

# JASON BLESSING, PH.D.

Washington, DC Metro Area

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## SUMMARY

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Cleared expert in cyber strategy, foreign and defense policy, transatlantic security, and research methods with Active Top Secret clearance. Experienced in managing research, funding, clients, and junior staff. Adept in conveying technical ideas to expert and non-expert stakeholders. Seeking to apply skillset in complex environments with unstructured problems.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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**Research Fellow** | Potomac Institute for Policy Studies | Arlington, VA | NOV 2025 – Present

- Expand institutional influence over defense policy, diplomatic readiness, and corporate agendas through independent research, speaking engagements, and expert commentary across media outlets.
- Direct diverse research teams, manage consultants, and mentor junior staff on \$1+ million budget projects.
- Lead strategic business development with existing and potential clients, including inaugural donations campaign.

**Research Analyst** | Potomac Institute for Policy Studies | Arlington, VA | NOV 2023 – OCT 2025

- Enhanced project execution, client engagement, and business outreach with independent and collaborative research.
- Advocated and implemented standardized research methodologies and workflows across institute projects.
- Elevated organizational brand with expert commentary across media for subject matter specialists and generalists.

**Jeane Kirkpatrick Visiting Research Fellow** | American Enterprise Institute | Washington, DC | JUL 2021 – OCT 2023

- Influenced legislation and executive policy by designing, conducting, and briefing high-impact research.
- Shaped public debate with expert commentary across niche and national media for specialists and generalists.

**Consulting Fellow** | International Institute for Strategic Studies | Washington, DC | FEB 2021 – DEC 2022

- Pioneered qualitative analysis of strategic, institutional, and capability maturity for militaries operating in cyberspace.
- Created innovative methodology and quantitative measurements for net assessment of military cyber forces.

**Post-Doctoral Fellow** | Johns Hopkins SAIS | Washington, DC | SEP 2020 – JUN 2022

- Designed and conducted research on defense politics, cybersecurity, and NATO.
- Proactively engaged with practitioners and scholars on future of transatlantic relations.

**Peace & Security Scholar** | United States Institute of Peace | Washington, DC | SEP 2019 – AUG 2020

- Completed dissertation travel and research on military cyber commands with joint funding from US DoD and USIP.
- Refined oral briefing skills through professional development workshops.

**Graduate Teaching Assistant** | Syracuse University | Syracuse, NY | AUG 2015 – AUG 2019

- Aided curriculum, instruction, and performance assessment for classes of 25-300 students.
- Managed discussions and enabled achievement of learning outcomes for diverse individuals.

**Graduate Research Assistant** | Qualitative Data Repository | Syracuse, NY | MAY 2018 – AUG 2018

- Catalogued and curated research documents; reduced processing time by streamlining workflows into new manual.
- Expanded outreach and acquisition initiatives by compiling institutional lists and contacting prospective clients.

**Fraud Operations Analyst** | E\*TRADE Financial Corporation | Alpharetta, GA | MAY 2014 – JUL 2015

- Identified and resolved fraud cases by leveraging technical compromise data, behavioral patterns, financial regulatory expertise, and cybersecurity experience as Series 99, Series 63, and Series 7 licensed operator.
- Mitigated corporate risk and losses through remediation measures for high-value exposures (clients over \$1 million).

## EDUCATION

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**PhD | Political Science** | Maxwell School at Syracuse University | Syracuse, NY | AUG 2020 | GPA: 3.95/4.0

**MA | Political Science** | Virginia Tech | Blacksburg, VA | MAY 2013 | GPA: 4.0/4.0

**BA | Government** | College of William and Mary | Williamsburg, VA | MAY 2011 | GPA: 3.04/4.0

**SKILLS**

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*Proficient:* CRM, STATA, ATLAS.ti, Zotero, MS Office Suite, Google Drive, Dropbox

*Language Fluency:* English (Native), Portuguese (Limited Working), Spanish (Limited Working)