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# Sir Graham Smith Awards 2024

## Information for Applicants

The Sir Graham Smith Research Award was established in 2002 in recognition of the late Sir Graham Smith's leadership in the Probation Service and particularly to his contribution to the development of evidence based practice. The Awards are an important and prestigious scheme supporting short and accessible practice based research projects across the probation sector.

The Probation Institute is proud to host these Awards which are very much aligned with the Institute's commitment to practitioner professional development and developing links between research and practice.

The Awards provide an opportunity for practitioners to undertake a small piece of original empirical research exploring a topic from practice. Successful applicants are provided with support through the process of securing formal approval for their research (from HMPPS National Research Committee) and linked with a mentor (an academic from the Probation Institute Academic Advisory Panel) to provide guidance through the research process. The Award includes a £500 bursary to fund research expenses.

Award holders require the equivalent of 40 days over a six month period for fieldwork, data analysis and production of a draft research report. This time period begins once National Research Committee approval is obtained.

Research reports are published on the Probation Institute website and launched by the Probation Institute at a Launch Event. Award holders are supported and encouraged to take other opportunities for disseminating their findings.

### Applying for the 2024 Sir Graham Smith Award

- You must be working in probation or another organisation providing community justice and rehabilitation services. Applications are welcome from public, voluntary and private sectors.
- You will need the support of your employer, confirmation that you will have sufficient time to undertake your project and complete the report, and agreement to help you gather the required data.
- You will need two references: one employer reference confirming their support and one academic reference (from an academic or someone in your employing organisation with an understanding of research) confirming your suitability to undertake a small-scale research project.

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- Your research proposal shall directly relate to an area of probation or community justice practice. It will have the potential to contribute to the better understanding of the impact of a relevant service, intervention, process, or organisational arrangement.
  - Your proposal will have clear objectives and be capable of being achieved within the period of the Award.
  - To apply for the Award, complete the application form and return it to [admin@probation-institute.org](mailto:admin@probation-institute.org)
  - The closing date for applications is **Wednesday 31 Jan 2024**.
  - Please contact Helen Schofield (Probation Institute Acting Chief Executive) or Jane Dominey (Chair of the Selection Panel ) with any questions about the application process ([Helen@probation-institute.org](mailto:Helen@probation-institute.org) or [jad78@cam.ac.uk](mailto:jad78@cam.ac.uk))

### Selection Process

- Applications will be considered by the Probation Institute's Sir Graham Smith Research Award Selection Panel.
- Applications will be assessed on the clarity of the proposal, its relevance to probation and community justice practice and its achievability in the Award timeframe.
- The Probation Institute is able to make up to five Awards in this application round.
- The Panel's decisions will be notified to applicants by **Wednesday 28th Feb 2024**.
- Award holders **must** be members of the Probation Institute.

### Carrying out the Research

- Award holders will be allocated an academic mentor from the Probation Institute Academic Advisory Panel.
- Award holders and mentors will be invited to an online research workshop in **March 2024**. The purpose of this workshop is to assist the award holder to refine the proposal and apply for approval to the HMPPS National Research Committee.
- With support from a member of the Sir Graham Smith Research Award Panel, the award holder will make an application to the HMPPS National Research Committee by the end of **April 2024**.
- Research will begin once National Research Committee approval is obtained. The Award holder will be linked with a mentor from the Academic Advisory Panel. Research will take place between **May 2024** and **October 2024**.
- The Award Holder will complete the final research report no later than **December 2024**.