

Appendix E

DRAFT as of May 14, 2021

SDR 2021 Survey Mailing Materials

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Protocol Overview

- Postal mailings will be sent every 4 weeks.
 - For those with an email address, postal mailings will be followed by an email, and an additional email reminder will be sent the next week.
- The initial invitation mailing in Week 1 has a slightly different procedure:
 - For 2019 respondents who have a good email, we will begin with an invitation email rather than a letter. They will receive their first postal mailing at week 5.
 - Otherwise, all other sample members will get the invitation mailing at Week 1 (and an email if we have a good email address).
- Early incentives will be provided to some sample members in the Week 5 mailing.
- The SAQ (self-administered questionnaire) will be mailed to 2019 SAQ respondents in the Week 9 mailing.
- Late stage incentives will be provided to some sample members at Week 17 mailing.
- International CIO (Critical Items Only) will be offered at Week 17.
- FedEx will be offered to some sample members in the Week 21 mailing.
- Domestic CIO will be offered to some sample members at Week 25.

Frequently Asked Questions

FAQ

Included on backside of all letters

Survey of Doctorate Recipients (SDR) Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Survey of Doctorate Recipients?

Since the 1970s, the Survey of Doctorate Recipients (SDR) has been the most important source of information on the education and training, work experience, and career development of science, engineering, and health (SEH) doctorate holders trained in the United States. The SDR is conducted by the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES) within the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health. Westat serves as the data collection contractor for the SDR on behalf of NCSES.

How is the information used?

The SDR provides data useful in assessing the supply and characteristics of the nation's SEH doctorates employed in educational institutions, private industry, and professional organizations, as well as in Federal, state, and local governments. Data are used by policymakers, academic organizations, and governmental agencies to understand the educational and occupational achievements and career movement of U.S.-trained doctoral scientists and engineers in the United States and abroad.

For other uses and more information, visit <https://nsf.gov/statistics/srvydoctoratework/>.

Who should participate?

SDR samples individuals who have earned an SEH research doctoral degree from a U.S. academic institution and are less than 76 years of age. You were randomly selected to participate, and you represent hundreds of other SEH doctorates. We cannot replace you with another person because it would harm the quality of the data we collect. Your response is voluntary, and there is no penalty for not answering individual questions. The success of this survey depends on your response.

Will my information be kept confidential?

Yes, all information you provide will be kept strictly confidential and safeguarded in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 and the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002. Your responses are used for research purposes only.

Per the Federal Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2015, your data are protected from cybersecurity risks through screening of the Federal systems that transmit your data.

Information that personally identifies you is separated from your survey responses. Published reports show only summary information.

How long will this survey take?

Although individual times may vary, the average time to complete the survey is about 21 minutes. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspects of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the

Reports Clearance Officer
Policy Office, Division of Institution and Award Support
National Science Foundation
2415 Eisenhower Ave.
Alexandria, VA 22314

Additional information about this survey

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Under 5 CFR 1320.5(b), an agency cannot conduct, sponsor, or require a response to a collection of information unless the collection displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval number. The OMB approval number for this survey is 3145-0020.

DRAFT as of May 14, 2021

Week 1

Invitation Letter

Week 1, Invitation Phase

Letter in #10 envelope

2021 CONTINUING cohort with an address in the USA, who did not participate in 2019 or who participated but cashed an incentive, and were not 2019 hard/hostile refusal

{DATE}

Dear Dr. {LAST NAME},

You are invited to complete the **2021 Survey of Doctorate Recipients (SDR)** that is being conducted by our survey contractor, Westat. The SDR studies the experiences of doctorate degree holders, and is sponsored by the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics within the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health. It is the only source of data on the careers of science, engineering, and health doctorate holders from U.S. academic institutions and has been conducted since 1973.

Please complete the 2021 SDR online:

<https://www.NSFsdr.org>

PIN: {WEBPIN}

This valuable survey collects demographic, education, and career history information from individuals with a U.S. research doctoral degree in a science, engineering, or health field, whether they are working, retired, or seeking work.

We have made two important changes to the 2021 SDR:

- We included new questions to address how the coronavirus pandemic has impacted employment situations; and
- We have streamlined the way we ask questions based on a pilot study conducted with a number of SDR sample members.

The success of this survey depends on your participation; we cannot substitute anyone else for you. For more information, see the back of this letter for answers to frequently asked questions, email SDR@westat.com, or call 855-460-5324 (toll-free in the United States) or 301-637-8195 (outside the United States). Staff members are available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. (Eastern Time), and Saturday and Sunday from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. (Eastern Time).

Thank you in advance for responding to this important survey.

Sincerely,

Emilda B. Rivers, Director
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics
National Science Foundation

DRAFT as of May 14, 2021

Invitation Letter with Infocard

Week 1, Invitation Phase

Letter in 6x9 envelope with Infocard

All 2021 NEW cohort, and all 2021 CONTINUING cohort with international address.

{DATE}

Dear Dr. {LAST NAME},

You are invited to complete the **2021 Survey of Doctorate Recipients (SDR)** that is being conducted by our survey contractor, Westat. The SDR studies the experiences of U.S.-trained doctorate degree holders who are living in and outside of the United States, and is sponsored by the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics within the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health. It is the only source of data on the careers of science, engineering, and health doctorate holders from U.S. academic institutions and has been conducted since 1973.

Please complete the 2021 SDR online:

<https://www.NSFsdr.org>

PIN: {WEBPIN}

This valuable survey collects demographic, education, and career history information from individuals with a U.S. research doctoral degree in a science, engineering, or health field. By participating, you can

- help academic and governmental organizations with decision making, for instance, in the anticipation of personnel shortages and funding needs for research and development; and
- help students who want to learn about the occupational potential of their graduate education.

The 2021 SDR also includes questions that speak to how the coronavirus pandemic has impacted employment situations for doctorate degree holders.

The success of this survey depends on your participation; we cannot substitute anyone else for you. For more information, see the back of this letter for answers to frequently asked questions, email SDR@westat.com, or call 855-460-5324 (toll-free in the United States) or 301-637-8195 (outside the United States). Staff members are available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. (Eastern Time), and Saturday and Sunday from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. (Eastern Time).

Thank you in advance for responding to this important survey.

Sincerely,

Emilda B. Rivers, Director
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics
National Science Foundation

DRAFT as of May 14, 2021

Invitation Letter for 2019 Nonrespondents closed as Hard/Hostile Refusals

Week 1, Invitation Phase

Letter in #10 envelope

2021 CONTINUING cohort with USA mailing address, who did not complete the 2019 survey, and who were a hard/hostile refusal

{DATE}

Dear Dr. {LAST NAME},

You are invited to complete the **2021 Survey of Doctorate Recipients (SDR)** that is being conducted by our survey contractor, Westat. We understand you did not want to respond to the SDR in 2019. We have also added new questions that speak to how the coronavirus pandemic has impacted doctorate degree holders.

Please complete the 2021 SDR online:

<https://www.NSFsdr.org>

PIN: {WEBPIN}

As you know, the SDR is the only source of data on the demographic, education, and career history information from individuals with a U.S. research doctoral degree in a science, engineering, or health field.

The success of this survey depends on your participation; we cannot substitute anyone else for you. For more information, see the back of this letter for answers to frequently asked questions, email SDR@westat.com, or call 855-460-5324 (toll-free in the United States) or 301-637-8195 (outside the United States). Staff members are available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. (Eastern Time), and Saturday and Sunday from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. (Eastern Time).

This is the only letter we will be sending you regarding the SDR, and we hope you will consider responding to the survey.

Thank you in advance for your consideration in responding to this important survey.

Sincerely,

Emilda B. Rivers, Director
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics
National Science Foundation

DRAFT as of May 14, 2021

Invitation Letter for 2019 Responders who were Hard/Hostile about future participation

Week 1, Invitation Phase

Letter in #10 envelope

2021 CONTINUING cohort with USA mailing address, who completed the 2019 survey, and who were firm about not being contacted for future cycles

{DATE}

Dear Dr. {LAST NAME},

You are invited to complete the **2021 Survey of Doctorate Recipients (SDR)** that is being conducted by our survey contractor, Westat. We understand you did not want to be contacted again about the SDR, but we have made some new improvements to the survey and wanted to give you an opportunity to participate. We have also added new questions that speak to how the coronavirus pandemic has impacted doctorate degree holders.

Please complete the 2021 SDR online:

<https://www.NSFsdr.org>

PIN: {WEBPIN}

As you know, the SDR is the only source of data on the demographic, education, and career history information from individuals with a U.S. research doctoral degree in a science, engineering, or health field. The 2021 SDR also studies the possible ways the coronavirus pandemic has impacted employment situations.

The success of this survey depends on your participation; we cannot substitute anyone else for you. For more information, see the back of this letter for answers to frequently asked questions, email SDR@westat.com, or call 855-460-5324 (toll-free in the United States) or 301-637-8195 (outside the United States). Staff members are available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. (Eastern Time), and Saturday and Sunday from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. (Eastern Time).

This is the only letter we will be sending you regarding the SDR, and we hope you will consider responding to the survey.

Thank you in advance for your consideration in responding to this important survey.

Sincerely,

Emilda B. Rivers, Director
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics
National Science Foundation

DRAFT as of May 14, 2021

Week 5

Reminder Letter, No Incentive

Week 5, Reminder Phase

Letter in #10 envelope

{DATE}

Dear Dr. {LAST NAME},

We would like your help in completing the 2021 Survey of Doctorate Recipients (SDR). Your response is critical to helping to assess the supply and characteristics of U.S.-trained science, engineering, and health doctorates, and also to understand the possible impacts of the coronavirus pandemic on the doctorate population. To help you understand the importance of this study, please explore results from previous studies on the SDR website at <https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/srvydoctoratework/>.

If you have already completed the survey, thank you. If not, please take a moment and complete it today, using the information shown below.

Please complete the 2021 SDR today:

<https://www.NSFsdr.org>

PIN: {WEBPIN}

You were scientifically selected for this survey and your response is very important. For more information, see the back of this letter for answers to frequently asked questions, email our survey contractor (Westat) at SDR@westat.com, or call 855-460-5324 (toll-free in the United States) or 301-637-8195 (outside the United States). Staff members are available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. (Eastern Time), and Saturday and Sunday from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. (Eastern Time).

Thank you in advance for your participation in this important survey.

Sincerely,

Emilda B. Rivers, Director
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics
National Science Foundation

DRAFT as of May 14, 2021

Reminder Letter with Prepaid Visa Card

Week 5, Reminder Phase

Letter in #11 envelope with Prepaid Visa Card

{DATE}

Dear Dr. {LAST NAME},

We would like your help in completing the 2021 Survey of Doctorate Recipients (SDR). Your response is critical to helping to assess the supply and characteristics of U.S.-trained science, engineering, and health doctorates, and also to understand the possible impacts of the coronavirus pandemic on the doctorate population. To help you understand the importance of this study, please explore results from previous studies on the SDR website at <https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/srvydoctoratework/>.

If you have already completed the survey, thank you. If not, please take a moment and complete it today, using the information shown below.

Please complete the 2021 SDR today:

<https://www.NSFsdr.org>

PIN: {WEBPIN}

In appreciation of your participation, we have enclosed a {\$10/\$30} Visa® Prepaid Card for you to use upon completion of the survey. Instructions for using the card are enclosed.

You were scientifically selected for this survey and your response is very important. For more information, see the back of this letter for answers to frequently asked questions, email our survey contractor (Westat) at SDR@westat.com, or call 855-460-5324 (toll-free in the United States) or 301-637-8195 (outside the United States). Staff members are available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. (Eastern Time), and Saturday and Sunday from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. (Eastern Time).

Thank you in advance for your participation in this important survey.

Sincerely,

Emilda B. Rivers, Director
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics
National Science Foundation

Use your Visa Prepaid Card anywhere Visa debit cards are accepted around the world. The Visa Card is issued by The Bancorp Bank, Member FDIC, pursuant to a license from Visa U.S.A. Inc. Pay close attention to the expiration date of the Card.

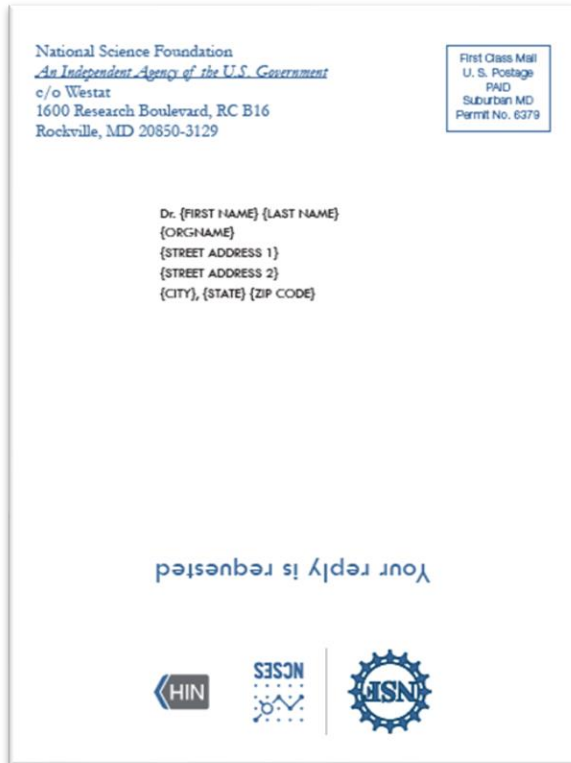
DRAFT as of May 14, 2021

Week 9

Reminder Postcard

Week 9, Self Administered Questionnaire (SAQ) Phase
Folded Postcard

Outside of card:



Inside of card:



DRAFT as of May 14, 2021

Reminder Letter with Self-Administered Questionnaire (SAQ)

Week 9, Self Administered Questionnaire (SAQ) Phase
Letter, Self Administered Questionnaire (SAQ), and Business Reply Envelope (BRE) in a 9x12 envelope

{DATE}

Dear Dr. {LAST NAME},

We are requesting your help in completing the 2021 Survey of Doctorate Recipients (SDR). Whether you are working, retired, seeking work, or in some other situation, the SDR seeks to represent all U.S.-trained doctorate degree holders in science, engineering, and health disciplines.

Many thanks if you have already completed the survey, we look forward to receiving it shortly. Otherwise, **please fill out and return the 2021 SDR questionnaire in the enclosed postage-paid envelope.**

Alternately, you can complete the SDR online, using the information shown below.

Please complete the 2021 SDR now:

<https://www.NSFsdr.org>

PIN: {WEBPIN}

Your response is critical to the success of this survey. For more information, see the back of this letter for answers to frequently asked questions, email our survey contractor (Westat) at SDR@westat.com, or call 855-460-5324 (toll-free in the United States) or 301-637-8195 (outside the United States). Staff members are available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. (Eastern Time), and Saturday and Sunday from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. (Eastern Time).

Thank you for your help with this important effort. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Emilda B. Rivers, Director
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics
National Science Foundation

DRAFT as of May 14, 2021

Week 13

Perforated Reminder

Week 13, Additional Mode Phase

Perforated Envelope

The “Did You Know” message is below the return mailing address on the outside fold.

Did you know...More than 4 in 10 employed U.S.-trained research doctorate holders in science, engineering or health fields work in business or industry?

{DATE}

Dear Dr. {LAST NAME},

We would appreciate your help in completing the 2021 Survey of Doctorate Recipients (SDR).

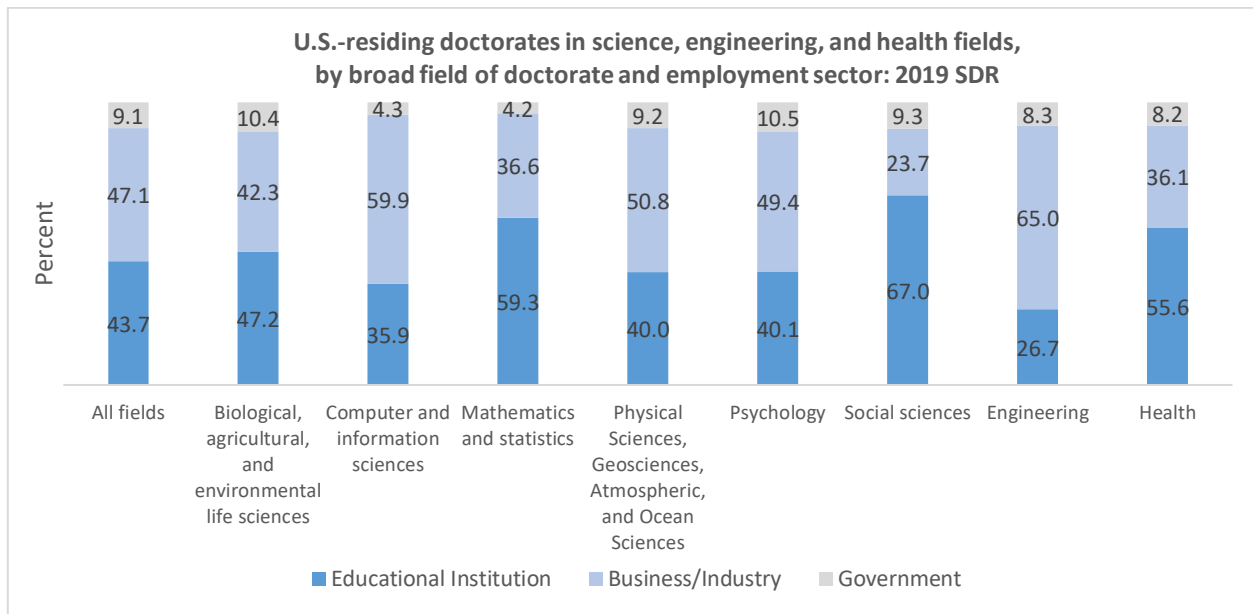
Many thanks if you have already completed the survey, we look forward to receiving it shortly. We would appreciate if you could complete the SDR online by {MAILING DATE +14 days}, using the information shown below.

Please complete the 2021 SDR by {DATE+14}:

<https://www.NSFsdr.org>

PIN: {WEBPIN}

SDR 2019 results show that employed U.S.-trained doctorate holders in science, engineering, or health fields are predominately working in educational institutions (43.8%) and in business or industry (47.1%). The figure below shows that employment sectors vary by field of doctorate. Your response will help us update these and other similar statistics for 2021.



For more information, email our survey contractor (Westat) at SDR@westat.com, or call 855-460-5324 (toll-free in the United States) or 301-637-8195 (outside the United States). Staff members are available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. (Eastern Time), and Saturday and Sunday from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. (Eastern Time).

Thank you for your help with this important effort. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Emilda B. Rivers, Director
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics
National Science Foundation

DRAFT as of May 14, 2021

Week 17

Domestic Late Stage Letter, No Incentive

Week 17, Late Incentive Phase

Letter in #10 envelope

{DATE}

Dear Dr. {LAST NAME},

We have been trying to contact you to participate in the 2021 Survey of Doctorate Recipients (SDR) but have not yet received your survey.

The SDR seeks to represent doctorate degree holders whether they are working, retired, seeking work, or not working. Whatever your situation, your response will help us to ensure the highest quality data possible. All the information that you provide is strictly confidential and protected by U.S. law.

If you have already completed the survey, thank you. Otherwise, please complete the SDR online, using the information shown below.

Please complete the 2021 SDR in the next week:

<https://www.NSFsdr.org>

PIN: {WEBPIN}

Your response within the next week would be most appreciated. For more information, see the back of this letter for answers to frequently asked questions, email our survey contractor (Westat) at SDR@westat.com, or call 855-460-5324 (toll-free in the United States) or 301-637-8195 (outside the United States). Staff members are available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. (Eastern Time), and Saturday and Sunday from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. (Eastern Time).

Thank you in advance for responding to this important survey.

Sincerely,

Emilda B. Rivers, Director
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics
National Science Foundation

DRAFT as of May 14, 2021

Domestic Late Stage Letter with Prepaid Visa Card

Week 17, Late Incentive Phase

Letter in #11 envelope with Prepaid Visa Card

{DATE}

Dear Dr. {LAST NAME},

We have been trying to contact you to participate in the 2021 Survey of Doctorate Recipients (SDR) but have not yet received your survey. We have enclosed a {\$20/\$30} Visa® Prepaid Card in this mailing because your response is so important.

The SDR seeks to represent doctorate degree holders whether they are working, retired, seeking work, or not working. Whatever your situation, we would appreciate your survey participation in order to ensure the highest quality data possible. All the information that you provide is strictly confidential and protected by U.S. law.

If you have already responded, thank you and please enjoy the enclosed Prepaid Visa Card. Otherwise, please complete the SDR online, using the information shown below.

Please complete the 2021 SDR in the next week:

<https://www.NSFsdr.org>

PIN: {WEBPIN}

Your response within the next week would be most appreciated. For more information, see the back of this letter for answers to frequently asked questions, email our survey contractor (Westat) at SDR@westat.com, or call 855-460-5324 (toll-free in the United States) or 301-637-8195 (outside the United States). Staff members are available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. (Eastern Time), and Saturday and Sunday from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. (Eastern Time).

Thank you in advance for responding to this important survey.

Sincerely,

Emilda B. Rivers, Director
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics
National Science Foundation

Use your Visa Prepaid Card anywhere Visa debit cards are accepted around the world. The Visa Card is issued by The Bancorp Bank, Member FDIC, pursuant to a license from Visa U.S.A. Inc. Pay close attention to the expiration date of the card.

DRAFT as of May 14, 2021

International Critical Items Only (CIO) Letter

Week 17, Late Incentive Phase
Letter in #10 envelope

{DATE}

Dear Dr. {LAST NAME},

Be included in the 2021 Survey of Doctorate Recipients (SDR)! You are uniquely qualified to contribute to this study and the quality of our data will be improved with your participation.

If you have already completed the 2021 survey, thank you so much for your time!

Because your response is critical to the study's success, **we are offering you a brief 10-minute version of the online survey.**

Please complete the 2021 SDR online:

<https://www.NSFsdr.org>

PIN: {WEBPIN}

All the information that you provide is strictly confidential and protected by U.S. law.

If you have any questions regarding the survey, please contact our survey contractor (Westat) via email at SDR@westat.com or please call 855-460-5324 (toll-free in the United States) or 301-637-8195 (outside the United States). Staff members are available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. (Eastern Time), and Saturday and Sunday from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. (Eastern Time).

Thank you in advance for your contribution to this valuable effort. We look forward to receiving your completed survey.

Sincerely,

Emilda B. Rivers, Director
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics
National Science Foundation

DRAFT as of May 14, 2021

Week 21

Nonresponse Followup (NRFU) Letter

Week 21, Late Incentive Phase
Letter in #10 or FedEx envelope

{DATE}

Dear Dr. {LAST NAME},

We have sent you several requests to participate in the 2021 Survey of Doctorate Recipients (SDR). We know your time is valuable, and we would greatly appreciate your participation to ensure that the survey results are accurate and representative. {We have sent this request via FedEx because your response is so important.}

If you have already completed the survey, thank you so much for your time. Otherwise, please complete the SDR as soon as possible, using the information shown below.

Please complete the 2021 SDR today:

<https://www.NSFsdr.org>

PIN: {WEBPIN}

You were scientifically selected for this survey and your response is very important. For more information, see the back of this letter for answers to frequently asked questions, email our survey contractor (Westat) at SDR@westat.com, or call 855-460-5324 (toll-free in the United States) or 301-637-8195 (outside the United States). Staff members are available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. (Eastern Time), and Saturday and Sunday from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. (Eastern Time).

Thank you in advance for your contribution to this valuable effort. We look forward to receiving your completed survey.

Sincerely,

Emilda B. Rivers, Director
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics
National Science Foundation

DRAFT as of May 14, 2021

Week 25

Last Chance Letter, Critical Items Only (CIO) offer

Week 25, CIO Phase
Letter in #10 envelope

{DATE}

Dear Dr. {LAST NAME},

This is your last chance to be included in the 2021 Survey of Doctorate Recipients (SDR). The survey will be closing soon. This is your last chance to help policymakers, researchers, your colleagues, and the public better understand the impact of a doctorate education.

You were individually selected from millions of doctorate recipients in the United States to represent this population. We are counting on your help to ensure the highest quality data possible.

If you have already completed the survey, thank you so much for your time.

If not, because your response is critical to the study's success, **we are offering you a brief 10-minute version of the online survey.**

Please complete the 2021 SDR today:

<https://www.NSFsdr.org>

PIN: {WEBPIN}

All the information that you provide is strictly confidential and protected by U.S. law.

For more information, see the back of this letter for answers to frequently asked questions, email our survey contractor (Westat) at SDR@westat.com, or call 855-460-5324 (toll-free in the United States) or 301-637-8195 (outside the United States). Staff members are available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. (Eastern Time), and Saturday and Sunday from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. (Eastern Time).

Thank you in advance for your contribution to this valuable effort. We look forward to receiving your completed survey.

Sincerely,

Emilda B. Rivers, Director
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics
National Science Foundation

DRAFT as of May 14, 2021

Last Chance Letter, no Critical Items Only (CIO) offer

Week 25, CIO Phase
Letter in #10 envelope

{DATE}

Dear Dr. {LAST NAME},

This is your last chance to be included in the 2021 Survey of Doctorate Recipients (SDR). The survey will be closing soon. This is your last chance to help policymakers, researchers, your colleagues, and the public better understand the impact of a doctorate education.

You were individually selected from millions of doctorate recipients in the United States to represent this population. We are counting on your help to ensure the highest quality data possible.

If you have already completed the survey, thank you so much for your time. Otherwise, please complete the SDR as soon as possible, using the information shown below.

Please complete the 2021 SDR today:

<https://www.NSFsdr.org>

PIN: {WEBPIN}

All the information that you provide is strictly confidential and protected by U.S. law.

For more information, see the back of this letter for answers to frequently asked questions, email our survey contractor (Westat) at SDR@westat.com, or call 855-460-5324 (toll-free in the United States) or 301-637-8195 (outside the United States). Staff members are available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. (Eastern Time), and Saturday and Sunday from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. (Eastern Time).

Thank you in advance for your contribution to this valuable effort. We look forward to receiving your completed survey.

Sincerely,

Emilda B. Rivers, Director
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics
National Science Foundation

DRAFT as of May 14, 2021

Ad Hoc Letters

Incentive Remails

Letter in #11 envelope with Prepaid Visa Card

{DATE}

Dear Dr. {LAST NAME},

Thank you for contacting us to request a replacement Visa® Prepaid Card for the Survey of Doctorate Recipients (SDR). We have enclosed the replacement for you to use upon completion of the survey. Instructions for using the card are enclosed.

If you have already completed the survey, thank you! If you have not, there is still time to participate in the 2021 SDR.

Please complete the 2021 SDR online:

<https://www.NSFsdr.org>

PIN: {WEBPIN}

For more information, see the back of this letter for answers to frequently asked questions, email our survey contractor (Westat) at SDR@westat.com, or call 855-460-5324 (toll-free in the United States) or 301-637-8195 (outside the United States). Staff members are available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. (Eastern Time), and Saturday and Sunday from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. (Eastern Time).

Thank you in advance for your participation in this important survey.

Sincerely,

Emilda B. Rivers, Director
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics
National Science Foundation

Use your Visa Prepaid Card anywhere Visa debit cards are accepted around the world. The Visa Card is issued by The Bancorp Bank, Member FDIC, pursuant to a license from Visa U.S.A. Inc. Pay close attention to the expiration date of the Card.

DRAFT as of May 14, 2021

Self-administered Questionnaire (SAQ) by request

Letter, SAQ, and business reply envelope (BRE) in a 9x12 envelope

{DATE}

Dear Dr. {LAST NAME},

Thank you for contacting us about your participation in the Survey of Doctorate Recipients (SDR). We have enclosed a paper copy of the questionnaire. Please complete it at your earliest convenience and return it in the enclosed postage-paid envelope.

Alternately, you can still complete the SDR online using the information shown below.

To complete the 2021 SDR online:

<https://www.NSFsdr.org>

PIN: {WEBPIN}

Your response is critical to the success of this survey. For more information, see the back of this letter for answers to frequently asked questions, email our survey contractor (Westat) at SDR@westat.com, or call 855-460-5324 (toll-free in the United States) or 301-637-8195 (outside the United States). Staff members are available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. (Eastern Time), and Saturday and Sunday from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. (Eastern Time).

Thank you for your help with this important effort. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Emilda B. Rivers, Director
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics
National Science Foundation

DRAFT as of May 14, 2021

Emails

Email 1A: Invitation Email Week 1

Week 1, Invitation Phase

2021 CONTINUING cohort, mailing address in the USA, 2019 respondent, not 2019 hard/hostile refusal, and did not receive or did not cash the 2019 incentive check.

Sender: SDR@westat.com

Email subject line: Invitation from NSF-NCSES

Dear Dr. {LAST NAME},

You are invited to participate in the **2021 Survey of Doctorate Recipients (SDR)**. The SDR studies the experiences of doctorate degree holders, and is sponsored by the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics within the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health. This valuable survey collects demographic, education, and career history information from individuals with a U.S. research doctoral degree in a science, engineering, or health field, whether they are working, retired, or seeking work.

We encourage you to complete the 2021 SDR online. The survey is secure and confidential. Click [here](#) to access the survey. Alternately, you can:

1. Click on the link: <https://www.NSFsdr.org>
2. Enter your PIN: {WEBPIN}

We have made two important changes to the 2021 SDR:

- We included new questions to address how the coronavirus pandemic has impacted employment situations; and
- We have streamlined the way we ask questions, based on a pilot study conducted with a number of SDR sample members.

The success of this survey depends on your participation; we cannot substitute anyone else for you. If you have any questions, email our survey contractor (Westat) at SDR@westat.com, or call 855-460-5324 (toll-free in the United States) or 301-637-8195 (outside the United States). Staff members are available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. (Eastern Time), and Saturday and Sunday from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. (Eastern Time).

Thank you in advance for responding to this important survey.

Sincerely,

Emilda B. Rivers, Director
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics
National Science Foundation

Your data will be kept strictly confidential and safeguarded in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 and the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002. The OMB Control number covering this collection is 3145-0020.

DRAFT as of May 14, 2021

Email 1B: Weeks 1, 5, 9, 13

Week 1: All others who did not get Email 1A; Weeks 5, 9, 13: All nonrespondents.

Sender: SDR@westat.com

Email subject line: Invitation from NSF-NCSES

Dear Dr. {LAST NAME},

Within the last few days, we {mailed you a letter/sent you an email} inviting you to participate in the 2021 Survey of Doctorate Recipients (SDR){IF WEEK 5 AND MAILED EARLY INCENTIVE IN WEEK 5: , including a {\$10/\$30} Visa® Prepaid Card}.

{WEEK 1: The SDR studies the experiences of doctorate degree holders, and is sponsored by the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics within the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health. This survey collects demographic, education, and career history information from individuals with a U.S. research doctoral degree in a science, engineering, or health field, whether they are working, retired, or seeking work./WEEK 5: Your response is critical to helping to assess the supply and characteristics of U.S.-trained science, engineering, and health doctorates, and also to understand the possible impacts of the coronavirus pandemic on the doctorate population./WEEK 9: Whether you are working, retired, seeking work, or in some other situation, the SDR seeks to represent all U.S.-trained doctorate degree holders in science, engineering, and health disciplines./WEEK 13: We know your time is valuable, and we would greatly appreciate your participation to ensure that the survey results are accurate and representative.}

The survey website is secure and all the information that you provide is strictly confidential and protected by U.S. law. Click [here](#) to access the survey {WEEK 1: as soon as possible/WEEK 5: today/WEEK 9: now/WEEK 13: in the next few days}. Alternately, you can:

1. Click on the link: <https://www.NSFsdr.org>
2. Enter your PIN: {WEBPIN}

If you are interested in learning more about the Survey of Doctorate Recipients, please visit <https://nsf.gov/statistics/srvydoctoratework/>.

If you have any questions, email our survey contractor (Westat) at SDR@westat.com or call 855-460-5324 (toll-free in the United States) or 301-637-8195 (outside the United States). Staff members are available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. (Eastern Time), and Saturday and Sunday from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. (Eastern Time).

{IF WEEK 1 AND HARD/HOSTILE: This is the only email we will be sending you regarding the SDR, and we hope you will consider responding to the survey.}

Sincerely,

{IF WEEK 1: Emilda B. Rivers, Director
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics
National Science Foundation

IF WEEKS 5, 9, 13: Daniel Foley, Survey Manager
Survey of Doctorate Recipients

DRAFT as of May 14, 2021

National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics
National Science Foundation}

Your data will be kept strictly confidential and safeguarded in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 and the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002. The OMB Control number covering this collection is 3145-0020.

{WEEK 5 AND MAILED EARLY INCENTIVE IN WEEK 5: Use your Visa Prepaid Card anywhere Visa debit cards are accepted around the world. The Visa Card is issued by The Bancorp Bank, Member FDIC, pursuant to a license from Visa U.S.A. Inc. Pay close attention to the expiration date of the Card.}

DRAFT as of May 14, 2021

Email 2: Weeks 2, 6, 10, 14

Weeks 2, 6, and 10: All nonrespondents; Week 14: All others who did not get Email P.

Sender: SDR@westat.com

Email subject line: NSF-NCSES Request

Dear Dr. {LAST NAME},

Recently, we {mailed/mailed} you a request for your participation in the 2021 Survey of Doctorate Recipients{WEEK 6 AND MAILED EARLY INCENTIVE IN WEEK 5: , including a {\$10/\$30} Visa® Prepaid Card}. If you have already completed the survey, thank you for your assistance and please disregard this message. If you have not had an opportunity to participate in the survey, please complete the survey online {WEEK 2: as soon as possible/WEEK 6: today/WEEK 10: now/WEEK 14: in the next few days}.

To respond to the survey online, click [here](#) or:

1. Go to the website: <https://www.NSFsdr.org>
2. Enter your PIN: {WEBPIN}

You were scientifically selected for this survey and your experiences are unique, so we cannot substitute anyone else for you. To learn more about the Survey of Doctorate Recipients, please visit <https://nsf.gov/statistics/srvydoctoratework/>.

The survey website is secure and all the information that you provide is strictly confidential and protected by U.S. law.

If you have any questions, email our survey contractor (Westat) at SDR@westat.com or call 855-460-5324 (toll-free in the United States) or 301-637-8195 (outside the United States). Staff members are available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. (Eastern Time), and Saturday and Sunday from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. (Eastern Time).

Sincerely,

{IF WEEK 2: Emilda B. Rivers, Director
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics
National Science Foundation

IF WEEK 6, 10, 14: Daniel Foley, Survey Manager
Survey of Doctorate Recipients
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics
National Science Foundation}

Your data will be kept strictly confidential and safeguarded in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 and the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002. The OMB Control number covering this collection is 3145-0020.

{IF WEEK 6 AND MAILED EARLY INCENTIVE IN WEEK 5: Use your Visa Prepaid Card anywhere Visa debit cards are accepted around the world. The Visa Card is issued by The Bancorp Bank, Member

DRAFT as of May 14, 2021

FDIC, pursuant to a license from Visa U.S.A. Inc. Pay close attention to the expiration date of the Card.}

DRAFT as of May 14, 2021

Email 3: Week 17

All nonrespondents.

Sender: SDR@westat.com

Email subject line: NSF is trying to reach you

Dear Dr. {LAST NAME},

Within the last few days, we {mailed you a letter/emailed you a request} to participate in the 2021 Survey of Doctorate Recipients{IF MAILED LATE INCENTIVE IN WEEK 17: , including a {\$20/\$30} Visa® Prepaid Card}. This email provides a convenient way for you to get started. If you have already completed the survey, thank you for your assistance and please disregard this message.

{INTERNATIONAL: Because your response is critical to the study's success, **we are offering you a brief 10-minute version of the online survey.**}

The survey website is secure and all the information that you provide is strictly confidential and protected by U.S. law. Click [here](#) to access the survey. Alternately, you can:

1. Click on the link: <https://www.NSFsdr.org>
2. Enter your PIN: {WEBPIN}

If you are interested in learning more about the Survey of Doctorate Recipients, please visit <https://nsf.gov/statistics/srvydoctoratework/>.

If you have any questions, email our survey contractor (Westat) at SDR@westat.com or call 855-460-5324 (toll-free in the United States) or 301-637-8195 (outside the United States). Staff members are available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. (Eastern Time), and Saturday and Sunday from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. (Eastern Time).

Sincerely,

Daniel Foley, Survey Manager
Survey of Doctorate Recipients
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics
National Science Foundation

Your data will be kept strictly confidential and safeguarded in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 and the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002. The OMB Control number covering this collection is 3145-0020.

{IF MAILED LATE INCENTIVE IN WEEK 17: Use your Visa Prepaid Card anywhere Visa debit cards are accepted around the world. The Visa Card is issued by The Bancorp Bank, Member FDIC, pursuant to a license from Visa U.S.A. Inc. Pay close attention to the expiration date of the Card.}

DRAFT as of May 14, 2021

Email 4: Week 21

All nonrespondents.

Sender: SDR@westat.com

Email subject line: NSF requests your help

Dear Dr. {LAST NAME},

Within the last few days, we {emailed you a request/{IF WEEK 21 NOT HIGH PRIORITY: mailed you a letter/ IF WEEK 21 HIGH PRIORITY: sent you a FedEx}} to participate in the 2021 Survey of Doctorate Recipients that is being conducted by our survey contractor, Westat. This email provides a convenient way for you to get started. If you have already completed the survey, thank you for your assistance and please disregard this message.

The survey website is secure and all the information that you provide is strictly confidential and protected by U.S. law. Click [here](#) to access the survey. Alternately, you can:

1. Click on the link: <https://www.NSFsdr.org>
2. Enter your PIN: {WEBPIN}

If you are interested in learning more about the Survey of Doctorate Recipients, please visit <https://nsf.gov/statistics/srvydoctoratework/>.

If you have any questions, email SDR@westat.com or call 855-460-5324 (toll-free in the United States) or 301-637-8195 (outside the United States). Staff members are available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. (Eastern Time), and Saturday and Sunday from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. (Eastern Time).

Sincerely,

Daniel Foley, Survey Manager
Survey of Doctorate Recipients
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics
National Science Foundation

Your data will be kept strictly confidential and safeguarded in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 and the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002. The OMB Control number covering this collection is 3145-0020.

DRAFT as of May 14, 2021

Email 5: Weeks 18, 22

All nonrespondents.

Sender: SDR@westat.com

Email subject line: NSF Reminder

Dear Dr. {LAST NAME},

Recently, we {mailed/emailed} you a request for your participation in the 2021 Survey of Doctorate Recipients{WEEK 18: IF MAILED LATE INCENTIVE IN WEEK 17: , including a {\$20/\$30} Visa® Prepaid Card}. If you have already completed the survey, thank you for your assistance and please disregard this message. If you have not had an opportunity to participate in the survey, please complete the survey online {WEEK 18: in the next few days/WEEK 22: now}.

{INTERNATIONAL: Because your response is critical to the study's success, **we are offering you a brief 10-minute version of the online survey.**}

To respond to the survey online, click [here](#) or:

1. Go to the website: <https://www.NSFsdr.org>
2. Enter your PIN: {WEBPIN}

You were scientifically selected for this survey and your experiences are unique, so we cannot substitute anyone else for you. To learn more about the Survey of Doctorate Recipients, please visit <https://nsf.gov/statistics/srvydoctoratework/>.

The survey website is secure and all the information that you provide is strictly confidential and protected by U.S. law.

If you have any questions, email our survey contractor (Westat) at SDR@westat.com or call 855-460-5324 (toll-free in the United States) or 301-637-8195 (outside the United States). Staff members are available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. (Eastern Time), and Saturday and Sunday from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. (Eastern Time).

Sincerely,

Daniel Foley, Survey Manager
Survey of Doctorate Recipients
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics
National Science Foundation

Your data will be kept strictly confidential and safeguarded in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 and the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002. The OMB Control number covering this collection is 3145-0020.

{WEEK 18: IF MAILED LATE INCENTIVE IN WEEK 17: Use your Visa Prepaid Card anywhere Visa debit cards are accepted around the world. The Visa Card is issued by The Bancorp Bank, Member FDIC, pursuant to a license from Visa U.S.A. Inc. Pay close attention to the expiration date of the Card.}

DRAFT as of May 14, 2021

Email P: Weeks 14, 26 Partial Completes

All partial web completes.

Sender: SDR@westat.com

Email subject line: NSF Deadline Reminder {CLOSE OUT DATE}

Dear Dr. {LAST NAME},

We are reaching out to ask for your help. We noticed that you started, but have not yet submitted your responses to the 2021 Survey of Doctorate Recipients. We are nearing the end of the data collection period and would like to include your responses. **{WEEK 26: Your experiences are very important to us and your answers may not be counted if you haven't finished and submitted the survey.}**

{WEEK 26: IF WEEK 25 HIGH PRIORITY: Because your response is critical to the study's success, we are offering you a brief 10-minute version of the online survey.}

Please go online in the next few days to finish and submit your survey by clicking [here](#) or:

1. Go to the website: <https://www.NSFsdr.org>
2. Enter your PIN: {WEBPIN}

The survey website is secure and all the information that you provide is strictly confidential and protected by U.S. law.

If you have any questions, email our survey contractor (Westat) at SDR@westat.com or call 855-460-5324 (toll-free in the United States) or 301-637-8195 (outside the United States). Staff members are available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. (Eastern Time), and Saturday and Sunday from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. (Eastern Time).

Sincerely,

Daniel Foley, Survey Manager
Survey of Doctorate Recipients
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics
National Science Foundation

Your data will be kept strictly confidential and safeguarded in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 and the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002. The OMB Control number covering this collection is 3145-0020.

DRAFT as of May 14, 2021

Email LC: Week 26 Last Chance

All others who did not get Email P.

Sender: SDR@westat.com

Email subject line: NSF trying to reach you

Over the last few months we have sent you several requests to participate in the 2021 Survey of Doctorate Recipients (SDR). The 2021 SDR will be ending soon. To date, we have not received a response from you. In the 2021 SDR, we ask for your input on how the coronavirus pandemic may have affected your employment situation. Your response is important for completing that picture.

{USA WEEK 25 HIGH PRIORITY: Because your response is critical to the study's success, **we are offering you a brief 10-minute version of the online survey.**}

To respond to the survey online, click [here](#) or:

1. Go to the website: <https://www.NSFsdr.org>
2. Enter your PIN: {WEBPIN}

If you have recently completed the survey, thank you very much. If you have not yet had an opportunity to participate, please take a few moments to complete the survey now. We realize your time is valuable, but we really need your participation for the survey results to be accurate and representative.

Your response to this survey is important, regardless of whether you are retired, do not work, or work in a field that differs from that of your education. The survey website is secure, and all the information that you provide is strictly confidential and protected by U.S. law.

This is your last chance to help policymakers, researchers, your colleagues, and the public better understand the impact of a doctorate education. To learn more about the Survey of Doctorate Recipients, please visit <https://nsf.gov/statistics/srvydoctoratework/>.

If you have any questions, email our survey contractor (Westat) at SDR@westat.com or call 855-460-5324 (toll-free in the United States) or 301-637-8195 (outside the United States). Staff members are available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. (Eastern Time), and Saturday and Sunday from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. (Eastern Time).

Sincerely,

Daniel Foley, Survey Manager
Survey of Doctorate Recipients
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics
National Science Foundation

Your data will be kept strictly confidential and safeguarded in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 and the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002. The OMB Control number covering this collection is 3145-0020.

DRAFT as of May 14, 2021

Email NP: Ad hoc correspondence to non-primary email addresses

Sender: SDR@westat.com

Email subject line: NSF trying to reach you

Dear Dr. {LAST NAME},

Our attempts to reach you at the email address and mailing address that we have on file have been unsuccessful. Please contact Westat, our contractor, so we can update your contact information.

Phone: 855-460-5324 (toll free in the U.S.)

301-637-8195 (outside the U.S.)

Staff members are available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. (Eastern Time), and Saturday and Sunday from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. (Eastern Time).

Thank you in advance, we look forward to receiving your call.

Sincerely,

Daniel Foley, Survey Manager
Survey of Doctorate Recipients
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics
National Science Foundation