



CUNY Institute for State and Local Governance
10 East 34th Street, 5th Floor
New York, NY 10016

Job Announcement

Job Title:	Research Assistant
Job ID:	
Location:	New York City
Full/Part Time:	Part-Time
Regular/Temporary:	Temporary
Salary Range:	\$30 per hour

CUNY Institute for State and Local Governance (ISLG): Overview

ISLG is an institute within the City University of New York (CUNY). The Institute's mission is to help improve the financing, delivery, and measurement of critical public services by assisting current and future leaders in government, non-profit organizations, and the private sector, in the U.S. and internationally, by offering research, technical assistance, and education and training.

Project Description

The Institute is hiring a team of Research Assistants to provide support for a research project on police practices in New York City, which ISLG is conducting for the federal judge and court-appointed Monitor overseeing the remedial process of stop-and-frisk class action litigation. The project involves conducting systematic social observations (SSOs) of New York Police Department (NYPD) encounters with citizens; coding body-worn camera (BWC) footage of a subset of NYPD shifts and encounters; and analyzing these and other sources of data. It will be carried out in close collaboration with the NYPD, a larger evaluation team, and other City stakeholders. Research Assistants are expected to work from approximately late March 2020 through the summer of 2020. The majority of the work will be completed over the summer months. There will be an opportunity to continue working on the project in the fall of 2020.

Position Description

Research Assistants will be responsible for conducting SSOs of NYPD officers on patrol and coding BWC footage. To conduct the SSOs, the Research Assistants will go on police ride-alongs and carefully document required information about police-citizen interactions. The project will have three distinct phases for Research Assistants. In the spring, students will attend training sessions on conducting SSOs and participate in practice ride-alongs (all paid). In the summer, they will conduct the SSOs and document findings both through coded instruments and by writing a detailed narrative of their observations. Research Assistants will work closely with the Quality Control Supervisors to refine accuracy and completeness of SSOs. In the fall, some students will be involved in the coding of BWC footage collected over the summer for a range of details about police-citizen encounters. This work, which will be conducted in ISLG office space, can be part-time, with flexible schedules, during typical office hours.

This is an exceptional opportunity to contribute to a unique and important project with clear policy implications for law enforcement in New York City and across the country. The project is situated within ISLG's larger portfolio of criminal justice work, which aims to improve efficiency and fairness in criminal justice policies and practices.

Qualifications:

- PhD candidate or highly qualified MA student at the CUNY Graduate Center.
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0.
- Strong attention to detail, with an ability to process and document a range of information in real-time.
- Excellent writing skills.
- Ability to objectively observe officers in the field, including separating personal views from observations in both the narrative and interactions with officers.
- An ability to adapt to and remain composed in various situations that may arise in the field (including those that are highly charged or volatile).
- Strong preference for students who are bilingual in English and Spanish and/or who reside or grew up in heavily policed communities.
- Experience collecting SSO, conducting fieldwork, or other knowledge and/or experience using qualitative social science methods is a plus.
- Authorization to work in the United States.

Requirements:

- Ability to attend approximately 40-50 hours of training in late March or early April.
- Ability to commit 30-50 hours for the pilot testing in April and May.
- Ability to commit 150-300 hours during the SSO phase in June, July, and August across either two shifts per week or four shifts per week. Each shift is approximately eight hours and shifts need to be worked in units of two consecutive days.
- A flexible schedule that allows for working a variety of day, evening, and night police shifts during the summer and occasionally during the spring.
- Ability to travel across the five boroughs during the SSO phase.

The position is part-time and temporary. It is located in New York City. Salary: \$30 an hour. Travel costs will be reimbursed. For more information about ISLG, please visit www.islg.cuny.edu.

How to Apply

To apply, please submit a letter of interest (not more than two pages) describing your qualifications and interests, attach your curriculum vitae, academic transcript, and the names and contact information for three references to: engagement@gc.cuny.edu.

An information session about this opportunity will be hosted at the Graduate Center on Friday, January 31, 2020 from 3-5pm. Please RSVP to engagement@gc.cuny.edu to receive room details.

Application review will commence immediately and continue until the positions are filled. Priority will be given to applications received by **February 5, 2020**.

Questions can be addressed to Rachel Sponzo: RSponzo@gc.cuny.edu.

The CUNY Institute for State and Local Governance and the Research Foundation of the City University of New York are Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity/Americans with Disabilities Act/Protected Veterans Status/ E-Verify Employers.