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The U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice is seeking applications for funding under the Graduate Research Fellowship program. This program furthers the Department's mission by sponsoring research to provide objective, independent, evidence-based knowledge and tools to meet the challenges of crime and justice, particularly at the State and local levels.

# Solicitation: Graduate Research Fellowship 2008

## Eligibility

(See "Eligibility," page 3)

## Deadline

All applications are due **November 28, 2007, 11:59 p.m. eastern time.**

## Contact Information

For assistance with the requirements of this solicitation, contact: Christine Crossland, Senior Social Science Analyst, at 202-616-5166, [christine.crossland@usdoj.gov](mailto:christine.crossland@usdoj.gov) or Stanley Erickson, Science Advisor, at 202-305-4686, [stanley.erickson@usdoj.gov](mailto:stanley.erickson@usdoj.gov).

This application must be submitted through Grants.gov. For technical assistance with submitting the application, call the Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline at 1-800-518-4726.

**Grants.gov Funding Opportunity No. 2007-NIJ-1600**

**SL# 000794**

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# Graduate Research Fellowship 2008

## CFDA No. 16.562

### Overview

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) is the research, development, and evaluation agency of the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and a component of the Office of Justice Programs (OJP). NIJ provides objective, independent, evidence-based knowledge and tools to enhance the administration of justice and public safety. NIJ solicits proposals to inform its search for the knowledge and tools to guide policy and practice.

The Graduate Research Fellowship is an annual NIJ program that provides assistance to universities for dissertation research support to outstanding doctoral students undertaking independent research on issues related to crime and justice. Students from any academic discipline may propose original research that has direct implications for criminal justice in the United States. NIJ encourages a variety of approaches and perspectives in its research programs. NIJ awards these fellowships in an effort to encourage doctoral students to contribute critical and innovative thinking to pressing criminal justice problems.

### Deadline: Registration

Registering with Grants.gov is a one-time process; however, if you are a first time registrant, it could take several weeks to have your registration validated and confirmed and to receive your user password. Start the registration process early to prevent delays that may cause you to miss the application deadline. You must complete these three steps before you are able to register: 1) Register with Central Contractor Registry (CCR), 2) Register yourself as an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR), and 3) Be authorized as an AOR by your organization. For more information, visit [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov). **Note: Your CCR Registration must be renewed once a year. Failure to renew your CCR registration may prohibit submission of a grant application through Grants.gov.**

### Deadline: Application

The due date for applying for funding under this announcement is **November 28, 2007, 11:59 p.m. eastern time.**

### Eligibility

NIJ seeks applications from accredited universities in the United States for support of students who have completed all doctoral degree requirements except the research, writing, and final defense of a dissertation. Although it is not necessary to have formally defended the dissertation prospectus at the time of application, the student's dissertation chair or advisor must submit a statement of support with the application that evaluates

the student's proposed project, describes the current status of the proposed work, outlines any other outstanding work toward completion of the degree, and states the student's potential to successfully complete the dissertation. The statement must also describe the advisor's role in monitoring the project and present evidence of both the department's and the advisor's track record with respect to Ph.D. candidates' completion of their degrees. The statement should also verify that the dissertation research has begun or is about to begin, that the student has the full support of the dissertation committee, that the advisor will review and approve all progress reports, and that the final product will be submitted by the student to NIJ.

Applicant universities must also submit a statement regarding the student's progress in the current program of study and the student's current academic transcript (uploaded with the application) that document current matriculation toward a doctoral degree.

**Faith-Based and Other Community Organizations:** Consistent with President George W. Bush's Executive Order 13279, dated December 12, 2002, and 28 C.F.R. Part 38, it is DOJ policy that faith-based and other community organizations that statutorily qualify as eligible applicants under DOJ programs are invited and encouraged to apply for assistance awards to fund eligible grant activities. Faith-based and other community organizations will be considered for awards on the same basis as other eligible applicants and, if they receive assistance awards, will be treated on an equal basis with all other grantees in the administration of such awards. No eligible applicant or grantee will be discriminated for or against on the basis of its religious character or affiliation, religious name, or the religious composition of its board of directors or persons working in the organization.

Faith-based organizations receiving DOJ assistance awards retain their independence and do not lose or have to modify their religious identity (e.g., removing religious symbols) to receive assistance awards. DOJ grant funds, however, may not be used to fund any inherently religious activity, such as prayer or worship. Inherently religious activity is permissible, although it cannot occur during an activity funded with DOJ grant funds; rather, such religious activity must be separate in time or place from the DOJ-funded program. Further, participation in such activity by individuals receiving services must be voluntary. Programs funded by DOJ are not permitted to discriminate in the provision of services on the basis of a beneficiary's religion.

Applicants are encouraged to review the Civil Rights Compliance section under "Additional Requirements" in this announcement.

## **Specific Information—Graduate Research Fellowship 2008**

The Graduate Research Fellowship is an annual NIJ program that provides assistance to universities for dissertation research to support outstanding doctoral students undertaking independent research on issues in crime and justice that have direct implications for policy and practice in the United States. Students from any academic discipline are encouraged to apply through their university and propose original research that has direct implications for criminal justice at the Federal, State, or local levels. NIJ encourages a variety of approaches and perspectives in its research programs. NIJ

awards these fellowships in an effort to encourage doctoral students to contribute critical and innovative thinking to pressing justice problems.

The subject of the proposed doctoral dissertation should constitute the research for this fellowship. Research must focus on a topic relevant to filling key gaps in scientific knowledge relevant to criminal justice policy and practice, and to the concerns of criminal justice agencies and other agencies focusing on crime and justice problems.

Students will not receive awards directly. Grant awards will be made only to degree-granting educational institutions in the United States. To be eligible to receive and administer a Graduate Research Fellowship grant on behalf of a doctoral candidate, an institution must be fully accredited by one of the regional institutional accreditation commissions recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education. At the conclusion of the grant period, the dissertation must be completed and submitted as a final product.

The official applicant to the Graduate Research Fellowship Program is the sponsoring academic institution; students must contact and seek the assistance of their university office of sponsored research or office of research, grants, and contracts. The university or college office of sponsored research or research office must complete the application and submit it electronically using "Grants.gov." The university applicant must also complete and submit with the application all required accompanying forms such as Assurances, Certifications, Disclosures, and the Privacy Certificate.

**NIJ's current priority topic areas:** NIJ's specific research and evaluation interests are evaluated and revised in response to the needs of the field. Successful applicants should demonstrate how the proposed research advances basic knowledge, practice, or policy in one of these designated areas or should make a compelling case for proposed research in other areas of crime and justice. Both quantitative and qualitative studies are encouraged. Special consideration will be given to applicants who use the most rigorous research methods applicable to their proposed research topic—in particular, experimental or randomized designs—to maximize the validity and reliability of findings.

**Law enforcement/policing:** Research on, or evaluation of—

- Strategies for improving the effectiveness, efficiency, and productivity of police and law enforcement agencies, and for enhancing officer safety, particularly through better use of public/private policing partnerships.
- Procedures and technologies used to collect, analyze, and disseminate information effectively and to facilitate secure and reliable communication.
- Procedures, policies, technologies, and basic knowledge that will maximize the effectiveness of appropriate and lawful police and public safety interventions.
- The characteristics of partnerships between law enforcement agencies and researchers that lead to effective problem-solving, and the relative importance of those characteristics.
- Law enforcement efforts to prevent and prepare for acts of terrorism or mass violence.

**Biometrics:** Research on, or evaluation of biometrics technologies, or novel applications, of biometrics technologies that will:

- Reduce crime.

- Enhance law enforcement and corrections officers' abilities to correctly identify cooperative and noncooperative individuals.
- Secure the identity of individuals in the criminal justice system.

**Justice systems:** Research on, or evaluation of—

- The impact of criminal or juvenile justice system policies, practices, and programs on the community, system, or organization, including the impact of differing sentencing strategies.
- State or local funding structures that affect criminal justice cost effectiveness or cost shifting.
- The “downstream” impact of the policies or practices of one part of the system on another (e.g., the effect of court operations on managing prison populations or the impact of correctional practices on parole and reentry).

**Courts, prosecution, and defense:** Research on, or evaluation of—

- Specialized courts and prosecution strategies.
- Charging and plea bargaining.
- System costs, cost effectiveness, and indirect and opportunity costs of differing criminal justice strategies.
- Court services for litigants and other criminal justice participants who have special needs.
- Community prosecution.
- Criminal justice court systems improvement strategies.
- Information technology applied to the judicial process.
- The effect of introducing new, sophisticated scientific evidence on criminal justice court systems.

**Corrections:** Research on, or evaluation of—

- Safe, secure, and cost-effective management of adult and juvenile offenders in prisons, jails, and community corrections, including special offender populations.
- Causes of violence and strategies for reducing violence, including sexual assault and other misconduct, in prisons and jails.
- Policies and practices for managing high-risk offenders.
- Information technology and other types of technologies (e.g., offender tracking and monitoring technologies) applied to community and institutional corrections.
- Approaches to increasing the cost effectiveness of operations or programs to control system costs.

**Offender programs and treatment:** Research on, or evaluation of, corrections-based treatment and intervention strategies, their effectiveness in influencing offender behaviors, and their impact on operations. This may include studies of substance abuse, sex offending, educational or vocational programs, programs operated by community-based (including faith-based) organizations, and programs designed to encourage successful reentry of offenders into the community.

**Crime prevention and the causes of crime:** Research on, or evaluation of—

- Delinquent or criminal behavior, intervention strategies, and prevention programs.
- Crime prevention in specific situations or environments using physical design, access control strategies, and other technologies.

- Community-based and faith-based programs to preventing crime.
- Deterrence mechanisms that prevent crime.
- Cost-benefit methods that can be applied to crime prevention or control programs or that assess the cost effectiveness of specific crime prevention strategies, programs, and technologies.

**Violence and victimization, including violent crimes:** Research on, or evaluation of—

- Strategies to prevent and intervene in child abuse and neglect, other victimization of children, and youth violence (e.g., teen dating violence or relationship violence, school violence, bullying, hate crime).
- Repeat and series victimization.
- Strategies for understanding and preventing white collar crime, identity theft, and elder fraud.
- Victims of trafficking and services for trafficking victims.
- Crime victim compensation and assistance programs.
- Efforts to reduce community violence.
- Policies and interventions to address crime victims' needs.

**Drugs, alcohol, and crime:** Research on, or evaluation of—

- The relationships between drugs, alcohol, and crime.
- Drug-control policies and initiatives.
- Growth in new and emerging drug markets.
- Disruption of drug markets and drug sales.
- Development of technologies used to test for illicit drugs.

**International crime and justice:** Research on or evaluation of—

- Transnational crime and its impact on the United States at the Federal, State, or local levels (including terrorism, corruption, organized crime, human trafficking, crime arising from the absence of rule of law, cyber crime, and drug trafficking).
- The nature and interaction of the criminal groups involved in these crimes and assessments of the harm they cause.
- Criminal justice responses to transnational crime.

**Evaluation research:** In addition to basic and applied research and program evaluation, NIJ is also interested in improving the quality and use of evaluations through methodological research on cost-benefit analysis, evaluability assessment, and evaluation design pertinent to criminal justice problems. These advances may be proposed as methodology research or as integral parts of an empirical evaluation.

**Forensic DNA:** Research and development of technologies that result in faster, more robust, more informative, less costly, or less labor-intensive identification, collection, preservation, or analysis of DNA evidence collected from crime scenes. Priority will be given to proposals focusing on—

- General improvements to the "front-end" of the forensic DNA analysis process.
- Physical separation of the components of a mixture.
- Body fluid or cell type identification and characterization.

- Identification or characterization of genetic marker systems that have the potential to reveal additional or more powerful information about the source of the biological evidence.
- Improved tools for examining aged, degraded, limited, damaged, inhibited, or otherwise compromised DNA evidence.
- Species differentiation.
- Novel methods for genetic profiling for forensic use.

**General Forensics:** Research and development to enhance methods and tools used to conduct forensic analyses in crime laboratories, including—

- Tools and technologies for identifying, collecting, preserving, and analyzing forensic evidence that is faster, more reliable, widely applicable, rugged, less costly, and less labor intensive.
- Tools that provide a quantitative measure or statistical evaluation of forensic comparisons.
- The identification or characterization of new analytes of forensic importance.

Projects in this topic area must be related to one of the following forensic disciplines:

- Forensic engineering.
- Forensic pathology (including death investigations).
- Forensic odontology.
- Trace evidence.
- Controlled substances.
- Questionable documents.
- Toxicology.
- Impression evidence.

**Operations Research:** Research and development designed to improve the operating efficiency of a criminal justice organization or agency, increase the effectiveness of existing operations, or improve the safety of the personnel involved. Examples include research and development of staff scheduling algorithms; patrol route design to minimize response time; improved record flow to minimize delays and manpower costs; staff training scheduling to minimize overtime; metrics to estimate the utility of technology improvements; algorithms for optimizing ambush routes in fleeing vehicle scenarios and for reducing evacuation times in hazmat accident scenarios; witness canvassing to decrease manpower costs; the effect of false alarms on police operations and policies to reduce time lost; cost savings from introducing biometrics, radio frequency identification, or other tracking systems in prisons and jails; benefits or costs to a law enforcement organization of having some sort of aerial platform—plane, helicopter, or UAV—in conducting law enforcement operations; procedures to comparatively measure the benefit or cost of introducing new technologies into the judicial process; methodologies and training requirements to improve interrogation effectiveness; and survey techniques to provide an accurate estimate of Internet fraud.

**What will *not* be funded:**

1. Provision of training or direct service.
2. Proposals primarily to purchase equipment, materials, or supplies. (Your budget may include these items if they are necessary to conduct applied research, development, demonstration, evaluation, or analysis, but NIJ does not fund proposals that are primarily to purchase equipment.)

3. Work that will be funded under another specific solicitation.
4. Indirect costs.

**Cost of proposed work:** A research grant of up to \$20,000 will be awarded to successful applicants toward costs associated with dissertation research. It is anticipated that up to 10 awards will be made during the year depending upon the availability of funds and the number of high-quality applications. All NIJ awards are subject to the availability of appropriated funds and to any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by law.

A grant made by NIJ under this solicitation may account for up to 100 percent of the total cost of the project. See "Cofunding," under "What an Application Must Include."

## Performance Measures

To assist in fulfilling the Department's responsibilities under the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), P.L. 103-62, applicants who receive funding under this solicitation must provide data that measures the results of their work. Performance measures for this solicitation are as follows:

Objective	Performance Measures	Data Grantee Provides
Develop and analyze information and data having clear implications for criminal justice policy and practice in the United States.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Relevance to the needs of the field as measured by whether the grantee's substantive scope did not deviate from the funded proposal or any subsequent agency modifications to the scope.</li> <li>2. Quality of the research as assessed by peer reviewers.</li> <li>3. Quality of management as measured by whether significant interim project milestones were achieved, final deadlines were met, and costs remained within approved limits.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A final report (doctoral student's dissertation) providing a comprehensive overview of the research project and a detailed description of the research project design, data, and methods; a full presentation of scientific findings; and a thorough discussion of the implications of the research project findings for criminal justice practice and policy.</li> <li>2. Quarterly financial reports, semi-annual progress reports, and a final progress report.</li> </ol>

## How to Apply

DOJ is participating in the e-Government initiative, one of 25 initiatives included in the President's Management Agenda. Part of this initiative—Grants.gov—is a “one-stop storefront” that provides a unified process for all customers of Federal grants to find funding opportunities and apply for funding.

**Grants.gov Instructions:** Complete instructions can be found at [http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get\\_registered.jsp](http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp). If you experience difficulties at any point during this process, please call the Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline at 1–800–518–4726.

**CFDA Number:** The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number for this solicitation is 16.562, titled “**Graduate Research Fellowship 2008**,” and the Grants.gov funding opportunity number is 2007–NIJ–1600.

**A DUNS number is required:** The Office of Management and Budget requires that all businesses and nonprofit applicants for Federal funds include a DUNS (Data Universal Numeric System) number in their application for a new award or renewal of an award. Applications without a DUNS number are incomplete. A DUNS number is a unique nine-digit sequence recognized as the universal standard for identifying and keeping track of entities receiving Federal funds. The identifier is used for tracking purposes and to validate address and point of contact information. The DUNS number will be used throughout the grant life cycle. Obtaining a DUNS number is a free, simple, one-time activity. Obtain one by calling 1–866–705–5711 or by applying online at <http://www.dnb.com/us>. Individuals are exempt from this requirement.

## What an Application Must Include

### Standard Form 424

#### Program Narrative

The Program Narrative includes:

- a. Abstract (not to exceed 400 words).
- b. Table of contents.
- c. Main body, which includes:
  - Purpose, goals, and objectives.
  - Review of relevant literature.
  - Research design and methods.
  - Implications for policy and practice.
  - Dissemination strategy.
- d. Appendixes (not counted against program narrative page limit) include:
  - Bibliography/References (if applicable).
  - List of students' dissertation committee members (required).
  - Résumés of student and advisor (required).
  - Dissertation chair or advisor's statement of support (required).
  - Student's statement of progress (required).
  - Student's academic transcripts (required; see “Eligibility” on page 3).

- Letters of cooperation/support or administrative agreements from organizations collaborating in the project (if applicable).
- Chart for timeline, research calendar, and milestones (required).
- Other materials required by the solicitation.

### **Budget Detail Worksheet**

Templates for filling out the Budget Detail Worksheet may be found online at [http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/Forms/budget\\_fillable.pdf](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/Forms/budget_fillable.pdf), OJP Standard Forms & Instructions. If you have any questions, please contact the Office of the Comptroller's Customer Service Center at 1-800-458-0786.

### **Budget Narrative**

#### **Other Program Attachments**

These include several forms, available on OJP's funding page at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/forms.htm>.

**Page limit:** The program narrative section of your proposal must not exceed 15 double-spaced pages in 12-point font with 1-inch margins. Abstract, table of contents, charts, figures, appendixes, and government forms do not count toward the 15-page limit for the narrative section.

**Cofunding:** A grant made by NIJ under this solicitation may account for up to 100 percent of the total cost of the project. You must indicate whether you believe it is feasible for you to contribute cash, facilities, or services as non-Federal support for the project. Your proposal should identify generally any such contributions that you expect to make and your proposed budget should indicate in detail which items, if any, will be supported with non-Federal contributions.

## **Selection Criteria**

Successful applicants must demonstrate the following:

### **Understanding of the problem and its importance.**

#### **Quality and technical merit.**

1. Awareness of the state of current research or technology.
2. Soundness of methodology and analytic and technical approach.
3. Feasibility of proposed project and awareness of pitfalls.
4. Innovation and creativity (when appropriate).

#### **Impact of the proposed project.**

1. Potential for significant advances in scientific or technical understanding of the problem.
2. Potential for significant advances in the field.
3. Relevance for improving the policy and practice of criminal justice and related agencies and improving public safety, security, and quality of life.
4. Affordability and cost-effectiveness of proposed end products, when applicable (e.g., purchase price and maintenance costs for a new technology or cost of training to use the technology).

5. Perceived potential for commercialization and/or implementation of a new technology (when applicable).

**Capabilities, demonstrated productivity, and experience of applicants.**

1. Qualifications and experience of proposed staff.
2. Demonstrated ability of proposed staff and organization to manage the effort.
3. Adequacy of the plan to manage the project, including how various tasks are subdivided and resources are used.
4. Successful past performance on NIJ grants and contracts (when applicable).

**Budget.**

1. Total cost of the project relative to the perceived benefit.
2. Appropriateness of the budget relative to the level of effort.
3. Use of existing resources to conserve costs.

**Dissemination strategy.**

1. Well-defined plan for the grant recipient to disseminate results to appropriate audiences, including researchers, practitioners, and policymakers.
2. Suggestions for print and electronic products NIJ might develop for practitioners and policymakers.

**Relevance of the project for policy and practice in the United States:**

Higher quality proposals clearly explain the practical implications of the project. They connect technical expertise with criminal justice policy and practice. To ensure that the project has strong relevance for policy and practice, some researchers and technologists collaborate with practitioners and policymakers. You may include letters showing support from practitioners, but they carry less weight than clear evidence that you understand why policymakers and practitioners would benefit from your work and how they would use it. While a partnership may affect State or local activities, it should also have broader implications for others across the country.

## **Review Process**

NIJ is firmly committed to the competitive process in awarding grants. All proposals under this solicitation will be subjected to independent peer-review panel evaluations. External peer-review panelists consider both technical and programmatic merits. Panelists are selected based on their expertise in subject areas pertinent to the proposals.

Peer-review panelists will evaluate proposals using the criteria listed above. NIJ staff then make recommendations to the NIJ Director. The Director makes award decisions.

**Reasons for rejection:** NIJ may reject applications that are incomplete, do not respond to the scope of the solicitation, do not comply with format requirements, or are submitted after the deadline. No additions to the original submission are allowed.

**When awards will be made:** All applicants, whether they are accepted or rejected, will be notified. The review and approval process takes about 6 months. You should not propose to begin work until at least 6 months after the proposal deadline on the cover of

this solicitation. Also, you should not expect to receive notification of a decision for at least 6 months after that date. Lists of awards are updated regularly on NIJ's Web site at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/funding.htm>.

## **Additional Requirements**

- Civil Rights Compliance
- Confidentiality and Human Subjects Protections regulations
- Anti-Lobbying Act
- Financial and Government Audit Requirements
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance
- DOJ Information Technology Standards
- Single Point of Contact Review
- Non-supplanting of State or Local Funds
- Criminal Penalty for False Statements
- Compliance with Office of the Comptroller Financial Guide
- Suspension or Termination of Funding
- Nonprofit Organizations
- Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA)
- Rights in Intellectual Property

We strongly encourage you to review the information pertaining to these additional requirements prior to submitting your application. Additional information for each can be found at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/otherrequirements.htm>.

If your proposal is funded, you will be required to submit several reports and other materials, including:

**Final substantive report:** At the conclusion of the grant period, the final report (i.e., the doctoral dissertation) must be completed and submitted as a final product. It should be a comprehensive overview of the research project and should include a detailed description of the research project design, data, and methods; a full presentation of scientific findings; and a thorough discussion of the implications of the research project findings for criminal justice practice and policy.

For program evaluation studies, the final report (doctoral dissertation) should include a section on measuring program performance. This section should outline the measures used to evaluate program effectiveness, modifications made to those measures as a result of the evaluation, and recommendations regarding these and other potential performance measures for similar programs. (This information will be particularly valuable to NIJ and other Federal program agencies in implementing performance measures for federally funded criminal justice programs.)

**Interim reports:** Grantees must submit quarterly financial reports, semi-annual progress reports, a final progress report, and, if applicable, an annual audit report in accordance with Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133. Future awards and fund drawdowns may be withheld if reports are delinquent.