

National Science Foundation

IRFP Host Survey

This survey is being conducted by Abt Associates Inc. for the National Science Foundation (NSF), to learn about the graduate experiences, career choices, and professional activities of individuals who participated in NSF's International Research Fellowship Program (IRFP). You are receiving this survey because you are listed in the IRFP database as a host of an IRFP fellow.

Confidentiality and Participation

Participation in the survey is voluntary and nonparticipation will have no impact on you or your institution. You may skip questions on the survey or discontinue participation at any time. Your responses to this survey will be protected under the Privacy Act. There is minimal risk of breach of confidentiality, and we have put in place procedures in place to minimize this risk. You will never be identified by name, and information from the study will only be reported in the aggregate at the program level, combined with about 250 other responses.

Completing the Survey

We estimate that it will take approximately 15 minutes to complete the survey. If you have questions about the study, please contact the study director, Alina Martinez of Abt Associates Inc. at (866) 421-6223 or email her at IRFP_survey@abtassoc.com. You may also contact the evaluation's program officer at NSF, John Tsapogas (jtsapoga@nsf.gov). If you have questions about your rights as a research participant, you may contact Teresa Doksum, the Abt Institutional Review Board Administrator at (877)520-6835.

To learn more about this study, please refer to the **Frequently Asked Questions** page.

Consent

Please continue with the survey if you agree to participate in this study.

[Note for reviewers: This survey will be programmed for on-line administration. The formatting of items may appear differently on-line.]

Notes in brown are for programming purposes.

Some questions will be received by specific groups of individuals only. These skip patterns are indicated throughout the survey. For the paper version, we have included these skip patterns in text. These will be programmed into the online version.

There are places throughout the survey where Institution, year, name etc. will be filled into the question or instruction text using a sample file.

We now would like to ask you about your experiences with the program. Please respond to the best of your recollection.

IRFP Foreign Hosts

Module A: Basic Information

- A1. Based on the NSF IRFP database, your name is [First Name, Middle Name/initial, Last Name]. Is this information correct? *Mark one answer*
- Yes, my name is correct.
 - No, my name has changed or is misspelled above. My name is: [Textbox]
 - No, I am not the person named above. I believe you have reached me by mistake.
- A2. Based on the NSF IRFP database, you hosted an IRFP fellow named [Fellow name]. Is this information correct? *Mark one answer*
- Yes, the fellow's name is correct.
 - No, the fellow's name is incorrect. The correct name is: [Textbox]
 - I never participated in the IRFP program. **EXIT SURVEY.**
- A3. Based on the NSF IRFP database, you hosted [Fellow name] in [Year of IRFP experience]. Is this information correct? *Mark one answer*
- Yes, the year is correct.
 - No, the year is incorrect. The correct year is: [Textbox]
- A4. Based on the NSF IRFP database, you hosted [Fellow name] at [Name of institution]. Is this information correct? *Mark one answer*
- Yes, the institution is correct.
 - No, the institution is incorrect. The correct institution is: [Textbox]
- A5. Before hosting [Fellow Name] in [Year of IRFP], had you ever before hosted a visiting researcher from the United States?
- Yes, I had hosted another IRFP Fellow previously
 - Yes, but the individual(s) was not sponsored by the IRFP program
 - No, I had never before hosted a visiting researcher from the United States

The remaining items on this survey refer to the IRFP Fellow named above [Fellow name] and (or) to the period of time during which you hosted this individual at your institution [Year of IRFP experience]. If you have hosted more than one IRFP Fellow, please answer items on this survey with respect to [Fellow name], who you hosted beginning in [Year of IRFP experience].

- A6. As of [reference week] are you working at [Name of institution], the institution where you worked when you hosted this IRFP Fellow
- Yes, I currently work at the same institution
 - No, I no longer work there. I am now working at (please tell us the name of your current employer, university, or company: [Textbox])

A7. Have you increased your collaboration with U.S. researchers as a result of your participation in the IRFP?

- Yes
- No

A8. Prior to hosting to this IRFP fellow, had you visited the United States for training or other professional purposes? *Check all that apply*

- Yes, I was an undergraduate student in the United States
- Yes, I was a graduate student in the United States
- Yes, I was a postdoc in the United States
- Yes, I was a visiting scientist in the United States
- Yes, I was a faculty member in the United States
- Yes, I came to the United States to attend a conference, a workshop, or a meeting
- Other. Please specify: [Textbox]
- No, I have not visited the United States for any professional purposes

A9. Did you know [Fellow Name] or one of his/her colleagues before you hosted this IRFP Fellow?

- Yes
- No

A10. Which of the following characterizes your department (or research unit within your institute)? *Check all that apply.*

- My department (or research unit) encourages international collaborations
- Faculty (or employees) in my department (or institution) are rewarded for developing international research partnerships
- My department (or research unit) provides financial support to faculty (or employees) pursuing international collaborations
- My department (or research unit) promotes (that is, advertises) fellowships and other opportunities for researchers in my country to conduct research in another country
- My department (or research unit) hosts foreign researchers visiting my institution for research-related purposes
- None of the above

Module B: Participation Decision and Goals

B1. How did you first learn about the IRFP program? *Mark one answer*

- From the IRFP fellow I hosted
- From the IRFP fellow's PhD (doctoral) advisor
- From another faculty member at the IRFP fellow's institution in the United States
- From an administrator at the IRFP fellow's institution
- From the United States' National Science Foundation (NSF) web site, printed publication, or presentation
- From a faculty member (or colleague) at my institution
- From an administrator at my institution
- From a colleague at an institution other than where I work
- Other. Please specify: [Textbox]

B2. Why did you decide to host this IRFP fellow? *Check all that apply*

- I was interested in the project proposed by the Fellow
- I was interested in establishing or maintaining collaboration with a US researcher
- I personally knew, knew of, or previously collaborated with the fellow
- I personally knew, knew of, or previously collaborated with the fellow's advisor
- I personally knew, knew of, or previously collaborated with researchers at the fellow's institution
- I had a positive experience with the program in the past
- I had a positive experience with another international program
- To create an international environment in my research group
- To attract students/postdocs to my research
- To learn new methodologies, approaches, or tools from the fellow
- My research area is particularly suitable for collaboration
- Other: [Textbox]

Module C: Program Experience

C1. Who was primarily involved in the following activities related to the research on which you and the IRFP Fellow worked?

	Mostly the fellow independently	Mostly me or members of my group	The fellow and I were equally involved	Not applicable (this activity was not part of the research)
Developing the ideas, hypotheses, broad framework, or vision for the research project				
Researching literature or research base relevant to the project				
Keeping records, tracking supplies, resources,				
Developing instrumentation, software, equipment, or data collection processes				
Collecting data or carrying out simulations				
Analyzing data or observations				
Interpreting results				
Planning or developing follow-up work based on results				
Written, oral dissemination of results (publications, presentations)				

C2. Do you agree or disagree with the following aspects of your participation as host to an IRFP fellow?

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Does not apply
The fellow integrated with staff/members of my research group					
The fellow had sufficient knowledge and expertise to be a full participant in a research collaboration with me					
The amount of time for the fellowship experience was too short					
Language was a barrier to the fellow's ability to interact with me and/or my group					
The fellow was willing to take appropriate risks necessary for research					
The fellow exercised appropriate caution in his/her approach to research					
The fellow spent sufficient time working on the proposed project					
Scientific cultures of our countries are similar, making productive collaboration possible					
Lifestyles and general cultures of our countries are similar, making productive collaboration possible					

C3. How often did you meet with the IRFP fellow during his/her visit to your institution to talk about the project or to discuss other research-related issues? *Mark one answer*

- Daily
- Every other day
- Twice a week
- Once a week
- Every other week
- Once a month
- Less than once a month
- I do not recall
- Other: [Textbox]

Module D: Program Outcomes and Career Impacts

D1. Which of the following describes the extent of your collaboration with the fellow since the fellowship experience? *Select one response*

- I have not been in touch with the Fellow → GOTO D2
- I have stayed in touch with the Fellow, but have not collaborated on any research project → GOTO D2
- I have collaborated with this Fellow at some point in the past, but not at present →

GOTO D2

- I am currently collaborating with this Fellow → GOTO D1a
- I plan to collaborate with this Fellow → GOTO D2

D1a. What is the nature of this collaboration as of [reference week]? *Check all that apply*

We ...

- Work on projects together
- Share data
- Publish papers together
- Visit each other's institutions to discuss research or to work on projects
- Invite each other to give talks
- Jointly apply for collaborative grants or other funding sources
- Co-mentor graduate students or postdoctoral fellows
- Other: [Textbox]

D2. Are you currently collaborating with the IRFP fellow's faculty advisor?

- Yes
- No

D2a. Are you currently collaborating with other U.S. researchers?

- Yes
- No

D3. Please indicate the number of papers in press or published, which you co-authored with the fellow:

- During the IRFP fellow's time at your institution: [Textbox]
- Within a year of the fellow's time at your institution: [Textbox]
- 2-3 years after the fellow's time at your institution: [Textbox]
- 4-5 years after the fellow's time at your institution: [Textbox]
- Total number of papers (in press or published) co-authored with this IRFP fellow as of [reference week] [Textbox]

Module E: Program Satisfaction

E1. How would you rate your level of satisfaction with this IRFP fellow? *Mark one answer*

- Very satisfied
- Satisfied
- Somewhat satisfied.
- Unsatisfied.

E1a. What did you find most satisfying or unsatisfying? [Textbox]

E2. Which of the following benefits did *you* derive as a host for IRFP fellows? *Check all that apply*

- I established or renewed a collaboration with US researchers
- I and/or researchers in my group published research papers based on the collaborative work with this IRFP Fellow
- I and/or researchers in my group developed a database or a website based on the collaborative work
- I and/or researchers in my group obtained funding based on the collaborative work
- I and/or researchers in my group gave one or more presentations based on the collaborative work
- I and/or researchers in my group learned new techniques or approaches
- I and/or researchers in my group became more familiar with the research enterprise in the United States
- Participation in the program changed the direction of some research projects in my group
- Participating in the program enhanced my interest in collaborating with US researchers

E3. Have any of the following taken place *at your institution* as a result of your participation as host to an IRFP Fellow? *Check all that apply*

- My colleagues increased collaborations with US researchers
- Administration in my department became more supportive of collaboration with US researchers
- Additional policies, procedures, or structures have been put in place at my institution to facilitate foreign collaboration
- Collaborations with US researchers helped attract students and other researchers to my institution
- Other benefits of hosting this IRFP Fellow (please describe any): [textbox]
- None of the above

E4. What were the *best* aspects of your affiliation with this IRFP fellow? [Textbox]

E5. What were the most challenging aspects in your affiliation with this IRFP fellow? [Textbox]

E6. Were there any unexpected outcomes in your affiliation with this IRFP fellow? [Textbox]

E7. Would you recommend or have you recommended to others that they host an IRFP fellow?

Mark one answer

- I have recommended the program, or I would recommend the program.
Why? [Textbox]
- I have not recommended the program, and I would not recommend the program. Why not? [Textbox]
- I am not sure

E8. Please feel free to share any additional thoughts or recommendations about IRFP. [Textbox]