

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