



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

**Topic Area:** White-Collar Crime and Public Corruption

**Program Overview:** Title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (sections 201 and 202) establishes the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and includes the charge of conducting research to improve the capacity to detect, investigate, prosecute, and otherwise combat and prevent white collar crime and public corruption. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) characterizes white collar crime as the full-range of frauds committed by business and government professionals. Fraud is a general type of crime that involves using deception for illegal monetary gain. White-collar crime includes violations of law committed by both individuals and organizations. Public corruption is one form of white collar crime that involves a breach of public trust or an abuse of position by federal, state, or local government officials.

White collar crime and public corruption carry great costs. High-profile incidents of securities fraud have cost investors billions of dollars, while violations of environmental laws have led to massive damage to the environment and the livelihoods of the people who depend on it. Public corruption costs billions in wasted tax dollars every year. While all crime has the potential to cause great harm to victims; including potentially long-lasting physical, financial, and emotional harm; white-collar crime also carries great potential for undermining and eroding public trust in essential institutions and entire societal sectors.

NIJ has supported research into corporate financial crime, public corruption, savings and loan fraud, healthcare fraud, environmental crime, protection of intellectual property rights, telemarketing fraud, cybercrime, and class bias in the punishment of white collar offenders.

**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 white collar crime and public corruption.
- 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 Bureau of Justice Statistics, 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 white-collar crime **preferred**.
- Demonstrated knowledge of intermediate to advanced research and evaluation methods and analysis **required**.
- Demonstrated experience in social or behavioral science related to criminal justice **required**.
- Demonstrated knowledge of white-collar crime research and evaluation **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.