



JOHN JAY COLLEGE
THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIP IN HOMELAND SECURITY

The Office of Graduate Studies and the Center on Terrorism at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY, are seeking applications for the inaugural Graduate Assistantship in Homeland Security. The assistantship has been made possible by a grant that the College has received from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The objective of the grant is to help prepare Masters students – especially those from underrepresented groups – for careers in DHS or in the broader field of homeland security. Minority students are encouraged to apply. The terms and conditions of the assistantship, as well as details about how to apply and where to seek further information, are set out below.

When will the assistantship run?

Depending on availability, the Graduate Assistant (GA) will commence work some time in October 2008. The assistantship is for one calendar year. (Another assistantship will be advertised next year).

What benefits does the assistantship offer?

The assistantship offers a stipend of \$2300 per month for 12 months. In addition, the assistantship covers the full costs of tuition, as well as fees and health insurance.

Am I eligible?

To be eligible, students must be enrolled in a Masters program at John Jay for the duration of the assistantship period (i.e. October 2008-October 2009) and must maintain good academic standing with a GPA of at least 3.3. Assistantships are limited to US citizens.

What will I do as a GA?

The successful applicant will work *full time* as a research assistant while continuing his or her studies. The GA will work with Professor Charles Jennings (Department of Protection Management) on a project titled "Best Practices and Environmental Factors in Achieving Regional Radio Interoperability." The objective of this project is to develop summary measures of radio system interoperability in metropolitan areas and research will include trip(s) to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in Washington, DC for archival research. The project is described in greater depth in the attachment to this announcement.

How can I apply?

The first step in the application process is to submit a written application. A complete written application comprises:

- A cover letter that describes your suitability for the assistantship and discusses your past research experience (at the undergraduate and graduate levels), including relevant course work or first responder experience;
- A copy of your resume;
- A copy of your transcript (it is not necessary to submit an official transcript, so long as we can see what courses you have taken and your GPA);
- The names and contact details of two people that can provide a recommendation for you by telephone; and
- A short essay (approx. 1,000 words) that describes how this assistantship will help advance your career objectives in the field of homeland security.

After reviewing written applications, the selection committee may request that you attend an interview.

When is the application deadline?

Please submit your written application by noon on Monday, September 22, 2008.

To whom should I submit my application?

Submit a hard copy of your written application to:

Professor Peter Romaniuk
c/- Center on Terrorism
John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY
555 West 57th Street, Suite 604B
New York, NY 10019

Please also submit a copy of your application materials to: HSgradassistant@jjay.cuny.edu

I have further questions. Who should I contact?

Contact Professor Charles Jennings by phone (646-557-4638) or email (cjenning@jjay.cuny.edu).

BEST PRACTICES AND ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS IN ACHIEVING REGIONAL RADIO INTEROPERABILITY

Professor Charles Jennings
Department of Protection Management
John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY

The project would rely on data-based research consisting of site visits, interviews, and analysis of existing data held by DHS to identify models and quantitative measures of key elements of radio interoperability. These measures would integrate existing DHS scorecards and objectives and provide an assessment of minimum numbers of personnel and resources necessary to achieve these objectives.

The project would function on two levels. First, case studies of model programs would be conducted based on recommendations from key industry informants, DHS staff, and a review of literature and DHS documents. One or two researchers would go on site to interview key personnel, gather data, and document successes and challenges with attention to capturing photographs, governance documents, and other examples that would be useful nationally. These case studies would be developed and released, followed by analysis of these data to produce guidance documents on lessons learned, for publication in scholarly outlets, presentation at professional conferences, and distributed through venues such as LLIS.gov.

Second, based on data developed by DHS' interoperability scorecards, NIMS compliance data, and our case studies, we would conduct an empirical study of socioeconomic, organizational, and population data in exemplary systems to reveal information to relate successful programs to underlying institutional and organizational environment. Using geographic information systems and statistical analytic methods, we would develop preliminary analytic associations between radio interoperability and the local environment. This work would culminate in a scholarly publication.

The final phase would be recommendations for new grant programs and measures for assessing the effectiveness of federal funding in achieving national objectives.

The GA will conduct field research and assist in writing case studies, and provide research support for Phase II of the project.