



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 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 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. You were nominated to coordinate the compilation of a list of early career doctorates at your institution.

What does my participation involve?

As the coordinator, your role in this survey 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 survey 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 each early career doctorate's name, work address, e-mail, and phone number, you will be asked to provide data indicating his or her 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 "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.

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

How are the data secured and privacy protected?

Protecting respondent privacy is a priority for NCSES and RTI International. The following steps ensure that your employees' 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.
- 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 will be conducted over a secure internet connection (https).
- All survey staff will complete a confidentiality training and sign an affidavit of nondisclosure before being able to work on the survey.
- Prior to publication, data will be aggregated in ways that prevent the identification of individual respondents.