

## #7 Research Focus Pre-internship Survey

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### Pilot Test: #7 Research Focus Pre-Internship Survey

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**Confidentiality Statement:** In accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended (5 U.S.C. 552a), you are hereby notified that this study is sponsored by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Office of Education (Education), under authority of the Government Performance and Results Modernization Act (GPRMA) of 2010 that requires quarterly performance assessment of Government programs for purposes of assessing agency performance and improvement. NASA Education may use the information provided for statistical purposes related to data collection instrument development and will hold the information in confidence to the full extent permitted by law. Although efforts will be taken to ensure confidentiality, there remains a remote risk of personal data becoming identifiable. A non-identifying code number will be assigned to participants' data records, which will be stored in accordance with federal regulatory procedures and accessible only to the investigator. While qualitative data is usually analyzed in aggregate, any use of individual data to illustrate specific assessment results will be labeled in a manner to preserve the participants' anonymity. Information will be secured and removed from this server and location upon guidelines set out by the NASA Records Retention Schedule 1392, 1 68D. For additional information, please go to [http://nodis3.gsfc.nasa.gov/npg\\_img/N\\_PR\\_1441\\_001E/\\_NRRS\\_1441\\_0001.doc](http://nodis3.gsfc.nasa.gov/npg_img/N_PR_1441_001E/_NRRS_1441_0001.doc).

**Introduction:** This research seeks to support the mission of the NASA Office of Education by asking you to take part in **pre-internship** surveys pertaining to our interest in the ways in which NASA project activities impact outcomes for participants. The information we collect will help us to improve the nature of the project activity and the accuracy with which NASA Education can report to its community about the project activities it offers.

**Purpose of the Study:** Determine the degree to which instruments accurately capture the ways participant outcomes are measured by data collection instruments.

**Description of Study Procedures:** You are asked to complete a short collection of related surveys accessed by separate SurveyMonkey links presented to you in the introductory email from the NIFS Director or your NASA internship point of contact.

**Study Consent:** There are no foreseeable risks to participants electing to participate in this study. Your participation is completely voluntary. In no way does refusing participation in pre-internship survey development preclude you from eligibility for NASA education project activities now or in the future. If you agree to participate, please answer the following questions to the best of your ability.

**Estimation of Time Required:** To be determined through the testing procedure. **Please note your start time at the beginning of each survey.** At the end of each, you will be asked to approximate the time it took you to complete that particular survey.

**Contact Person:** If you have any additional questions concerning the research, this passive consent, or confidentiality of responses, please contact Dr. Lisa E. Wills, Senior Research Associate, at [lisa.e.wills@nasa.gov](mailto:lisa.e.wills@nasa.gov) or call (202)258-6021.

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#### I. About you

Please note your start time. At the end of this survey, you will be asked to approximate the time required to complete this survey.

By answering the following, you help us understand the nature of your past experience(s) with research and/or your current research experience just prior to arrival at NASA:

**1. Regarding prior/current research experience:**

Yes, continue to questions relevant to my prior/current research experience.

No, skip me ahead because I do not have prior/current experience with research.

**2. My *prior/current* research group has approximately \_\_\_\_\_ members (count undergraduate and graduate students, technicians, post-doctoral staff, an primary investigators.)**

Less than 5

6-10

11-20

More than 20

**3. My prior/current research group includes members from multiple disciplines or Colleges (e.g., College of Engineering, Department of Mathematics, Department of Biology, College of Education.)**

I don't know my lab mates well enough to answer this question

No

Yes

If "Yes," please list all departments or colleges below (100 characters and spaces limit):

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**4. I was assigned a research project \_\_\_\_\_ after joining my prior/current research group.**

- Established before I arrived at the Center
- Within the first week
- Within the second week
- I don't have a project yet

**5. I had/ have individual meetings with my *prior/current* research advisor \_\_\_\_\_.**

- I will not have individual meetings with my research advisor
- Weekly
- Three times a month
- Twice a month
- Once a month
- We will meet only before my research project is due
- Never
- Other

If "other," please explain (50 characters and spaces limit):

**6. How often did you/do you have research group meetings (the majority of the group is present)?**

- We do not hold research group meetings
- Once a week
- Once a month
- Twice a month
- At random/ as needed
- Never
- Other

If "other," please explain (100 characters and spaces limit):

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**7. How was/is the workspace for students in your *prior/current* research group organized?**

- We have a common lab/work room
- We each have individual offices
- We each have our own desk in a group office
- We are not allocated office/desk space
- Space is allocated by the department or program, not the research group
- Other

If "other," please describe (100 characters and spaces limit):

**8. As compared to other students on my same academic level, my level of participation in my *prior/current* research group is:**

- Less than average
- Average
- More than average
- There are no other students on my same academic level in the lab.

**9. My *prior/current* research was/is primarily conducted:**

- Using a computer in an office
- In a laboratory
- Outside doing field work
- Other

If "other," please describe (100 characters and spaces limit):

**10. My *prior/current* research group was/is primarily associated with:**

- An engineering department
- A larger research center
- Other

If "other," please describe (50 characters and spaces limit):

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Outside doing field work

Other

If "other," please describe (100 characters and spaces limit):

**10. My *prior/current* research group was/is primarily associated with:**

An engineering department

A larger research center

Other

If "other," please describe (50 characters and spaces limit):

Adapted from: Crede, E., & Borrego, M. (2013). From ethnography to items: A mixed methods approach to developing a survey to examine graduate engineering student retention. *Journal of Mixed Methods Research*, 7(1), 62-80.

**11. Please use this space to provide any additional feedback about your internship experience you'd like to share with us (500 characters with spaces):**

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#### II. Feedback on the overall survey experience:

Please provide the following feedback on your experience completing this survey:

**12. How many minutes did you take to complete this survey? (whole number only)**

Please indicate the level to which you agree or disagree with each statement, using the drop down menu:

**13. The survey instructions were clear.**

**14. The questions were easy to understand.**

**15. Do you have any additional comments or feedback on the instructions, questions, or survey navigation? (500 characters with spaces):**

Thank you for participating!

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information collection meets the requirements of 44 U.S.C. § 3507, as amended by section 2 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. You do not need to answer these questions unless we display a valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. The OMB control number for this collection is 2700-0159 and expires 04/30/2018. We estimate that it will take 3 minutes to read the instructions and answer the questions. Send only comments relating to this time estimate to: [lisa.e.wills@nasa.gov](mailto:lisa.e.wills@nasa.gov)

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