



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

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

Program Overview: In recent years, NIJ has sought to understand how research informs practice in the criminal justice field. One of NIJ's goals is to advance criminal justice through science; consequently researchers must be able to translate scientific discoveries into policy and practice. As such, NIJ intends to continue its work studying the processes of knowledge acquisition, implementation, and dissemination. NIJ is particularly interested in understanding how research evidence is used by those with decision-making power to shape their assessments. We also are interested in furthering our understanding and knowledge of the end users of research evidence. How do they acquire their knowledge of research evidence and how do they interact with what evidence?

Through intramural and extramural research, NIJ is researching the mechanisms (e.g., journal articles, trade publications, listservs, blogs, mavens or trusted colleagues) and the strategies that practitioners and policymakers use to access research evidence; how that information is applied to practice; and how practice evolves based on new research evidence. Of particular interest is how research evidence has contributed to policy changes in the criminal justice system. Also of particular interest are case studies on the processes, and the facilitators and/or barriers to the use of research evidence by practitioners and policymakers.

This is an exciting opportunity for a research assistant to assist NIJ scientific staff with investigating the processes by which research evidence is acquired, interpreted, and used within the criminal justice community, and identify the various factors that impact those processes (e.g., characteristics of the research itself, the setting, and interactions among settings, policy, and other important contextual factors).

Research assistant project task responsibilities would 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
 - Developing effective strategies in disseminating research to practitioners, policymakers, and researchers
- Assisting in reviewing and implementing, if necessary, an innovative dissemination strategy based on an internal assessment of NIJ dissemination practices
- Reviewing findings (preliminary/final) from translational criminology case studies for synthesis; identifying gaps in literature; and dissemination options
- Assisting in developing NIJ's translational research agenda, incorporating findings from translational criminology working group, and findings from translational criminology case studies



- Keeping abreast of translational activities and resources in the field (e.g., publications, conferences, meetings, webinars, websites) and, if a need exists, assist in planning a working group meeting on translational criminology research
- Creating and managing NIJ web topical pages on translational science and implementation resources
- Participating in meetings and working groups on translational science and researcher-practitioner partnerships
- Working across NIJ science offices including the Office of Communications to coordinate dissemination and translation efforts (e.g., publications, conference presentations, guidelines for grantees)

Candidate Eligibility Criteria

- Demonstrated knowledge of the U.S. criminal justice system ***preferred.***
- Demonstrated knowledge of research and evaluation methods and analysis ***required.***
- Demonstrated experience in social or behavioral science related to victimization or crime ***required.***
- Demonstrated knowledge of research in implementation science, use of research evidence or related topics ***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 Access, ATLAS.ti and 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.