What does a Probation Officer do?

As a Probation Officer your aim is to protect the public by reducing crime, safeguarding victims and rehabilitating offenders. You can expect to be based in an Offender Management team, a Court or a Prison setting.

Probation Officers:

- Work with complex individuals, including those who have committed violent or sexual offences.
- Work in multi-agency teams with police officers, social workers and mental health professionals to manage offenders.
- Communicate effectively with offenders and write professional reports.

The work is demanding and rewarding, requiring resilience and professional judgement.

What qualification do I need?

You will need to achieve the Professional Qualification in Probation (PQiP). The PQiP is equivalent to a Higher Education, level 6 qualification and is a work-based qualification which focuses on both skills development and applied academic learning.

During your training, you will be employed as a Probation Services Officer (PSO) and will undertake routine PSO tasks whilst completing the qualification. You will be allocated time to complete a skills-based vocational qualification (VQ) and to undertake applied academic study with an approved Higher Education provider.

All fees for the VQ and the academic study will be paid by your employer.

How can I access the PQiP?

Access to the qualification is subject to recruitment and selection. In order to apply you will need:

- Experience of working with people exhibiting challenging behaviour.
- Any Level 5 qualification, or above, in any subject area

For entry routes, see over.

Further information

www.traintobeaprobnationofficer.com
Apply for Probation Officer Posts

**PQiP - 15 Month Pathway**
- Candidates whose qualification includes 3 or 4 required knowledge modules will undertake this pathway
- Completion of a vocational qualification and academic study whilst employed as a probation practitioner leads to an HE qualification at level 6 and to the PQiP

**PQiP - 21 Month Pathway**
- Candidates whose qualification covers less than 3 of the required knowledge modules will undertake this pathway
- Completion of all outstanding required knowledge modules (initial 6 months)
- Completion of a vocational qualification and academic study whilst employed as a probation practitioner leads to an HE qualification at level 6 and to the PQiP

Qualification validation process

Apply for the PQiP

Complete a level 5 qualification with an approved university that includes the four required knowledge modules:
1. The Criminal Justice System
2. Crime & Criminal Behaviour
3. Penal Policy & the Punishment of Offenders
4. The Rehabilitation of Offenders

Complete level 4 reflective assignment/s with an approved university

**Level 3 Diploma in Probation Practice or a related vocational qualification**
**Relevant level 4 vocational qualification or apprenticeship**
**Qualification at level 5 or above (e.g. Dip HE, honours degree, higher apprenticeship etc)**

Experience of working with people exhibiting challenging behaviour

**Key**
- Skills
- Knowledge
- Experience

‘Level’ above refers to the level of the qualification in both the previous Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) and the new Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF)