

Expression of Interest – How does having English as an additional language affect experiences and outcomes for individuals involved in the criminal justice system?

Further information on the project and application process

Scope and terminology

The research should focus on adults who have had involvement in the criminal justice system of England and Wales specifically offenders, defendants, individuals who have been arrested and victims of crime.

At present the Foundation is referring to the issue of language as “English as an additional language”. As ESOL classes are provided in prisons, there is debate over whether the term ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) should be used instead. However, as ESOL education in prison ends at entry level 2, the term ESOL denotes a certain range of ability.

For the purposes of this research brief, the term victim is used as it is widely used across victimology and by service delivery organisations. However, as the term is somewhat contested, the Foundation will follow the guidance of subject experts for future publications.

Structure of the research

It is anticipated that this research will require up to three years to complete, and the project will be broken down into smaller work packages. The content of the work packages will be proposed by the research team and discussed and decided in consultation with the Foundation.

Research in Partnership

In the Foundation’s English as an Additional Language (EAL) Programme, commissioned research has had a practical impact with some funded research being put forward for REFs. We value our partnerships with academic teams and actively seek to contribute our expertise on language teaching and learning, whilst ensuring that researchers are able to maintain independence both in judgement and findings. Further information on our research partnerships in Education can be found [here](#).

The Foundation is committed to achieving system change by providing an evidence base and policy recommendations as well as through evidencing and promoting best practice. The Foundation is seeking a research team which is able to develop recommendations which can be implemented at policy or practice level. In order to effect change in the criminal justice system teams should be able to demonstrate an awareness and track record of maximising the impact of research both on policy and on practice.

Team composition

This research project is likely to require a multidisciplinary team. Teams composed of individuals from different organisations are welcomed. Where partnerships are composed of different organisations, submitting organisations will need to evidence how the partnership will operate in practice.

The Foundation recognises the broad scope of this research and teams who may only be able to deliver on part of the project are also invited to apply specifying which elements their expertise can contribute to.

Requirements for content and format of Expressions of Interest

The selection process will involve two rounds. The first stage is to submit an Expression of Interest and for this the Foundation requests organisations send through the following:

- **An outline** of the approach to research questions, discussion of key considerations and challenges. This should be no more than four pages in length.
- **CVs** and biographies of all team members including evidence of team members' **research impact**
- **Detail on the proposed level of involvement of key academics and principal investigator**
- Evidence of the team's ability to **work collaboratively** with external organisations and groups
- **Indicative budget** with headline expenditure (not detailed at this stage)

The Foundation will then proceed to a second round with a shortlisted, smaller number of teams, which it is anticipated will be no fewer than two and not more than four. Each shortlisted team will be invited to submit a proposal using the Foundation's own template and to attend a proposal development meeting with the Foundation team to discuss approaches to the research, key methodological considerations and research structure. After these meetings teams will be asked to submit finalised proposals for consideration.

Selection criteria

At this first stage, your proposal will be evaluated against the following selection criteria:

- Experience and skill set of the team as relevant to this specific research project
- Initial outline, approach and identification of key challenges
- Team's links and experience in policy recommendations and impact

Application instructions

Interested candidates are asked to send their documents and Expression of Interest to Leticia.thomas@bell-foundation.org.uk clearly putting the term "Expression of Interest" and the name of the lead institution as the email subject.

Questions or enquiries should be directed to Letty Thomas, Programme Officer preferably by email.

Application Stage	Dates
Deadline for Expression of Interest	Friday 6 July 2018
Shortlisted teams notified	Friday 13 July 2018
Deadline for draft proposal	Friday 10 August 2018
Proposal Development meetings	Wednesday 5/Thursday 6 September 2018
Deadline for full proposals	Thursday 13 September 2018
Preferred bidder notified	Friday 5 October 2018

Timeline

The Foundation is hoping that interested teams will be able to meet the above deadlines, but there is a margin for extension of certain dates if necessary. Please contact Letty Thomas to discuss this.

Useful reference materials

HM Inspectorate of Prisons, July 2006 - "Foreign national prisoners: a thematic review"

Available at: <https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprisons/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2014/06/Foreign-National-Prisoners-2005.pdf>

The Bell Foundation's research reports on "The language barrier to rehabilitation" and "A prison within a prison"

Available at: <https://www.bell-foundation.org.uk/research-reports/language-change-programme/>

The Foundation's reports on English as an Additional Language in Education

Available at: <https://www.bell-foundation.org.uk/research-reports/eal-programme/>