

Job Title: Research Intern – Nuclear Deterrence Network Project (X2 positions)

Grade: 3

Salary: £25,040 per annum

Department: School of History, Politics and International Relations (HyPIR)

Hours/Contract: Part-time (7 hours per week, 0.2fte) fixed term contract from 01 October 2026 to 31 March 2027

Reference: 13790

Role Purpose

We are seeking a motivated research intern to support an exciting Ministry of Defence-funded project exploring contemporary challenges in nuclear deterrence and security.

About the Nuclear Deterrence Network

The UK Nuclear Deterrence Network, a consortium comprising King's College London, the RUSI and the University of Leicester, seeks to understand the practice and theory of deterrence, assess the value of deterrence against a changing international landscape, generate evidence-based research and recommendations, and develop a UK-based community of practice engaged with the role and future of deterrence for the UK and its allies.

About the Role

As part of the team you will be asked to support the delivery of some of the Network's events, conduct research and work to support Professor Andrew Futter and Dr Alice Spilman in delivering the aims of the network, and have the opportunity to work on an independent piece of research on a related topic of your choice.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

Key Responsibilities

- Assist with literature reviews, data collection, and policy analysis
- Support the organisation and coordination of network events, workshops, and seminars
- Contribute to research outputs including briefings, reports, and publications
- Conduct independent research on an agreed topic within the project scope

What You'll Gain

- Direct involvement in policy-relevant research for the UK Ministry of Defence
- Opportunities to network with academics, practitioners, and policymakers in the nuclear security field
- Hands-on experience with contemporary security challenges
- Dedicated supervision and mentorship from Dr Alice Spilman and Professor Andrew Futter
- The chance to develop your own research interests with expert guidance





Internal and External Relationships

- Reporting to the Principle Investigator and Research Associate.
- Regular attendance at team meetings.
- Working with other researchers.
- Working with stakeholders and partners on the co-creation of knowledge and codelivery of outcomes.

Planning and Organising

You will be required to manage your time effectively to plan your research and to deliver on the priorities of the project in a timely fashion.

Qualifications, Knowledge and Experience

Essential

- Be a current 3rd year Undergraduate or a Masters Student in a Midlands University.

Skills, Abilities and Competencies

Essential

- Currently pursuing undergraduate/postgraduate studies in International Relations, Security Studies, Politics, or related fields at a Midlands based university (e.g. Leicester, Birmingham, Nottingham, Warwick)
- Strong research and analytical skills
- Excellent written and oral communication abilities
- Interest in (but not necessarily experience in) nuclear policy, deterrence, and international security

Desirable

- Ability to work independently and as part of a team

****Criteria to be used in shortlisting candidates for interview***

Reason for Fixed Term Contract

The reason for the fixed term contract is stated in section 1.9 in the summary of contractual terms in your contract of employment.

Criminal Declaration

If you become an employee, you must inform your manager immediately, in writing, if you are the subject of any current or future police investigations/legal proceedings, which could result in a criminal offence, conviction, caution, bind-over or charges, or warnings.



NHS Research Governance

Where it is determined that the duties of this post for the purposes of research involve work with the NHS, it is necessary to ensure that the performance of the duties attached to the post are covered by NHS research governance arrangements and the appointee must comply with all such arrangements, which may include occupational health clearance and DBS clearance.

Supporting University Activities

As a University of Leicester citizen, you are encouraged to support key university activities such as clearing, graduation ceremonies, student registration and recruitment open days. We encourage all staff as citizens to work flexibly across the University if required. If supporting these activities is likely to affect your workload, please speak to your line manager in the first instance

University Values

Inclusive - We are diverse in our makeup and united in ambition. Our diversity is our strength and makes our community stronger.

Inspiring - We are passionate about inspiring individuals to succeed and realise their ambitions. We challenge our community to think differently, to get involved, and to constantly embrace new ideas.

Impactful - As Citizens of Change we will generate new ideas which deliver impact and empower our community

Freedom of Speech

The University is committed to upholding freedom of speech and academic freedom within the law throughout our recruitment processes. We ensure that all candidates are considered based on merit and suitability for the role, without regard to their lawful viewpoints or the expression of challenging or controversial ideas. Our recruitment policies and practices are designed to protect applicants from discrimination or adverse treatment on the basis of their opinions, and to foster an environment where open debate and diverse perspectives are valued as essential to our academic mission.

Equity and Diversity

We believe that equity, diversity and inclusion is integral to a successful modern workplace. By developing and implementing policies and systems that challenge stereotypes across all aspects of our work, we have a culture that recognises and values the diverse contributions of our staff which benefits everyone. Our strong values of inclusivity and equality support our efforts to attract a diverse range of high quality staff and students, and identify our University as a progressive and innovative workplace that mainstreams equality, diversity and inclusion.

