

Request for Approval under the “Generic Clearance for the Collection of Routine Customer Feedback” (OMB Control Number: 3145-0215)

TITLE OF INFORMATION COLLECTION:

Pilot test the exit survey of participants in the National Science Foundation (NSF) Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) Program

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the exit or participant survey is to learn about participant experiences in the National Science Foundation (NSF) Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program and the International Research Experiences for Students (IRES) program. The survey was designed as a brief pulse check taken at the end of the research experiences to produce representative estimates useful for program monitoring. The survey will be voluntary and administered every fall, as most research experiences take place during the summer. Findings will be available to NSF through a dashboard.

The survey will be tested with REU participants through the REU data system. Additional questions or adaptations for IRES participants are indicated in the survey instrument and will not be tested at this time. In fall 2019, participants in the REU Sites that used the [REU data system](#) common application to submit their applications for the summer 2019 REU program will receive an email inviting them to complete this online survey.

The survey includes questions designed to:

- Facilitate monitoring of project offerings and activities and how implementation evolves over time (questions 2 to 11)
- Understand the ways in which the program might influence students’ career plans and aspirations (questions 12 to 15)
- Measure students’ satisfaction with the program (questions 16 to 18)
- Obtain recommendations for improvements (question 19)

The survey is intentionally short to encourage participation and yield the high response rates required to produce representative estimates, overall and by subgroups of interest (such as discipline and gender).

DESCRIPTION OF RESPONDENTS:

Respondents are current undergraduate students who will participate in the REU program during summer 2019 in REU Sites in Engineering and Mathematics.

TYPE OF COLLECTION: (Check one)

- Customer Comment Card/Complaint Form
- Usability Testing (e.g., Website or Software)
- Focus Group
- Customer Satisfaction Survey
- Small Discussion Group
- Other: _____

CERTIFICATION:

I certify the following to be true:

1. The collection is voluntary.
2. The collection is low-burden for respondents and low-cost for the Federal Government.
3. The collection is non-controversial and does not raise issues of concern to other federal agencies.
4. The results are not intended to be disseminated to the public.
5. Information gathered will not be used for the purpose of substantially informing influential policy decisions.
6. The collection is targeted to the solicitation of opinions from respondents who have experience with the program or may have experience with the program in the future.

Name: Suzanne H. Plimpton, NSF Reports Clearance Officer

To assist review, please provide answers to the following question:

Personally Identifiable Information:

1. Is personally identifiable information (PII) collected? Yes No
2. If Yes, is the information that will be collected included in records that are subject to the Privacy Act of 1974? Yes No
3. If Applicable, has a System or Records Notice been published? Yes No

Gifts or Payments:

Is an incentive (e.g., money or reimbursement of expenses, token of appreciation) provided to participants? Yes No

BURDEN HOURS

Category of Respondent	No. of Respondents	Participation Time	Burden
Participants	468	0.17 hours	80 hours
Totals	468	0.17 hours	80 hours

Explanation:

Participants: We expect to have 468 survey recipients. There are 39 REU Sites that used the REU data system common application during the 2019 application cycle for the REU program (27 Sites in Engineering and 12 Sites in Mathematics). Each Site is expected to host 12 students during the summer 2019 program. The survey contains a total of 18 items for REU students, most of which are multi-choice or ask respondents to fill a box with a number. Based on past experience, we expect that the survey will take about 10 minutes to complete.

FEDERAL COST: The estimated annual cost to the Federal government is \$139,751.

Explanation:

This estimate includes the cost to develop the survey instrument, program the survey to be administered through the REU data system, and provide helpdesk support for system users during data collection.

If you are conducting a focus group, survey, or plan to employ statistical methods, please provide answers to the following questions:

The selection of your targeted respondents

1. Do you have a customer list or something similar that defines the universe of potential respondents and do you have a sampling plan for selecting from this universe?
[X] Yes [] No

If the answer is yes, please provide a description of both below (or attach the sampling plan)? If the answer is no, please provide a description of how you plan to identify your potential group of respondents and how you will select them?

Explanation:

We will obtain information on all 2019 summer participants through the reports submitted by Principal Investigators through the REU data system. We will survey the universe of participants in those Sites that used the REU data system’s common application to ensure we obtain responses from students of different background characteristics and can produce valid estimates.

Administration of the Instrument

1. How will you collect the information? (Check all that apply)
[X] Web-based or other forms of Social Media
[] Telephone
[] In-person
[] Mail
[] Other, Explain
2. Will interviewers or facilitators be used? [] Yes [X] No