

Office of Research & Evaluation (ORE)

2014-2015 Academic Year

Research Assistantship Program (RAP) Placement Listings

General Required Qualifications for ORE Placement

- **Education and/or Experience:** Doctoral students working toward a terminal degree (e.g., Ph.D., D.P.A., D.P.H., D.S.W., PRDhealth, DCLinPsy) or when specified, Master's students (e.g., MA, MS, MPH, MSW, MSc)
- **Mathematical Skills:** Very good understanding of statistical principles and research methods (both 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 R, SPSS, SAS, or Stata. Knowledge of Access, ATLAS.ti and other statistical or geospatial software a plus.
- **Reasoning Ability:** Research assistants must be able 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 evaluations; and make recommendations to accomplish and enhance project objectives.
- **Certifications, licenses, registrations:** Human Subjects Protection training is required. Accepted research assistants will take training onsite at the [Office of Justice Programs](#).
- **Background Check:** Successful completion and approval of **all** required U.S. Department of Justice profile and pre-screening paperwork, security reviews, and background investigations (such as credit and criminal investigations) are required.
- **Citizenship:** Applicants 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.

Level of security clearance: Public trust.

2014-2015 Academic Year
2 Research Assistantships (Doctoral Students only)
Crime, Violence, and Victimization Research Division
Office of Research and Evaluation (ORE)

Topic Area: Violence Against Women (VAW): Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), Sexual Violence (SV), and Stalking.

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

- Manage compendium of federal intramural and extramural research on intimate partner violence (IPV) to include efforts funded by: National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Mental Health, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, National Institute of Nursing Research, National Institute on Drug Abuse, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Education, Department of Defense, Office on Women's Health, National Science Foundation, Administration for Children and Families, and other agencies to be determined.
 - ❖ Track projects on a regular basis and provide updates and links to relevant reports.
- Provide support in establishing a federal wide research agenda on Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)
 - ❖ Synthesis of current federal efforts.
 - ❖ Identification of significant research gaps.
 - ❖ Coordination of interagency meetings and communication and documentation of meeting minutes.
- Provide support for ongoing intramural research and cross-agency activities including:
 - ❖ Technology-based evaluation related to IPV, stalking, and global positioning system (GPS).
 - ❖ Evaluation of a multi-site domestic violence homicide prevention program.
 - ❖ Evaluation of a wraparound crime victim legal assistance project.
 - ❖ Participation in technical research working groups and planning meetings.
 - ❖ Collaborate on dissemination activities that may include drafting articles for NIJ's journal and website, drafting articles for academic peer-reviewed journals, drafting talking points for NIJ leadership, and drafting articles for program office dissemination outlets.
- Revise NIJ web topic pages on VAW, IPV, SV, and stalking, as needed.
- Peer review research reports and provide feedback and/or synthesize information.
- Assist in program development activities that can include:
 - ❖ Conducting literature reviews.
 - ❖ Writing annotated bibliographies.
 - ❖ Participating in research meetings and workshops.
 - ❖ Developing conference presentations on VAW topics.
 - ❖ Creating one-page overviews or fliers on research projects of interest.
- Manage NIJ's VAW research compendium by working with science staff to complete yearly updates.

2014-2015 Academic Year
1 Research Assistantship (Doctoral Students only)
Office of Research and Evaluation (ORE)

Topic Area: [NIJ's Program of Research Examining Violence Against American Indian \(AI\) and Alaska Native \(AN\) Women living in Indian Country and Alaska Native villages](#)

The Violence Against Women Act of 2005 (Public Law Number 109-162), at Title IX, Section 904(a) (codified at 42 U.S.C. § 3796gg-10 note) mandates that NIJ, in consultation with the U.S. Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), conduct a national baseline study (NBS) on violence against AI and AN women living in tribal communities. As a result, NIJ has developed a comprehensive research program consisting of multiple projects that will be accomplished over an extended period of time. The purpose of the research program is to: examine violence against AI and AN women (including domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, trafficking, and murder) and identify factors that place AI and AN women at risk for victimization; evaluate the effectiveness of federal, state, tribal, and local responses to violence against AI and AN women; and propose recommendations to improve effectiveness of these responses.

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

- Compiling, summarizing, revising, or making use of complex, technical, or specialized literature.
- Participating in data collection activities in Indian Country and Alaska villages.
- Extracting and compiling a range of data from written sources, from individuals (questionnaires and interviews), and from one or several given databases.
- Assisting in research design strategies (e.g., developing and modifying program of research proposals, procedures, or tools/instruments).
- Processing and summarizing data using scientific or statistical techniques.
- Assisting in data interpretation and analyses.
- Formatting, storing, and filing data to generate reports/papers.
- Assist in developing research questions and designs for intramural studies.
- Assist in preparing materials for 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 request).
- Recording, compiling, and reporting information related to research program and activities.
- Assisting with coordination of research activities (e.g., assisting with the program's Federal Advisory Task Force and other federal science agencies and stakeholders such as the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Census Bureau, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Executive Office for the United States Attorneys, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Indian Health Service, Office of Justice Programs, the Office of Tribal Justice).
- Assisting with tribal outreach activities that include data collection site visits and research dissemination activities (e.g., meeting presentations, articles, webinars).

Preferred Knowledge

- Knowledge of U.S. criminal justice system required.
- Knowledge of intermediate to advanced research and evaluation methods and analysis required.
- Knowledge of violence against women research and evaluation required.
- Knowledge of American Indian and Alaska Native crime and justice issues preferred.

2014-2015 Academic Year
1 Research Assistantships (Doctoral Students only)
[Office of Research and Evaluation](#)

Topic Area: Transnational Issues, including trafficking in persons, transnational organized crime, and violent extremism.

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

- Updating materials and presentations on three separate portfolios of research into one coherent program of study. This entails:
 - ▶ working with scientific project officers to improve the transnational program plan and its public-facing documents.
 - ▶ documenting existing scholarly literature and identifying research gaps in the field of study.
 - ▶ developing better mechanisms to obtain feedback from practitioners and other interested parties.
- Creating and expanding the community of interest for the transnational program to include:
 - ▶ developing a formal database of contacts based on information held by NIJ and other federal science project officers.
 - ▶ conducting outreach, soliciting input, and documenting feedback from all stakeholders.
- Conducting literature reviews and intramural research related to the transnational program to include gathering articles, other publications, and presentations from current and former grantees.
- Assisting with the hosting of international visitors at NIJ.
- Reviewing final products stemming from NIJ transnational research grants to determine best uses for such products such as embedding key findings into NIJ's topical web pages, adding videos to presentations, creating overviews or information documents for stakeholders, and so on.
- Coordinating NIJ-funded research findings from the transnational program with findings from other countries.
- Working across NIJ offices, specifically the Office of Communications, to coordinate dissemination and translation efforts.
- Assisting in the planning of transnational workshops and expert working groups.
- Revising NIJ web topical pages on transnational issues.

2014-2015 Academic Year
1 Research Assistantship (Masters or Doctoral Student)
Placement: Office of Research and Evaluation (ORE)

Topic Area: *Translational Research*—scientific research that helps to make findings from basic science useful for practical applications.

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

- Developing materials and presentations related to the following topics:
 - Interpreting research and statistical results.
 - Accessing and understanding scholarly literature.
 - Effective strategies in disseminating research to practitioners, policymakers, and researchers.
- Conducting literature reviews and synthesizing information related to translational research activities in the social and behavioral sciences.
- Keeping abreast of translational activities and resources in the field (e.g., publications, conferences, meetings, webinars, websites).
- Reviewing final products stemming from grants awarded under the “Building and Enhancing Researcher-Practitioner Partnership” program area and determine best uses for such products (e.g., embedding findings in NIJ topical web pages, adding videos to presentations, creating overviews or informational documents).
- Revising guidance for products and reports produced by grants awarded under the “Building and Enhancing Researcher-Practitioner Partnership” program.
- Creating and managing NIJ web topic pages on researcher-practitioner partnerships, translational science, and understanding resources.
- Participating in meetings and working groups on translational science and researcher-practitioner partnerships.
- Working across NIJ offices, specifically the Office of Communications, to coordinate dissemination and translation efforts (e.g., publications, conference presentations, guidelines for grantees).
- Assist in planning a workshop on researcher-practitioner partnerships.

2014-2015 Academic Year
1 Research Assistantship (Masters or Doctoral Students)
Placement: Justice Systems Research Division in the Office of Research and Evaluation

PROJECTS:

Wrongful conviction

NIJ is interested in stimulating a scientifically rigorous body of research on the topic of wrongful convictions, specifically focusing on the 200-plus cases of exonerations based on post-conviction DNA examinations, and comparisons of DNA-based and non-DNA based exonerations. Thus far, there have been over 200 cases of post-conviction DNA exonerations in the United States identified by media and interested organizations and a growing body of literature. However, more social-science-based research on this topic is needed.

Indigent Defense

Social science research examining the fundamental issues surrounding access to quality legal representation has been lacking. Based on a long history of research and collaborative projects with other Office of Justice Programs (OJP) agencies and federal partners, NIJ has determined that rigorous research can play an integral role in indigent defense service, policy, and practice development. It is important to: (1) understand the barriers that indigent criminal defendants face in securing legal representation and resources; (2) identify and assess means to address these barriers; and (3) disseminate evidence-based recommendations that are easily accessible to practitioners and other stakeholders across the country.

Social Science Research on Forensic Science

NIJ is engaged in a variety of projects examining the use of forensic evidence in criminal investigations and prosecutions. In 2013, NIJ sponsored a Topical Working Group meeting on this area of research to assess what we have learned in this area to date and identify gaps and future research questions. This meeting identified both small and large scale projects, some of which may be suitable for intra-mural research at NIJ. In addition, NIJ is currently funding two action research projects examining the problem of untested sexual assault kit (SAK) evidence. These projects are very high profile and we will be looking at ways to disseminate lessons learned via the NIJ website as the projects continue.

Assessment of the OJP Diagnostic Center

The Diagnostic Center is a new technical assistance resource that emphasizes data-driven diagnosis of criminal justice issues and implementation of evidence based solutions. It brings together resources and expertise from across the U.S. Department of Justice to meet the needs of state, local, and tribal governments and community leaders. The Research Assistant will provide both substantive and administrative support for this project.

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

- Compiling, reviewing, and summarizing literature on research topics using annotated bibliographies. Specifically assisting with conducting a literature review on assessment research methods.
- Maintaining and updating literature review matrix/spreadsheets on research topics.
- Maintaining and updating databases on research topics.
- Assisting in developing research questions and designs for intramural studies.

- Assisting with interviews for a Diagnostic Center Assessment including drafting an interview protocol, scheduling interview appointments, and transcribing interview responses. May engage in travel to participating assessment sites for interviews of stakeholders.
- Conducting reviews of Diagnostic Center documents.
- Assisting in preparing materials for IRB review for intramural studies.
- Assisting in conducting data analyses and report writing for intramural projects.
- Assisting with publications and presentations (specific outlets to be determined).
- Providing editorial assistance with the Diagnostic Center Assessment final report.
- Regularly revising and updating NIJ web topic pages on assigned research topics.
- Coordinating and collaborating with federal partners on assigned research topics.
- Developing and maintaining a research compendium of the Justice Systems Research Division's portfolio.