

PaCCS Placement: National Crime Agency

TARGET TIMELINE: 3 May – 29 July 2022 **LOCATION:** *NCA Office to be agreed¹*

REFERENCE: PaCCS Placement (2022/2).

CLOSING DATE: 11 March 2022

COMPENSATION: *A Student Maintenance Grant of £3,902.25 is provided to cover 3 months.*

Claims for eligible travel & accommodation costs incurred during the placement up to a limit of £2,400

UKRI's Partnership for Conflict, Crime & Security Research (PaCCS) is seeking a researcher to undertake a placement, spending up to 3 months working with the National Crime Agency (NCA) to help NCA identify **which methodology could be employed to better understand the scale of the criminal use of firearms?** This placement is part of the PaCCS programme *Transnational Organised Crime: Deepening & Broadening Our Understanding*.

The successful candidate will work with material classified at OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE and below. For this reason, **the researcher will need to be security-cleared to SC level**, allowing appropriate access to NCA offices, personnel and data. An NCA point-of-contact will provide support and in-house supervision. The Placement is expected to spend a significant amount of time working in the NCA but some remote working will be allowed (under the direction and agreement of the NCA line management chain); there will be a need for some travel between NCA sites. A Travel and Subsistence budget is available, to cover these costs. The successful candidate will report to Dr Tristram Riley-Smith (Director of Research at Cambridge's Department of Politics & International Studies and PaCCS Research Integrator).

The placement will initially entail discussions with relevant stakeholders; reading documents and reviewing data (identified in consultation with the NCA supervisor and others); collating and analysing findings; and drafting an OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE Assessment which can be easily understood by policy audiences. This report will be the key output of this placement and will be used by NCA to inform policy thinking. There may be scope for the researcher to present their findings to the key customer through a presentation. We will look for opportunities to disseminate findings more widely and demonstrate the value of this placement to a wider audience (e.g. the PaCCS community), but this will require NCA approval.

Mandatory Competencies: the successful candidate will have strong academic grounding in either Arts, Humanities, Economic, or Social Science and be continuing to conduct research in at least one of these areas. The candidate will be able to demonstrate understanding of different research

¹ The researcher will be based at one of the NCA's offices where the National Assessments Centre has a presence. These include London, Birmingham, Warrington, Bristol, Gartcosh and Belfast. Our hope is to be able to base the researcher at a location that is best suited to him or her and with NCA line management support.

methods that could apply to this challenge and will have strong analytical skills, and strong oral & written communication skills. The post is best-suited to those studying towards a PhD where the PaCCS funding (in the form of a Student Maintenance Grant) would allow – with the support of UKRI and the necessary approval of the researcher’s university – three months to be “taken out” to work on this placement. Those who are engaged in post-doctoral research are also eligible to apply.

Desirable Competencies: it would be very helpful if the successful candidate exhibits knowledge and understanding of Serious Organised Crime culture and operations in general and the criminal use of firearms in particular. It is also desirable to be able to demonstrate evidence of team-working and a commitment to work across relevant disciplines. The candidate should be able to demonstrate an understanding of the link between research, policy and operations.

Fixed Term / Final Clearance: *The funds for this placement are available for 3 months between April and July 2022, with a target timeline of 3 May – 29 July. The posting will be subject to final clearance from the NCA.*

To apply for this vacancy, please email tr356@cam.ac.uk by midnight on the Closing Date, providing a one-page cv and a covering letter describing:

- a. your current research (150 words);
- b. skills you can bring to this placement and your achievements to date of relevance to undertaking this work; *current security clearance is not required, but let us know if you happen to have this;* (200 words)
- c. what you hope to gain from this placement? (150 words).

Before any successful Placement commences, we will require the written approval of your University Supervisor and Research Office². At this early stage, please confirm in your application that they have been consulted and agree in principle to this Placement.

We value diversity and we are committed to equality of opportunity.

We have a responsibility to ensure that all employees are eligible to live and work in the UK.

² UKRI guidance stipulates that:

- research students may undertake a work placement or internship where this is either directly related to the student’s training, or provides valuable transferable skills and, provided this is well justified and approved in advance by their Supervisor and Research Organisation;
- the timescale of any existing studentship (linked to the person taking up the PaCCS Placement) will need to be extended to reflect the period of the Placement; funding for this three-month Placement is covered by the ESRC grant to Dr Riley-Smith as PaCCS Research Integrator – with arrangements for payment to be agreed with the student’s Research Office.

The Partnership for Conflict, Crime and Security Research (PaCCS) is an initiative of UK Research & Innovation (UKRI). PaCCS aims to deliver high-quality and cutting-edge research to improve our understanding of current and future global security challenges (including Transnational Organised Crime). It convenes researchers from across academic disciplines to work on innovative projects, creating opportunities for knowledge exchange with stakeholders. See: www.paccsresearch.org.uk/.

The National Crime Agency (NCA) leads the UK's fight to cut serious and organised crime. NCA officers work at the forefront of law enforcement, building the best possible intelligence picture of serious and organised crime threats, relentlessly pursuing the most serious and dangerous offenders and developing and delivering specialist capabilities on behalf of law enforcement and other partners. See: www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/.