

College Bursary Scheme

Acting Inspector Yakub Ismail, Leicestershire Police
MSc in Police Leadership, Strategy and Organisation,
University of Derby



Yakub started his MSc in 2017 having served with Leicestershire Police for over 20 years. Yakub received a College bursary in 2018. His advice to potential applicants is to think about how research can contribute to your area of work and bring benefits back into policing.

Why did you decide to apply for a College of Policing bursary?

I was initially selected and supported by Leicestershire Police to complete a module in police leadership at the University of Derby, which inspired me to apply for the full MSc programme in Police Leadership, Strategy and Organisation.

I can imagine, like for myself, financing is an issue for most officers wanting to gain academic qualifications to progress their careers or to develop their professional knowledge. I received some financial support from my force to complete the first year of my studies. I was delighted and fortunate when I was awarded a bursary for the last two years of my studies.

What difference has receiving a College bursary made to you?

I am proud to be on the MSc programme and it has increased my confidence. I really am appreciative and grateful for the bursary, which has afforded me the prospects to increase my career progression and made me feel valued and recognised in my efforts as a police officer. My written and oral communication has also improved significantly, as has my ability to research and critically analyse information. I have been well supported by Leicestershire Police who show an active interest in my progress.

How has your course been so far?

So far the course has been challenging and rewarding. I enjoy attending classes with police practitioners of all ranks from a variety of forces and also abroad. I initially felt out of my comfort zone but have adjusted to the amount of reading and home study whilst juggling my work life balance. As a result of the course, I have found my ability to conduct research and critically analyse literature has improved.

How will your studies benefit your work and policing?

My final year dissertation will support and add to existing literature on efficiency and efficacy in policing. I plan to explore the academic versus operational reality of evidence-based policing (EBP).

The aim of my research is to assess the perceptions of EBP as a tool to assist strategic policies and tactics. Once full details have been agreed with my supervisor, I will add an entry summarising the research on the **College's Research Map**.

What advice would you give to a colleague considering further study?

My advice to anyone considering further study and applying for a College bursary is to think about how the research component contributes to your area of work, and how you can bring back the benefits of your study into policing.

If you have any questions about the scheme or need further information, contact **BursaryScheme@college.pnn.police.uk**