



Your work 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 DOCTORATES SURVEY

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NCSES National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics

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About the Survey

The Early Career Doctorates Survey 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 areas of employment:

- U.S. academic institutions
- Federally funded research and development centers (FFRDCs)
- Intramural research program of the National Institutes of Health (NIH)

The work and professional development of recent doctorate recipients will influence innovation in U.S. and global markets for years to come. Despite the critical importance of this population to the success of the U.S. science and engineering enterprise, comprehensive surveys of this group are limited, and the data needed to understand their work patterns and contributions to the U.S. economy are sparse.

To address this need, the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES) at the National Science Foundation developed the Early Career Doctorates Project to gather in-depth information about postdoctoral appointees (postdocs) and other recent doctorate recipients during the first 10 years of their working careers.

What topics does the survey cover?

✓ Educational history	Degrees earned—dates awarded, fields of study, and institutions
✓ Professional activities and achievements	Conference attendance Publications and presentations Professional service Grants experiences Patents
✓ Employer characteristics	Type of employer Type of work
✓ Professional and personal life balance	Typical workload Flexibility in scheduling your work
✓ Mentoring, training, and research opportunities	Work relationships Work expectations Training Research opportunities
✓ Career paths and plans	Plans over the next 10 years

How was I selected?

Approximately 201 institutions were selected to participate in this survey. A coordinator at your institution compiled a list of all early career doctorates employed by the institution. Your name was randomly selected from this list.

What does my participation involve?

The web survey takes about 30 minutes. You will receive an e-mail with a link to the survey, your username, and your password. You may complete the web survey in one session or in multiple sessions. If you exit the survey before you finish, your answers will be saved.

How are my privacy and confidentiality protected?

Protecting your privacy is a priority for NCSES and RTI International (the survey contractor). The following steps ensure that your privacy and confidentiality are protected:

- The survey data will be used for statistical purposes only and will be safeguarded in accordance with the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended, and the Confidentiality Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002.
- The survey uses a secure connection (https) and all data will be maintained within encrypted databases.
- You have unique credentials (username and password).
- All survey staff will complete a confidentiality training and sign an affidavit of nondisclosure before working on the survey.
- All personally identifiable information (PII) will be removed from the final data files.
- Prior to publication, data will be aggregated in ways that prevent the identification of individual respondents.

Will this affect my employment?

Your participation in this voluntary survey will not affect your employment in any way. Your institution will not have access to your answers.

