

ESRC Welsh Graduate School for Social Sciences

Research in Practice Placement Opportunity

The following information has been provided by the Host Organisation and outlines the opportunity available. Any queries about this placement should be addressed to the host organisation in the details provided below.

This placement is aimed at Postgraduate Researchers who have funding through the ESRC Doctoral Training Partnership from October 2024 onwards, who must complete a Research in Practice placement as part of their award.

Name of Host Organisation	Office for National Statistics
Registered Address	Government Buildings Cardiff Road Newport NP10 8XG
Website	Home - Office for National Statistics
Brief description of the Host organisation:	We are the UK's largest independent producer of official statistics and its recognised national statistical institute. We are responsible for collecting and publishing statistics related to the economy, population and society at national, regional and local levels. We also conduct the census in England and Wales every 10 years.
Company registration Number	

PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITY

Placement role title: <i>e.g Policy officer</i>	Assistant social researcher in the ONS Centre for Crime and Justice
Background/expected impact of the project:	This placement offers a unique opportunity to support a major programme of work to redevelop stalking and harassment statistics from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW). The aim is to ensure the survey continues to provide high-quality, relevant data that reflect how stalking and harassment are experienced today and meet the needs of policymakers, researchers, support organisations and the wider public. Questions on experiences of stalking have been included in the CSEW since the year ending March 2005 and have remained largely unchanged over this time. Questions on experiences of

	harassment were introduced to the CSEW in April 2022. The statistics produced from these questions are an important source of evidence for understanding the prevalence and nature of stalking and harassment in England and Wales and feed into the Government's metrics for monitoring violence against women and girls (VAWG). As legislation, technology and patterns of victimisation have evolved, it has become increasingly important to review whether the current CSEW questions adequately capture experiences of stalking and harassment. The project will examine the strengths and limitations of the existing measures and explore ways to improve how experiences of stalking and harassment are measured in the future.
Outline of duties/description of opportunity	Working in the High Harm and Adult Vulnerability Branch within the ONS Centre for Crime and Justices, you will support the redevelopment of the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) stalking and harassment measures. Key responsibilities may include: • Conducting desk-based research on stalking and harassment, including reviewing legislation, government publications, academic literature and evidence from charities and victim support organisations. • Researching and comparing how stalking and harassment are defined and measured internationally, identifying examples of best practice from other countries and survey programmes. • Drafting an evidence paper setting out the rationale for redeveloping the current stalking and harassment measures. • Helping to identify emerging issues, evidence gaps and future research priorities. • Drafting potential new survey questions designed to better capture experiences of stalking and harassment, including technology-enabled forms of these experiences. • Supporting engagement with stakeholders, including government departments, academics, policing partners, charities and victim support organisations. • Contributing to meetings and discussions and helping to document requirements and recommendations from stakeholders. In addition to the project, working in the ONS Centre for Crime and Justices will also allow you to gain experience in: • Team working • Research skills • Report writing skills • Survey and questionnaire development This placement provides an excellent opportunity to gain experience in social research and survey development while contributing to work that supports the understanding and measurement of stalking, harassment and violence against women and girls (VAWG) in England and Wales.
Expected output(s)/deliverable(s)	A comprehensive literature review of the existing legislation, literature and evidence from charities and victim support

	organisations to guide the redevelopment of stalking and harassment statistics. A draft set of new stalking and harassment survey questions which could be taken forward for qualitative testing.
Skills and experience required for the role	We are looking for a motivated and enthusiastic student with an interest in social research and crime statistics. The successful candidate will be able to work independently while also contributing effectively as part of a team. Essential skills: • Strong written communication skills, with the ability to produce clear, concise and well-structured reports. • Good research skills, including the ability to identify, review and summarise information from a range of sources. • Excellent attention to detail and organisational skills. • Ability to manage multiple tasks and work to deadlines. Desirable skills: • An interest in crime, victimisation, social research, survey methodology or official statistics. • Experience of conducting literature reviews or desk-based research. • Experience of producing reports or presenting findings to different audiences.
Please indicate which of the following skills could be developed or applied during the placement, you may select more than one.	☒ Research skills ☒ Communication skills ☐ Project management ☐ Policy understanding or engagement ☒ Collaboration / teamwork ☐ Data collection ☐ Specific methodologies (please specify): ☐ Software skills (please specify): ☐ Professional and transferable skills ☒ Other (please specify): Report writing skills
What support will be provided for the Postgraduate Researcher <i>e.g necessary resources, training, support and equipment for the student to undertake their placement</i>	• All office equipment would be provided. • Overview and training of ONS crime statistics. • A close-knit team who are very knowledgeable about stalking and harassment. • Introductions to wider ONS colleagues within the crime statistics team and the Newport/Titchfield office.

KEY INFORMATION	
Number of placements available:	1
Location of placement	Newport or Titchfield – requirement for one day a week in office and remainder home working. Applicants need to be in within a 50-minute commute to either the Newport or Titchfield Office.

Placement duration:	3 months full time.
Full time or part-time <i>attend in a single block or spaced out over period of XXX months</i>	Full time in a single block.
Working hours or core hours	ONS operates flexible working hours.
In-person, online or hybrid:	Hybrid
Anticipated start date:	3 months following the closing date for applications and dependant on obtaining Baseline Personnel Security Standard (BPSS) clearance. (sooner if at all possible)
Security/health and safety restrictions (if relevant)	None
Language requirements (if relevant)	English

HOW TO APPLY	
Closing date and time for applications	1 st November 2026
How to submit an application	CV and a letter of application of no more than 750 words covering the skills required.
Recruitment process	Assessment of the application and informal chat with perspective candidates.
Contact name and email for any queries related to the placement:	Erika Gasson Senior Research Officer ONS Centre for Crime and Justice Office for National Statistics +44 (0)20 7592 8695 erika.gasson@ons.gov.uk