Analysing the links between sustained programme participation and offender characteristics

Organisation and Team

HMPPS CFO - Research and Statistics

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 or Python (Chi-squared, odds ratios, logistic regression)

Project Outline

HMPPS incorporates a department called Creating Future Opportunities (CFO). The CFO has set up specialist provision for offenders in prisons and probation in England to run alongside mainstream delivery as an additional service to support offenders who require more intensive provision or would benefit from a different approach to supporting them. Attendance on the provision is voluntary for offenders, and they can partake in as many activities as they like, activities ranging from support with soft skills, to practical help with accommodation, education and employment. Using attendance to the activities as a measure of engagement, the analysis will look at the offenders characteristics (such as age, gender, ethnicity as well as location, offence, sentence type and length etc) to ascertain any links with sustained programme participation. Furthermore, the analysis will recommend areas of improvement to cohorts that become disengaged with the programme.

Using R, 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.

Support and Training

- The student will be mentored by the unit's Research and Statistics lead 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 Hub locations to gain an understanding of the Criminal Justice System. The student will be working within a team with many years' experience.
- The student will be 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.

Selection Method

Interviews will be held in person or online (Microsoft Teams)

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 and Statistics team.
- Security checks will need to be made before the internship.