



National Consortium for the
Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism

A CENTER OF EXCELLENCE OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY BASED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

Counter Measures against Extremism and Terrorism (CoMET) Database

Summer 2011 Research Opportunities

PROJECT SUMMARY

CoMET is part of a multi-year project that uses quantitative coding of open sources to primarily assess the effect and effectiveness of specific countermeasures in response to five specific terrorist groups/movements: Animal Liberation Front/Earth Liberation Front (ALF/ELF), Anti-Abortion Terrorists (AAT), Armed Forces of National Liberation in Puerto Rico (FALN), Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), and homegrown Islamist terrorists in the United Kingdom (UKJ).

POSITION SUMMARIES

Undergraduate and Graduate Internships

The CoMET project is accepting applications for multiple summer 2011 internship positions. These are hourly appointments, funded through a grant from the Department of Homeland Security.

This project seeks graduates or undergraduates with exceptional academic records to primarily identify and review open sources on counterterrorism measures and quantitatively code these measures using an existing codebook. In addition, interns will participate in regular project meetings to assess the project's direction and suggest improvements for refining analysis and outputs. Finally, interns will have the option to work on an independent research project under the direction of CoMET's senior researcher and lead faculty investigator.

The hourly rate of pay for these positions is \$10-12/hour, depending on the qualifications and previous experience of the applicant. Course credit also is available.

Qualifications

Required:

- At least 18 hours of coursework in social sciences, with a 3.0 GPA
- Ability to commit to working at least 20 hours/week (and up to 40 hours/week maximum) at the START Center at the University of Maryland campus

Desirable:

- Academic background in terrorism studies, crisis management or related field
- Previous research and/or coding experience and/or research methods coursework

- Foreign language capacity in Arabic or Spanish
- Regional expertise/knowledge for the groups covered in the project
- Ability to continue working during Fall 2011

Graduate Research Assistants (GRAs)

The CoMET project is accepting applications for two summer GRAs. These are hourly appointments, funded through a grant from the Department of Homeland Security.

This project seeks M.A. or Ph.D. students with exceptional academic records to assist with project management, coding, data analysis, and report writing. The GRAs also will have the opportunity to work on an independent research project under the direction of the senior researcher and lead faculty investigator.

The hourly rate of pay for these positions is \$15-20/hour, depending on the qualifications and previous experience of the applicant. Course credit also is available.

Qualifications

Required:

- At least one year of graduate school completed, with a 3.5 GPA
- Coursework in research methods and quantitative data analysis
- Academic background in terrorism studies, crisis management or related field
- Ability to commit to working 40 hours/week at least partially at the START Center

Desirable:

- Experience working as part of a large research team
- Project management experience
- Foreign language capacity in Arabic or Spanish
- Regional expertise/knowledge for the groups covered in the project

HOW TO APPLY

For best consideration, submit a letter of application, undergraduate and/or graduate transcripts, resume, and contact information for three references by March 14, 2011. Application materials should be emailed to lead faculty investigator Dr. Brooke Liu at bfliu@umd.edu and senior researcher Jonathan Kennedy at jkennedy@start.umd.edu. Graduate students are encouraged to apply for both positions if interested.