

National Institute of Justice's (NIJ's) Research Assistantship Program

Informational Webinar

September 28, 2023 | 1:30 PM ET

The webinar will begin shortly



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NIJ's Research Assistant Program (RAP)

Webinar Presenter:

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Office of the Director



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September 2023

Today's Webinar

- Overview of NIJ
- Purpose and Benefits of the RAP
- Funding
- Requirements
- Review Process
- Ideal Candidate
- Types of Work Performed by Research Assistants
- Q & A



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National Institute of Justice

Who are we:

- NIJ is the research, development and evaluation agency of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Our mission:

- Improve knowledge and understanding of crime and justice issues through science.



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Agency Structure

- **Office of the Director**
- **Five Science Offices:**
 - Office of Crime Prevention and Youth Justice
 - Office of Criminal Justice Systems
 - Office of Investigative and Forensic Sciences
 - Office of Technology and Standards
 - Office of Violence and Victimization Prevention
- **Office of Communications**
- **Office of Operations**
- **Office of Grants Management**



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Purpose of the RAP

- Build a talent pipeline by nurturing and growing a pool of researchers involved in studying criminal justice.
- Provide doctoral students with practical and applied research experience.
- Afford doctoral students an opportunity to work with NIJ scientists on research and development activities.



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Benefits of the RAP

- Work with the *only* federal agency in the U.S. solely dedicated to criminal justice (CJ) research, development, testing, and evaluation
- Career development for doctoral students wanting to bridge their science to criminal justice
- Ability to network with NIJ's partners and stakeholders internal and external to government
- NIJ scientists work with emerging scholars
- Funding



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Funding Provided Through RAP

- Stipend
 - Students work 20-30 hours per week during academic year (AY) 9.5 or 12 months
- Tuition remission
 - Up to 20 credits for RAs who work for NIJ during AY only, up to 24 credits for RAs who work for NIJ throughout calendar year
- Health benefits through university
- Approved travel and training



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Eligibility Requirements

At application deadline

- U.S. citizen or a permanent U.S. resident
- Enrolled in a research-based doctoral program at an accredited U.S. university

After Acceptance

- Successful completion and approval of all required U.S. Department of Justice background checks



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Application Requirements

- Statement of Interest
- Public Safety Challenge Essay
- Resume/CV
- Writing sample of a scientific paper
- Unofficial Transcript(s)
- One Letter of Recommendation
- Three References

Work with your Graduate Program Director (GPD) to submit your application electronically



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Application Review Process

- Applications reviewed and rated by science staff
- Select applicants interviewed and rated by science staff
- NIJ Director (or designee) approves
- Contact GPDs & candidates with intentions of acceptance
- Research Assistants (RAs) begin in Fall



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Ideal Candidate

- Strong writing skills
- Advanced communication skills
- Solid analytical, statistical, and methods knowledge
- Strong reasoning ability
- Specialized training yet able to function as a generalist



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Types of Work Performed by RAs

- Develop and maintain measurement and program databases
- Conduct quantitative analyses and produce peer reviewed journal articles
- Conduct qualitative interviews and focus groups, code data, and draft technical reports for NIJ intramural studies
- Co-present on NIJ-sponsored webinars and presentations
- Co-author NIJ Journal articles, book chapters, summaries, briefs, reports to Congress, and white papers



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Questions?

Please enter your questions into the [Q&A box](#)



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For More Information

Visit the RAP webpage at:

<https://nij.ojp.gov/funding/nijs-research-assistantship-program>

Or contact us at:

NIJ_RAP@usdoj.gov

WORK WITH YOUR UNIVERISTY TO COMPLETE YOUR
APPLICATION NOW!



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