Background of Scholarship

We have a fully funded (fees and living stipend) one-year Master of Social Science (Research) position based in the School of Psychology. This is part of an MBIE funded project called Nga Tūmanakotanga – Turning the Tide on Prison Violence, which is a study aimed to decrease physical, sexual, psychological and structural harm and improve safety and wellbeing for those who reside and work in prison settings in Aotearoa New Zealand.

The research aims to address the following questions:

1. What factors contribute to prison violence and the perception of threat within these settings for staff and those who reside within them? Can we predict these behaviours/events? And if so, what are the implications for intervention?

2. What is the relationship between gang-affiliation and prison violence? What knowledge, skills, and resources do men from these communities possess that can mitigate future violence?

3. What are the properties of the prison environment itself that influence or inhibit violence? How can ecological models of prison inform improved safety and wellbeing?

This research will suit students with a background in psychology, criminology, social work, community development, or related disciplines. If this aligns with your research interests, you are strongly encouraged to apply.

Eligibility criteria

Level: Masters
Start date: A Semester 2021
Value/Tenure: $23,000, which will be directly applied to the institution fees ($6k) for the 120-point thesis paper, with the balance ($17k) paid out as a monthly stipend over the year of thesis research (maximum 1 year).

Application documents required

- Personal details form (template attached)
- Two academic references (template attached)
- A personal statement (template attached) describing your background and interests and how this aligns with the project described
- Academic transcript from previous study undertaken

Selection Process

All 'Expressions of Interest' will be considered and shortlisted candidates will be contacted no later than 30th September 2020.

Please send completed documentation to renae.dixon@waikato.ac.nz