Applicant Survey

May 2016 v3

All questions in the survey refer to your experience with the proposal #____ entitled _____ submitted to NSF in 2015.[1]

RESPONDENT CHARACTERISTICS All groups

Which of the following best describes your current academic rank?

- □ Postdoctoral fellow
- □ Research scientist
- □ Adjunct professor
- □ Assistant professor
- □ Associate professor
- □ Full professor
- □ Other _____

What is your tenure status?

- □ Tenure-tracked or equivalent, but not yet tenured
- □ Tenured or equivalent
- □ Not tenure-tracked

How many active NSF awards do you currently have as a PI or Co-PI? Please enter number equal to or greater than 0.

____ awards

□ Unsure/Do not know

PROJECT CHARACTERISTICS All groups

How would you rate your proposed project in terms of the following characteristics?

	Not at all	Somewhat	Very	Unsure
Collaborative				
Interdisciplinary				
High-risk/high-reward				

[1] This information will be preloaded and visible to respondent. Abt has used this approach in other NSF surveys (most recently, for the PIRE program).

Funded and invited unfunded DEB/IOS and Funded comparison

Approximately how many years prior to this submission did you first conceive the idea described in this proposal? If less than a year, please enter 0.

_____ years

APPLICATION WORKLOAD

Funded and invited unfunded DEB/IOS

Approximately, how many hours of work did it take you to prepare your …

Preliminary proposal: _____ hours

Full proposal: _____ hours

Which of the following is true? Having prepared a preliminary proposal…

- □ Saved you time/effort when developing a full proposal
- □ Did not save you time/effort when developing a full proposal

Uninvited DEB/IOS

Approximately, how many hours of work did it take you to prepare this preliminary proposal?

_____ hours

Funded comparison

Approximately, how many hours of work did it take you to prepare this proposal?

_____ hours

SATISFACTION WITH THE APPLICATION PROCESS

Funded and invited unfunded DEB/IOS

What is your level of satisfaction with the following steps in the submission process?

	Very unsatisfied	Unsatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very satisfied	Not applicable No opinion
Requirement for a preliminary proposal						
The single submission deadline per year for preliminary proposals						
The cap of 2 submissions per individual PI						
Timing of the preliminary proposal deadline						
Amount of time to prepare a preliminary proposal						
Timing of the full proposal deadline						
Amount of time to prepare a full proposal	→ A	→ A				
Submission process overall						

A. How many months would be optimal to prepare a full proposal?

_____ months

Uninvited DEB/IOS

What is your level of satisfaction with the following steps in the submission process?

	Very unsatisfied	Unsatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very satisfied	Not applicable No opinion
Requirement for a preliminary proposal						
The single submission deadline per year for preliminary proposals						
The cap of 2 submissions per individual PI						
Timing of the preliminary proposal deadline						
Amount of time to prepare a preliminary proposal						
Submission process overall						

Funded comparison

What is your level of satisfaction with the proposal preparation and submission process overall?

- □ Very unsatisfied
- □ Unsatisfied
- □ Neutral
- □ Satisfied
- □ Very satisfied

Funded and invited unfunded DEB/IOS and Uninvited DEB/IOS

Was the 4-page Project Description section in the preliminary proposal sufficient for you to convey your idea and approach?

- □ Yes
- □ No

How many pages would you recommend as optimal for the Project Description section in a preliminary proposal?

_____ pages

Funded and invited unfunded DEB/IOS and Funded comparison

Was the 15-page Project Description section in the full proposal sufficient for you to convey your idea and approach?

- □ Yes
- □ No

How many pages would you recommend as optimal for the Project Description in a full proposal?

_____ pages

SATISFACTION WITH THE REVIEW PROCESS

Funded and invited unfunded DEB/IOS

What is your level of satisfaction with the following elements of the review process?

	Preliminary proposal						Full proposal					
	Very unsatisfied	Unsatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very satisfied	Not applicable No opinion	Very unsatisfied	Unsatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very satisfied	Not applicable No opinion
Conceptual understanding of the proposal by reviewers												
Technical accuracy of review												
Fairness of review												
Balanced consideration of proposal strengths and weaknesses												
Review process overall												

Uninvited DEB/IOS and Funded comparison

What is your level of satisfaction with the following elements of the review process?

	Very unsatisfied	Unsatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very satisfied	Not applicable No opinion
Conceptual understanding of the proposal by reviewers						
Technical accuracy of review						
Fairness of review						
Balanced consideration of proposal strengths and weaknesses						
Review process overall						

Funded and invited unfunded DEB/IOS and Uninvited DEB/IOS

Did you speak directly with your Program Officer/Program Director after receiving the review decision for your preliminary proposal?

- □ Yes → A
- □ No
- □ Do not know/Unsure

A. How helpful to you was this discussion?

- □ Not helpful
- □ Somewhat helpful
- □ Helpful

Funded and invited unfunded DEB/IOS

How helpful were the preliminary reviewer comments to developing the full proposal?

- □ Not helpful
- □ Somewhat helpful
- □ Helpful

Uninvited DEB/IOS

How helpful were the reviewer comments for revising the proposal for another submission?

- □ I do not plan to resubmit
- □ Not helpful
- □ Somewhat helpful
- □ Helpful

Funded and invited unfunded DEB/IOS and Uninvited DEB/IOS

Please describe one change you would make to the new submission/review process

_____

- □ I would not make any changes
- □ I do not know