

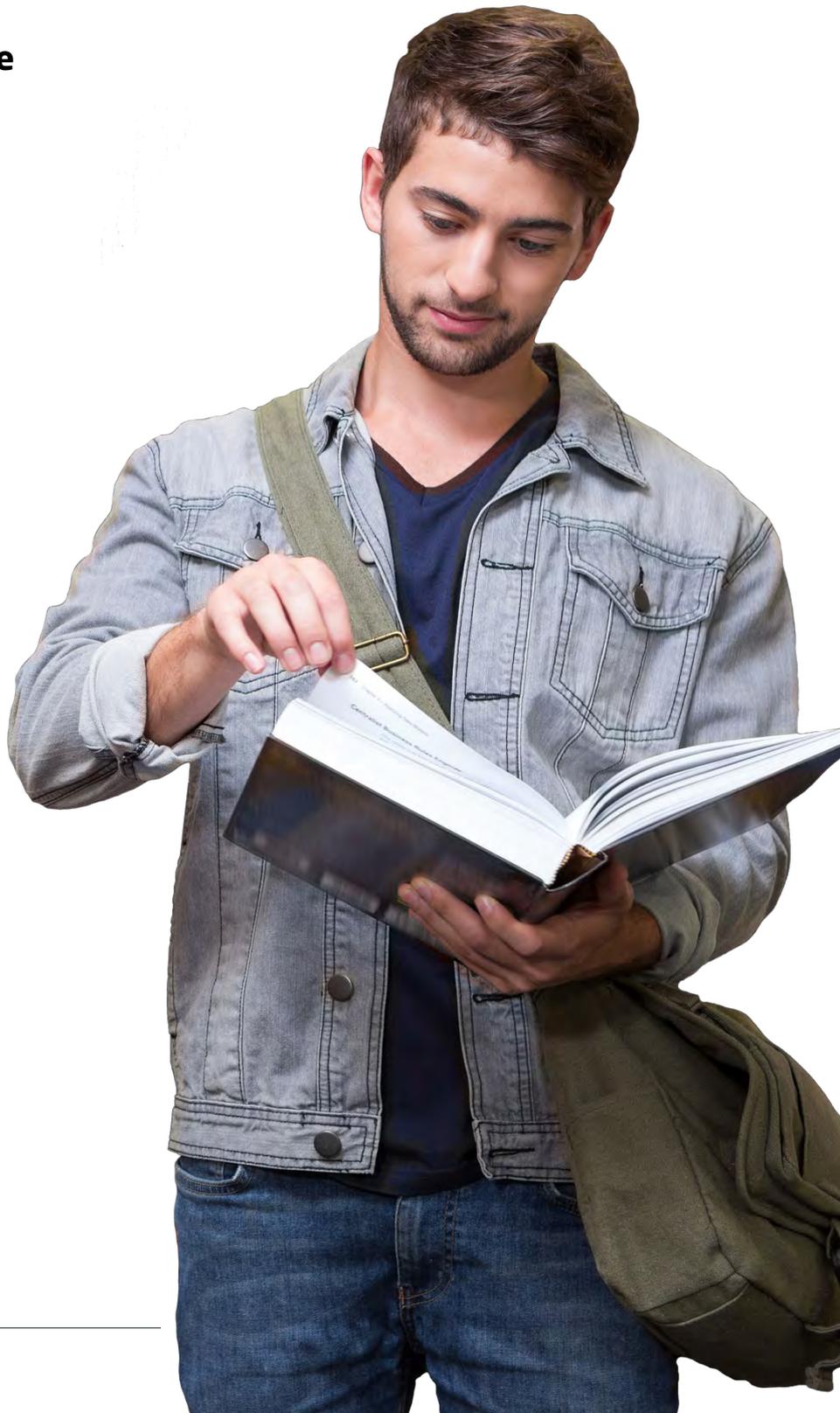
# Sir Graham Smith Research Awards 2019

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## **Helen Schofield** **Acting CEO, Probation Institute**

Is there a subject within your work that you would like to explore more fully through research? Could this be of benefit to your practice and that of others? Would you like to develop research skills supported by an experienced academic with knowledge of your field?

Through the Sir Graham Smith Research Awards, the Probation Institute annually offers an opportunity to practitioners in probation and rehabilitation services to research areas in which they have such an interest.





A key strand of the Probation Institute, as a Centre of Excellence, is to promote the development of evidence-informed practice, encouraging the greater involvement of practitioners in the evaluation of their work, completing short pieces of practice-based research that contributes to probation knowledge and expertise. The Sir Graham Smith Research Awards are a key element to supporting that approach. They were established in 2002 in recognition of the late Sir Graham Smith's influential leadership in the Probation Service and particularly to his contribution to the development of evidence-based practice.

The Awards are open to practitioners in NPS, CRCs, voluntary organisations or the prison service. All projects must meet the ***approval criteria*** and must be achievable within 6 to 8 weeks. Practitioners often complete the research and the research reports alongside their day job with an allocation of time from their management.

Recent Sir Graham Smith Research Awards have addressed "Reflective Practice", "Integrated Offender Management", "Protective Factors" and "Training for Work with Personality Disorder".

## Applying for the 2019 Sir Graham Smith Research Awards.

The eligibility and selection criteria for the 2019 Award are as follows:

- You must be a practitioner currently employed by either a probation service organisation or an organisation whose work is involved in community justice and rehabilitation. Applications will be considered from practitioners working in the public, private or voluntary sectors.
- Your research proposal should directly relate to evaluating an area of probation or community justice practice. It should have the potential to contribute to the better understanding of the impact of a relevant service, intervention, process or organisational arrangement.
- Your research methodology should focus on data collection, observation and analysis sourced from probation/community justice practice and organisations.
- Your proposal should have clear objectives and be for a relatively short piece of research, which would take approximately 6/8 full weeks to complete; proposals and methodology will be judged against the stated objectives and the practical feasibility of undertaking them within this period of time.

If your application were successful, your employer organisation would be expected to facilitate the research work, granting you the necessary facility time and helping you to access internal data sources where appropriate. Candidates will first need to get permission from their employer before submitting an application for the Award.

## Selection Process

Depending on the range and quality of applications the Probation Institute intends to make up to five Awards, selected from those received by the closing date.

All the research proposals received will be considered by a panel to be convened by the Probation Institute. The panel will reach a decision on the Award winners based on the comparative quality of the information supplied on the application forms as judged against the selection criteria. The selection panel would also have the discretion to seek geographical and organisational balance when making their decision.

## Approval from HMPPS Research Panel

All selected applications will need to be approved by the HMPPS Research Approval Panel. The Probation Institute will work closely with candidates to achieve this approval.

## Carrying out the research

Candidates would be expected to complete the work in approximately 6/8 weeks of effort. The research must be completed anytime between the 1st June and the 31st October 2019, but the candidate would have flexibility within that time period as to when specifically to undertake the work. It is the responsibility of the Award winners to discuss with their employers how they plan to carry out their project (including any time needed to be taken out from normal work to complete the study).

The Institute will also ensure a Mentor is provided for the successful candidates, e.g. from academics and/or Fellows relevant to the topic/methodology style.

## Presenting and disseminating the research

Providing that the research produced from the Award winner is deemed by the Probation Institute to have achieved the expected quality, the Probation Institute will publish, support and promote the research on a national stage.

The Award winner would have the opportunity to present their research to practitioners and others at Probation Institute events.

The Reports will also be made publically available on the Probation Institute website, drawn to the attention of members and relevant stakeholders, including policy-makers, practitioners, service providers and partner agencies.

There will also be an opportunity for the Award winner to feature their work in the Probation Institute's magazine, Probation Quarterly.

Completed [Application Forms](#) should be sent to [admin@probation-institute](mailto:admin@probation-institute) by 31st March 2019

For further information contact Helen Schofield [Helen@probation-institute.org](mailto:Helen@probation-institute.org) or Anne Worrall [a.j.worrall@keele.ac.uk](mailto:a.j.worrall@keele.ac.uk)

