



2016-2017 Academic Year
1 Research Assistantship (Doctoral Students only)
Office of Research and Evaluation (ORE)
Placement ID: **Crime Prevention**

Topic Area: Crime Prevention

Program Overview: The goal of NIJ's Crime and Crime Prevention Research Division (CCPRD) is to support research that increases understanding of the scope, causes, and consequences of crime, and develops scientific knowledge about programs and practices that prevent and reduce crime in the United States. The scope of work within CCPRD includes developmental, situational, and community crime prevention. Developmental prevention includes interventions designed to prevent the development of criminal potential in individuals, especially those targeting risk and protective factors discovered in studies of human development. Situational prevention includes interventions designed to prevent the occurrence of crimes by reducing opportunities and increasing the risk and difficulty of offending. Community prevention refers to interventions designed to change the social conditions and institutions (e.g., families, peers, social norms, clubs, and organizations) that influence offending in residential communities. CCPRD is particularly focused on research with practical implications for reducing firearm violence, gang violence, and community violence that affects students, school personnel, or school settings. This is an exciting opportunity for a research assistant to make a significant contribution to the improvement of one or more of these topical areas.

Research assistant project task responsibilities may include but are not limited to:

- Compiling, summarizing, revising, or making use of complex, technical, or specialized literature.
- Participating in data collection activities related to crime prevention.
- Extracting and compiling data from written sources, from individuals (questionnaires and interviews), or from existing databases.
- Assisting in research design strategies (e.g., developing and modifying research proposals, procedures, or tools/instruments).
- Processing and summarizing data using scientific or statistical techniques.
- Assisting in data interpretation and analyses to generate reports/papers.
- Assisting in developing research questions and designs for intramural studies.
- Assisting in preparing materials for Institutional Review Board (IRB) review for intramural studies.
- Conceptualizing and drafting publications (such as government reports, peer-reviewed journal articles, NIJ publications, and trade magazine articles).
- Drafting and presenting presentations at conferences (where funding permits and the University approves).
- Recording, compiling, and reporting information related to the research program and activities with a focus on relevance for the policy or practitioner fields; preparing policy briefs; and assisting with responses to Congressional inquiries.
- Assisting with coordination of research activities and participating in intra- and inter-agency working groups (e.g., other federal science agencies and stakeholders such as the Institute of Education Sciences, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Centers for Disease Control and



Prevention, Executive Office for the United States Attorneys, Federal Bureau of Investigation).

- Assisting with outreach activities and research dissemination activities (e.g., meeting presentations, articles, webinars).

Candidate Eligibility Criteria

- Demonstrated knowledge of the U.S. criminal justice system **required**.
- Demonstrated knowledge of intermediate to advanced research and evaluation methods and analysis **required**.
- Demonstrated experience in social or behavioral science related to crime prevention **required**.
- Demonstrated knowledge of research and evaluation related to firearms or gang violence prevention **preferred**.

General Required Qualifications

- Education and/or Experience: Doctoral students working toward a terminal degree (e.g., Ph.D., D.P.A., Dr.PH., D.H.Sc., D.S.W., Psy.D., Ed.D.).
- Mathematical Skills: Very good to advanced understanding of statistical principles and research methods (quantitative and qualitative).
- Computer Skills: Working knowledge of computers and standard software such as Adobe Professional, Excel, Internet Explorer, Outlook, Windows operating systems, Word, and PowerPoint required. Proficiency using SPSS, SAS, or Stata. Knowledge of other statistical or geospatial software a plus.
- Reasoning Ability: Ability to work independently, accurately, and in a timely manner.
- Communication Skills: Ability to communicate orally and in writing to prepare comprehensive research reports, proposals, and presentations and make recommendations to accomplish and enhance project objectives.
- Certifications, Licenses, Registrations: Human Subjects (HS) Protection training is required. NIJ research assistants must take annual HS training onsite at the Office of Justice Programs. RAs also must successfully complete CITI training prior to participating on any studies.
- Background Check: Candidates must complete all required U.S. Department of Justice profile and pre-screening paperwork with all security reviews and background investigations (such as credit and criminal investigations) resulting in a favorable adjudication.
- Citizenship: Candidates must be U.S. citizens.

Work Location: Primary work location will be at NIJ's offices in Washington, D.C. Minimal local travel in the National Capital Region may be needed to attend meetings and visit offsite research facilities.