

Research Assistantship Opportunities at the National Institute of Justice

Informational Webinar

RAP Fiscal Year 2021 – 2022
APPLICATION DEADLINE: 12/23/2020

November 12, 2020



Today's Panelists



Danielle Crimmins, M.S.
Doctoral Candidate, Purdue
University
Research Assistant (Contractor)



Angela M. Moore, PhD, MPA
Senior Science Advisor
Social and Behavioral Scientist
Research Assistantship Program (RAP)
Manager



Jessica Norton, M.S.
Doctoral Candidate, Auburn University
Research Assistant (Contractor)

National Institute of Justice

Who we are:

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

Our Mission:

- Dedicated to improving knowledge and understanding of crime and justice issues through science.



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Overview of NIJ

- Office of the Director
- NIJ has two research offices:
 - Office of Research Evaluation and Technology
 - Office of Investigative and Forensic Sciences
- Office of Operations and Communications
- Office of Grants Management



Purpose of the RAP

- Build a talent pipeline by nurturing and growing a pool of researchers involved in criminal justice research.
- Provide doctoral students with practical and applied research experience.
- Afford doctoral students an opportunity to learn firsthand how science can inform policy.



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Benefits of 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 federal, regional, state, tribal, and local partners and stakeholders
- Funding

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
- Letter of Recommendation
- List of References

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



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Application Process

- Applications reviewed by NIJ Science Staff
- NIJ Director (or designee) approval
- Decisions Made in April
- Contact GPDs & candidates with intentions of acceptance
- Positions begin in September 2021



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Work Product Examples

- Develop and maintain measurement and study 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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Prohibited Work

- Research Assistants (RAs) will not supplant clerical support, grant, cooperative agreement, or contract processing or awards, study management, or any other federal employee responsibility
- RAs cannot have access to proprietary or government classified or sensitive documents/systems
- RAs cannot attend certain “Fed-only” meetings



Work Schedule

- RAs are expected to be onsite at NIJ
- RAs establish work schedule and finalize work-plan with assigned Project Officers and RAP manager
- RAs follow their university calendar
- RAs do not work for NIJ on federal holidays or any other time when the federal government is “closed”
- One year placement*

Ideal Candidate

- Strong reasoning ability
- Advanced communication skills
- Strong writing skills
- Solid analytical, statistical, and methods knowledge
- Specialized training in a topic area



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Supervision of Work

- RAs are supervised/employed by their University, not NIJ
- Onsite management
 - RAP Manager
 - Project Officer
- RAs plan and schedule their own work based on approved work plans
- NIJ provides all sponsoring GPDs with mid-year and annual reviews of RAs

RAP Funding

- Stipend
 - Students work 20 to 30 hours a week during the academic year
 - 9.5 months or 12 months
- Tuition Remission
 - Up to 20 credits per academic year for research assistants who work for NIJ during the academic year only, or up to 24 credits per calendar year for research assistants who work for NIJ throughout the calendar year
- Health Benefits through University
- Approved Travel and Training

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

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WORK WITH YOUR UNIVERISTY TO GET YOUR
APPLICATION IN SOON!



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Questions?

Please submit questions using the [Q&A box](#) and selecting [all panelists](#).



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