



2021-22 Junior Scholar Intensive Training (JSIT) Cohort

Call for Applications – Due February 5, 2021

JSIT Summer Workshop: June 14 – 18, 2021

JSIT Fall Workshop: August 30 – 31, 2021

JSIT Overview

Howard University's [Center on Race and Wealth \(CRW\)](#) and the [Center for Financial Security \(CFS\)](#) at the University of Wisconsin–Madison seek applications for the 2021-22 Junior Scholar Intensive Training (JSIT) Cohort. The JSIT program centers around the Summer Workshop, a week-long intensive event held in June. Please note that we are planning a virtual event for June 2021, but this is subject to change.

JSIT brings together scholars from a variety of disciplines, including junior faculty (non-tenured), newly graduated PhD researchers, and dissertators, who are interested in topics related to disability and retirement research. The goal of JSIT is to provide emerging scholars with training and mentoring to develop research ideas and to write an initial research proposal of relevance to the Social Security Administration, their programs, policies, and/or beneficiaries. JSIT scholars present their initial research idea at the Summer Workshop; receive peer and mentor feedback; continue to refine it over the summer; and present an updated project idea at the Fall Workshop. These proposals can then be entered into the JSIT Research Competition, which awards five scholars \$5,000 to complete their JSIT research.

The Summer Workshop is an interactive training that includes group and individual work, as well as seminar style presentations. Each JSIT scholar will be paired with a mentor who will support and guide the development of the scholar's research proposal. Workshop topics will include:

- Formulating and refining research questions and hypotheses related to SSA programs, beneficiaries, and their intersecting retirement or disability issues
- Identifying data sources and working with public data sets
- Strategies for working with and without administrative data
- Understanding the proposal development process
- Communicating and translating research
- Getting the most out of a mentor relationship

The [2020 Summer Workshop agenda](#) shows the variety of presenters, topics and speakers that fill the week. This interdisciplinary training is led by CFS Faculty, a group of exceptional mentors, and experts in datasets that are relevant to the retirement and disability research community.

JSIT Mentors

Mentoring is a key component to the JSIT program. While most concentrated during the summer months, mentoring is provided year round. Each scholar is paired with their main JSIT mentor who



guides the scholar through their proposal development process, which is bookended by scholar presentations at the summer and fall workshops. Prior JSIT mentors have been:

- [Fenaba Addo](#), Consumer Science, UW-Madison
- [Marah Curtis](#), School of Social Work, UW-Madison
- [Manasi Deshpande](#), Economics, University of Chicago
- [Bradley Hardy](#), Public Administration and Policy, American University
- [Damon Jones](#), Harris School of Public Policy, University of Chicago
- [Victoria Perez](#), School of Public and Environmental Affairs, Indiana University

Further, JSIT scholars have received mentoring from CFS faculty mentors:

- [J. Michael Collins](#), Consumer & Personal Finance, UW-Madison
- [Mary Hamman](#), Economics, UW-La Crosse
- [Rourke O'Brien](#), Sociology, Yale University
- [Justin Sydnor](#), Risk Management & Insurance, UW-Madison

JSIT Application

Submit your application online [here](#) by 11:59 PST on February 5, 2021. We are looking for a diversity of scholars, disciplines, institutions and methods. Both quantitative and qualitative research is of interest, though scholars should have appropriate methodological training to conduct an independent research project, and detail their analytic training in the application. Applicants should describe their research interests and how they align to [SSA research focal areas](#).

Applications will be reviewed and scored by staff from CRW and CFS. Successful applicants will have two weeks to accept their spot in the JSIT 2021 cohort, as space is limited. Training, course materials, travel, lodging, meals and incidentals (if applicable) will be covered. For full consideration, submit your application by 11:59pm PST on February 5, 2021.

JSIT Timeline

Application Deadline	February 5, 2021
Notification	March 12, 2021
Acceptance Deadline	March 26, 2021
Mentor Matching and Logistics	April – May 2021
Summer Workshop	June 14-18, 2021
Fall Workshop	August 30-31, 2021

Contact Information

For more information, please visit the [JSIT event page](#), or contact Amy Marsman, CFS Outreach Specialist at marsman@wisc.edu.

JSIT is supported by the Social Security Administration's [Retirement and Disability Research Consortium](#). Visit CFS' [RDRC Research](#) page for the variety of research topics funded in 2019, 2020 and 2021, and SSA's [RDRC page](#) for details on their focal areas. Further details on JSIT, can be found on the [RDRC Training](#) page.