

# Mackenzie C. Niness

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## EDUCATION

### University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware

2022-2028  
PhD Criminology  
*National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow*  
*NCAA Walter Byers Scholar*

### Hogeschool van Amsterdam (University of Applied Sciences), Amsterdam, Netherlands

2018-2019  
School of Primary and Secondary Education  
*Visiting Fulbright Researcher*

### Villanova University, Villanova, PA

2014-2018  
B.A. Criminology and Sociology; Concentration: Peace and Justice  
*Summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa*

### University of Bristol, Bristol, UK

Summer 2016  
US-UK Fulbright Summer Institute  
*Course of Study: The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade; Final Project: Convict Labor*

## AREAS OF INTEREST

Prison and Corrections, Reentry, Post-secondary Correctional Education (PSCE), Gender, Program Evaluation, Queer and Feminist Criminology, Convict Criminology, Mixed-Method Research, Participatory Action Research

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Teaching Positions

- Fall 2022      **Graduate Teaching Assistant to Dr. Ben Fleury-Steiner** | University of Delaware  
*Introduction to Criminal Justice* (CRJU110, undergraduate level)  
*Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program at Howard R. Young Correctional Institution* (CRJU452, undergraduate level)
- 2018-2019      **Fulbright English Teaching Assistant** | *MBO College Centrum, Netherlands*
- Collaborated with English teachers to create dynamic, skills-focused curriculum and activities to accelerate students' English acquisition.
  - Worked jointly with the Internationalization Coordinator to build the cultural capacity of educators and program managers by providing professional development, to evaluate the cultural relevance of programs, and to advocate for international/ marginalized students.
  - Planned events for the internationalization department including 'International Day' showcasing the cultures of various refugee and immigrant populations within the Netherlands.
  - Research Project: Conducted a needs analysis and practical overview for a vocational program at the College. Collected qualitative data through focus groups and surveys to enhance participant experience in the program.
- Fall 2017      **Undergraduate Teaching Assistant to Dr. Kelly Welch** | *Villanova University*  
*Race, Crime, and Justice* (CRM-3900, undergraduate level)
- 2015-2018      **Student Athlete Tutor** | *Villanova Athletics*  
Topics: Sociology, Criminology, Statistics, English, and Philosophy

## **Criminal Justice Field Experience**

- 2016-2018                    **Volunteer Literacy Tutor** | *State Correctional Institution at Graterford, Graterford, PA*  
Topics: English, Math, History, and Reading
- Summer 2017                **Case Manager Intern** | *George W. Hill Correctional Facility, Glen Mills, PA*  
Legal compliance and reentry work

## **Education Access Experience**

- 2020-2022                    **Career and Alumni Program Associate** | *The Posse Foundation, New York, New York*
- Manage ~100 informal relationships between the Career Program and external constituents, while also expanding both national and local career partnerships with industry leading corporations and organizations.
  - Planned, in collaboration with the national career team, the first ever virtual Alumni Conference in 2020, which saw a 70.5% attendance rate of registered alumni. In 2021, I expanded our reach by implementing a new virtual platform, hosting 600 participants over two days.
  - Facilitate programming and professional development workshops for 14 Career Program Managers, with a focus on building their capacity for Salesforce and problem-solving.
  - Administer an annual internal leadership award process, which distributes over \$200,000 to our Scholars, ensuring the accuracy and efficiency of the program with a newly developed evaluation system.
  - Lead team in system creation for better data collection and analysis, and for more efficient application and nomination processes.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

- Niness, M. (2019). Improving English spoken production and instruction on the job. *UNED (U.S./Nederland) Symposium, Hogeschool van Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands.*
- Niness, M. (2018). A Letter To My Ignorant (But Working on it) Self. *Gender and Women's Studies Student Research Conference, Villanova University, PA.*
- Niness, M. (2018). Money Still Matters: Why Students Enroll in ROTC Programs. *Mid-Atlantic Undergraduate Social Research Conference, Villanova University, PA.*
- Niness, M. (2016). Convict Labor. *Final Project Presentation, US-UK Fulbright Commission UK Summer Institute, University of Bristol, Bristol, UK.*

## **AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

- 2022                            **Graduate Research Fellowship (GRFP)** | National Science Foundation  
5 years fellowship providing 3 years of financial support for graduate level research in STEM.
- 2022                            **Walter Byer's Scholarship** | National Collegiate Athletic Association  
2 year scholarship in support of graduate level study and research for former NCAA student-athletes.
- 2019                            **10 Under 10 Young Alumni Recognition** | Notre Dame Academy High School

- 2018-2019 **U.S. Department of State Fulbright Student Fellow** | The Netherlands, Graduate Level Research and English Teaching Assistantship (ETA)
- 2018 **Edwin Sutherland Medallion for Academic Excellence in Criminology** | Villanova CLAS
- 2018 **Joseph Betz Solidarity Award** | Villanova University's Peace and Justice Department
- 2018 **Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges** | Villanova University, PA
- 2016 **US-UK Fulbright Summer Institute Grantee** | University of Bristol, Bristol, UK
- 2014-2018 **Undergraduate Athletics Scholarship** | Women's D1 Swimming and Diving, Villanova Athletics
- 2014-2018 **Dean's List** | Villanova University
- 2016-2018 **Academic All Star** | Big East Conference
- 2016-2018 **Swimming & Diving Academic All-Area Team** | Philadelphia Inquirer
- 2016, 2017 **Team Academic Award** | Women's D1 Swimming and Diving, Villanova Athletics

## SERVICE

- 2022- Present **Student Athlete Mentor** | Villanova Athletics
- 2020- Present **Dynamic Assessment Process (DAP) Volunteer** | The Posse Foundation
- 2020-2021 **Volunteer** | Philadelphia Justice Project for Women and Girls
- 2018-2019 **Global Lens Classroom Traveler and Editor** | Reach the World, Volunteer from the Netherlands
- 2015-2018 **Senior Committee President (2018)** | Martin Luther King Junior Day of Service Committee, Villanova  
*2016 – Junior Committee Co-Chair for Let's Move Camp, 2017 – Junior Committee President*  
*Committee Recognition: 2018 Advocacy Award, First Annual Leadership Recognition Ceremony*

## AFFILIATIONS AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- American Society of Criminology (ASC) – Member since 2021
- Correctional Education Association (CEA) – Member since 2021
- Phi Beta Kappa (PBK) – Member since 2018

## COMMITTEE/COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

- 2022-2025 **Young Alumni Advisory Council**, Villanova University  
 Council Member
- 2022-2028 **Graduate Council**, Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice, University of Delaware  
 Council Member
- 2017-2018 **Athletics Advisory Committee**, Villanova University  
*One of two student-athlete representatives*

## **CERTIFICATIONS AND TRAINING**

**Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI Program) Human Subjects Protections - Social-Behavioral-Educational Focus Course, September 2022**

**Multiday Professional Development and Grant-Writing Workshop, Summer 2021**

Intensive training in the theory and practice of research project design, grant development, and writing successful grant and fellowship proposals. Detailed training on NSF review criteria, Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts

## **SKILLS**

Google Suite; Microsoft Office Suite; RingCentral and Zoom; Salesforce; SPSS; Mailchimp; SurveyMonkey; Eventbrite; Research; Program Management; Copy Editing and Writing; Multitasking; Curriculum Development