

WHY CHOOSE A GRADUATE PROGRAM IN INTELLIGENCE ANALYSIS?

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Ed Kodis, Erin Schlosser, and Jennifer Johnstone are all full-time intelligence analysts.

They're also enrolled in an online graduate certificate program at the Justice Institute of British Columbia (JIBC) – 5 courses, 13 weeks each, focusing on Intelligence Analysis or Tactical Criminal Intelligence. They're already busy raising young children, running half marathons, or serving as president of IALEIA. So why did they take on the additional challenge of a graduate program?

Quite simply, they are passionate about what they do and want to do it even better. No matter the level of experience or the depth of skill, analysts may not always have academic training in intelligence. Or perhaps there are limited training opportunities at work. In either case, online graduate programs provide flexible, in-depth learning from a broader perspective than that of any single agency.

Skills, Connections, and Self-Confidence

Whether you're a rookie analyst or a veteran, a graduate program in intelligence can help you hone your baseline skills and develop additional ones, make new connections, and increase self-confidence.

A major benefit for Ed Kodis, Intelligence Analyst in the Intelligence Assessment Unit of the Ontario Ministry of Finance, was learning how to write better intelligence reports.

Jennifer Johnstone, President of IALEIA and an Analyst with the RCMP, admits candidly that "despite more than 20 years in the field, I was unaware of some of the recent advancements in analytical methodology." Along with experience using a range of structured techniques, she also "gained a better understanding of the relationship between practitioners and academics, and how that partnership can make analysis better."

From the Advanced Analytical Techniques course, "I learned of methods I had never heard of before which has given me new ideas for tackling problems", says Erin Schlosser, Intelligence Analyst with the Canada Border Services Agency. She also enjoyed the "excellent reference materials" and free analytic software tools.

Gary Freeburn, Investigator in the Consumer Affairs Division of Service Alberta, states, "I've made great contacts and have had the opportunity to learn from enthusiastic instructors who know this field. I feel more confident in my abilities to conduct and present intelligence analysis."



Considering a graduate program?

- If you're thinking about a graduate program in intelligence, carefully research which school and program best meets your needs. For example:
- Do the required and elective courses cover what you're most interested in learning?
- To what extent do the courses require you to apply knowledge and skills?
- Does the program offer credit for prior learning?
- If it's a graduate certificate program, can the courses count towards an M.Sc. in Applied Intelligence if you later choose to pursue an M.Sc.?

One more tip: speaking with current and former students is a great way to learn what the courses and instructors are like.

Succeeding in an online graduate program

Time management and hard work are extremely important. Johnstone advises scheduling timeslots for school and, if possible, working ahead. Freeburn stresses that "What you get out of the program is what you put in. Get involved in the online group discussions, politely challenge others' ideas and opinions, ask questions and take advantage of the opportunities available." You have a lot to offer fellow students and the more you engage in a course, the richer the experience will be for everyone.

Dr. Alexandra Luce is a Research Associate and Adjunct Instructor at JIBC, an accredited postsecondary institution with the mandate of providing training and education to justice and public safety professionals. Feel free to email her: dr_luce@yahoo.com. For more information about JIBC's graduate programs in Intelligence Analysis and Tactical Criminal Analysis, see <http://jibc.ca/programs-courses/graduate-studies>

GST IntelNexus™

System Overview

GST IntelNexus™, developed by GeoSpatial Technologies, Inc. (GST), is an advanced intelligence database management system designed specifically for law enforcement agencies to collect, organize, maintain, and analyze sensitive information about individuals, organizations and their activities.

The system enables authorized users to create programs and reports pertaining to subjects, events, and organizations. Authorized users may easily and effectively search and retrieve specific sets of information from the database to create new reports or edit existing ones.

A built-in security mechanism requires the approval of system administrators for any new or edited reports to be accepted into the database. The system administrator may audit detailed end-user activities in retrieving information from the database at any time. When a report file nears its required purging date, e-mail notifications are automatically generated to alert the designated personnel.

Files of any type can be attached to reports and stored securely in the database for quick retrieval. Location mapping is supported with an add-on module utilizing either Microsoft® Bing Maps with national map coverage, or an agency's own GIS data with detailed local information. The mapping module enables the user to validate any address and plot its location on the map. The spatial searching features enable the user to validate any address and find all the subjects, events, and organizations within a specified distance. IntelNexus™ databases can also be linked to GST CrimeMap to utilize its powerful functionality in crime analysis.

Key Features

- **Quick Summary and Detailed Reports** - Search for specific information fast and effectively
- **User-editable Fields** - Administrators may add new options to critical information tables
- **Well-Defined User Roles** - General and administrative access privileges strictly enforced
- **Secured Database** - Sensitive intelligence information kept confidential and secured
- **Extensive Database Searching Tools** - Conduct investigations extensively and thoroughly
- **Report Status Assignment** - Automatically assign permanent or temporary report status per CFR 28 regulations
- **Automatic Notification of Pending Purges** - Administrators may purge or extend a pending report
- **File Attachment** - Pictures of subjects, vehicles, buildings, events, can be incorporated
- **Subject-to-Subject Associating** - Identify individuals associated with any subject quickly
- **Audit Report** - Administrators may audit user activities to maintain accountability and ensure data confidentiality
- **Linkage to GST CrimeMap** - Utilize its full-range of crime mapping and analysis tools
- **Location Mapping Add-on Module** - Geocode and validate addresses on Microsoft® national maps or local GIS maps
- **Spatial Search** - Identify subjects, organizations, and events within a distance from any location

System Requirements

Server:

- OS: Windows® Server 2008 or newer
- Database: Microsoft® SQL Server 2008 R2/SQL Server 2012 (unlimited size), or Microsoft® SQL Express 2008/SQL Express 2012 (10 GB database size limitation)
- Database Disk Space: 120 GB or more recommended

Workstation:

- OS: Windows® Vista / Windows 7
- Public Internet access (only required if using Microsoft® BING Maps for Location mapping)
- SMTP Server access for e-mail notifications
- Other: Network accessible storage



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