



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

For additional information contact:

Peter B. Einaudi, Project Manager
RTI International
3040 Cornwallis Road
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709
E-mail: peinaudi@rti.org
Phone: 800-123-1234

Kelly S. Phou, Project Officer
National Center for Science and Engineering
Statistics
National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 965
Arlington, VA 22230
E-mail: kphou@nsf.gov

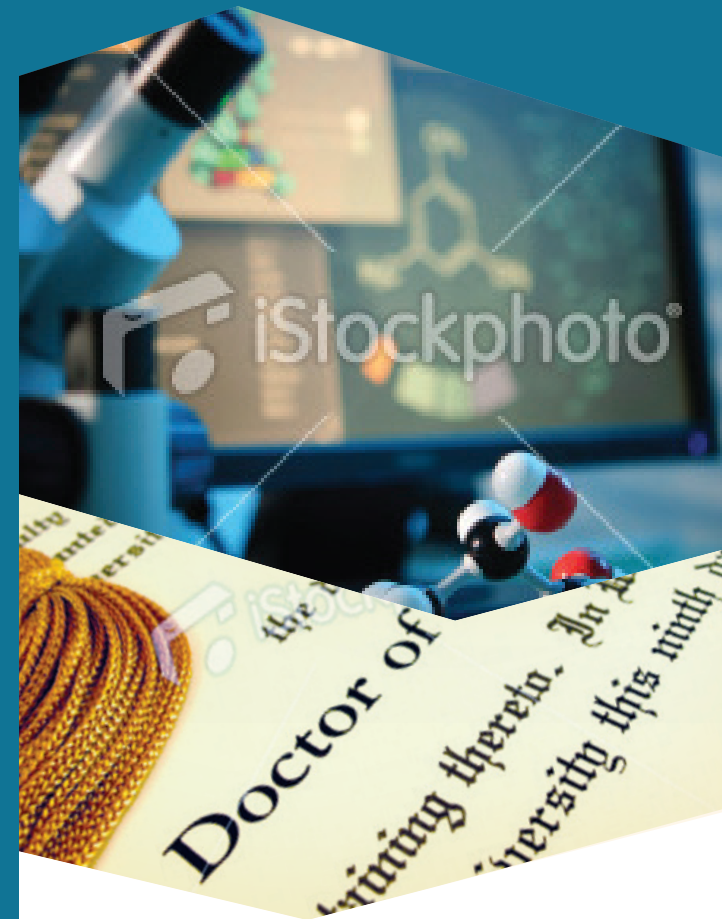
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NCSES National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics

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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 did you select my institution?

Your institution is one of eighty academic institutions and FFRDCs randomly sampled to participate in this initial phase of this study.

What does my participation involve?

NCSES is asking that you provide a letter of support for the study and designate a point of contact who will work with RTI (the study contractor) to develop a contact database of all early career doctorates working at your institution. This contact database will serve as the sampling frame from which 40 respondents will be selected and invited to complete a 30-minute questionnaire. The letter of support from you will help legitimate the study and increase response rates.

What kind of information is needed for the contact database?

In addition to each early career doctorate's name and contact information, the point of contact will be asked to provide data such as highest degree held, year of degree, job title, department, gender, year of birth, and citizenship. These fields will improve our ability to achieve a representative sample of early career doctorates.

To minimize the burden of gathering these data, NCSES is requesting only data available within your institutions' administrative databases. NCSES estimates that it will take your designee 6-8 hours to develop and submit the contact database.

How will our employees' privacy be protected?

Protecting respondent privacy is a priority for NCSES and RTI. The following steps will be taken to ensure that all personally identifying information (PII) are protected and all responses kept confidential:

- 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.