



The success of recent doctorate recipients is critical to the success of the U.S. scientific enterprise and will influence U.S. and global scientific markets for years to come.



## EARLY CAREER DOCTORATE STUDY

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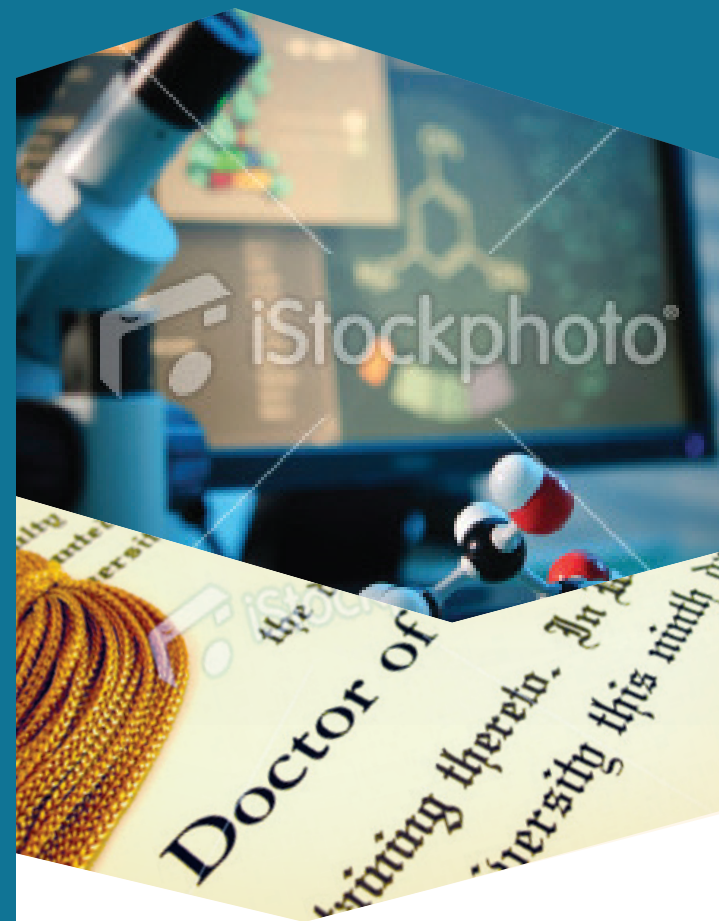
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**NCSES** National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics

# EARLY CAREER DOCTORATE STUDY



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## About the Study

The Early Career Doctorate Study is a survey of individuals who earned their first doctoral degree (PhD, MD, or equivalent) within the last 10 years and are currently working in one of the following settings:

- U.S. academic institution
- Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDC)
- Intramural research program of the National Institutes of Health (NIH)

The work of early career doctorates is critical to the success of the U.S. scientific enterprise and will influence U.S. and global scientific markets for years to come. Despite the importance of early career doctorates, there is no current way to track their work patterns and contributions to the U.S. economy.

To address this need, the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES) at the National Science Foundation is starting the Early Career Doctorate Study. The Center will use this survey to provide needed data on early career doctorates, including:

- Career paths
- Research opportunities
- Career plans
- Training opportunities

## What topics does the survey cover?

✓ Educational background	Degrees earned—dates awarded, fields of study, and institutions  Student loan burden
✓ Professional activities	Conference attendance  Publications and presentations  Professional service  Grant experiences
✓ Employer demographics	Type of employer  Type of work
✓ Professional and personal life balance	Typical workload  Flexibility in scheduling your work
✓ Mentoring	Work relationships  Work expectations
✓ Future career	Plans over the next 10 years

## How was I selected?

Approximately 80 institutions were selected to participate in this initial phase of this study. You were nominated to serve as your institution's point of contact for this study.

## What does my participation involve?

Your role in this study is to compile basic information on all individuals at your institution who earned a doctorate degree (PhD, MD, or equivalent) in the past 10 years. RTI International (the study contractor) will use this information to sample and contact 40 prospective respondents at your institution.

## What kind of information do I need to compile?

In addition to name, work address, email, and phone number, you will be asked to provide data indicating highest degree held, year of degree, job title, department, field of research, gender, year of birth, and citizenship. These fields will improve our ability to achieve a representative sample of early career doctorates. In developing the contact database, please:

- Review the enclosed "Preferred data fields and specifications" document and determine which of the requested data fields are maintained by your institution.
- Determine who at your institution has access to the necessary databases and work with these people to query the databases.
- Work with RTI to ensure your queries are identifying all early career doctorates at your institution and to submit your data.

*To minimize the burden of gathering these data, NCSES is requesting only data available within your institutions' administrative databases.*

## How will personally identifying information (PII) be protected?

Protecting respondent privacy is a priority for NCSES and RTI. The following steps will be taken to protect the data and ensure that personally identifying data are never released:

- All data will be collected using secure data transfer protocols and maintained within encrypted databases.
- Each respondent will be given unique credentials (username and password) and the survey conducted over a secure internet connection (https).
- Only RTI survey staff will have access to the individual-level data and all survey staff will sign a confidentiality statement and an affidavit of nondisclosure.
- RTI will remove all PII from data files sent to NCSES and will destroy all PII at the conclusion of the survey.
- NCSES will not release any individual-level data.