

# ATTACHMENT 8: SED Nonrespondent Contact Materials

## 2024 SED Communications

Type	To	From	Content	Expected Date	Timing
Email	Nonrespondents	NSF Project Officer	<b>Email #1A</b> – 1 <sup>st</sup> nonrespondent email prompt *have not registered for survey	11/2023-ongoing	
Email	Nonrespondents	NSF Project Officer	<b>Email #1B</b> – 1 <sup>st</sup> nonrespondent email prompt *have registered, but not completed	11/2023-ongoing	
Email	Nonrespondents	NSF Project Officer	<b>Email #2A</b> – 2 <sup>nd</sup> nonrespondent email prompt *have not registered for survey	12/2023-ongoing	Sent two weeks after Email #1A
Email	Nonrespondents	NSF Project Officer	<b>Email #2B</b> – 2 <sup>nd</sup> nonrespondent email prompt *have registered, but have broken off	12/2023-ongoing	Sent two weeks after Email #1B
Email	Nonrespondents	NSF Project Officer	<b>Email #3</b> – 3 <sup>rd</sup> nonrespondent email prompt	12/2023-ongoing	Sent two weeks after Email #2
Email	Nonrespondents	NSF Project Officer	<b>Email #4</b> – 4 <sup>th</sup> nonrespondent email prompt	12/2023-ongoing	Sent two weeks after Email #3
Email	Nonrespondents	NSF Project Officer	<b>Email #5</b> – 5 <sup>th</sup> nonrespondent email prompt	12/2023-ongoing	Sent two weeks after Email #4
Email	Nonrespondents	NSF Project Officer	<b>Email #6</b> – 6 <sup>th</sup> nonrespondent email prompt	8/2024-ongoing	
Email	Nonrespondents	NSF Project Officer	<b>Email #7</b> – 7 <sup>th</sup> nonrespondent email prompt	9/2024-ongoing	Sent two weeks after Email #6
Email	Nonrespondents	NSF Project Officer	<b>Email #8</b> – 8 <sup>th</sup> nonrespondent email prompt	12/2024	
Email	Nonrespondents	NSF Project Officer	<b>Email #9</b> – 9 <sup>th</sup> nonrespondent email prompt	12/2024	Sent one week after Email #8
Email	Nonrespondents	NSF Project Officer	<b>Email #10</b> – Final nonrespondent email prompt	12/2024	Sent one week after Email #9
Letter	Nonrespondents	NSF Project Officer	<b>Mail #1</b> – 1 <sup>st</sup> Nonresponse Mailing	6/2024-ongoing	
Post Card	Nonrespondents	NSF Project Officer	<b>Mail #2</b> – Pressure Sealed Postcard Reminder	6/2024-ongoing	Sent two weeks after the 1 <sup>st</sup> letter
Letter	Nonrespondents	NSF Project Officer	<b>Mail #3</b> – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Nonresponse Mailing	7/2024-ongoing	Sent two weeks after the postcard reminder
Letter	Nonrespondents	NSF Project Officer	<b>International Mailing</b> – Mailing to non-US addresses	10/2024	
Text	Nonrespondents		<b>Text Messages #1 - #6</b>	4/2024-12/2024	Sent two weeks apart
Text	Nonrespondents		<b>Text Message #8</b>	12/2024	
Email	Advisors of Nonrespondents	NSF Project Officer	Requesting student contact information from faculty advisors of nonrespondents	8/2024-ongoing	
Email	Advisors of Nonrespondents	NSF Project Officer	Reminder email requesting student contact information from faculty advisors of nonrespondents	8/2024-ongoing	Sent two weeks after the initial request
Email	Nonrespondents	SED Project Staff	SED Web Login Info Email sent during/after CATI call	7/2024-ongoing	
Email	Nonrespondents	ROC Staff	Follow-up email sent after CATI voicemail	7/2024-ongoing	
Email	Nonrespondents	ROC Staff	Email sent to NR who received 10 calls without contact “no contact email”	10/2024-ongoing	
Email	Nonrespondents	ROC Staff	Email to respondents we have spoken with but no interview was conducted	10/2024-ongoing	



Subject: Survey Invitation from the National Science Foundation

Dear Dr. <LastName>,

Congratulations on earning your doctoral degree! As a recent graduate of <UniversityName>, you are invited to participate in the Survey of Earned Doctorates (SED), a census of all new U.S. research doctorate recipients that has been conducted every year since 1958. The SED is sponsored by the National Science Foundation and other federal agencies.

Your response contributes to valuable data that are used to analyze the characteristics of doctorate cohorts, assess investments in graduate student support, and make improvements to the doctorate education system.

To complete the SED, click the button below. For security, you will be asked to create a new password prior to starting the survey.



Alternately, you can go login to <https://sed-ncses.org> and use the credentials provided below:

PIN: <caseid>351  
Password: <Password>

Your responses will be kept strictly confidential and only aggregate data are publicly reported. If you have any questions, please visit the SED information website at <https://sedsurvey.org/> or contact the SED help desk at [sed@rti.org](mailto:sed@rti.org) or (877) 256-8167.

Your participation would be greatly appreciated. Congratulations again on your achievement!

Sincerely,

Kelly H. Kang  
Project Officer  
Survey of Earned Doctorates  
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics  
National Science Foundation



Study sponsored by:



For information on the SED, please visit <https://nsf.gov/statistics/srvydoctorates/>.  
2024 SED data are being collected under contract by [RTI International](https://www.rti.org/), a nonprofit research organization, for NSF.

Subject: A reminder from the National Science Foundation

Dear Dr. <LastName>,

Congratulations on earning your doctoral degree! I am sending you a friendly reminder to please complete the Survey of Earned Doctorates (SED). As a recent doctoral graduate of <UniversityName>, your participation in this year's SED is very important.

Your response contributes to valuable data that are used to analyze the characteristics of doctorate cohorts, assess investments in graduate student support, and make improvements to the doctorate education system.

To access the survey, please go to <https://sed-ncses.org> and use your credentials below:

PIN: <caseid>352  
Password: \*\*\*\*\*

*If you do not remember the password that you set when you registered for the SED, click the "Reset My Password" link on the login page or contact our Help Desk at [sed@rti.org](mailto:sed@rti.org).*

The survey asks about your educational history and post-graduation plans, and should only take about 20 minutes to complete. Your responses will be kept strictly confidential and only aggregate data are publicly reported.

If you have any questions, please visit the SED information website at <https://sedsurvey.org/> or contact the SED help desk at [sed@rti.org](mailto:sed@rti.org) or (877) 256-8167.

Thank you in advance for your participation, and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Kelly H. Kang  
Project Officer  
Survey of Earned Doctorates  
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics  
National Science Foundation



Study sponsored by:



For information on the SED, please visit <https://nsf.gov/statistics/srvydoctorates/>.  
2024 SED data are being collected under contract by [RTI International](https://www.rti.org/), a nonprofit research organization, for NSF.

2024\_352

Subject: Survey of Earned Doctorates

Dear Dr. <LastName>,

We recently reached out to you with information for completing the Survey of Earned Doctorates (SED). As a recent doctoral graduate of <UniversityName>, your participation in this year's SED is essential. By completing the survey, you provide valuable information that is used by policymakers and universities to analyze changes in the characteristics of doctorate recipients, assess investments in graduate student support, and make improvements to the U.S. doctoral education system.

To complete the SED, click the button below. For security, you will be asked to create a new password prior to starting the survey.



Alternately, you can go login to the survey website with your PIN and temporary password below.

<https://sed-ncses.org>

PIN: <caseid>353

Password: <Password>

The survey takes about 20 minutes to complete. Your responses will be kept strictly confidential, and only aggregate data will be publicly reported. More information about the SED and how your information is protected can be found at <https://sedsurvey.org/>

If you have any questions, please contact us at [sed@rti.org](mailto:sed@rti.org) or (877) 256-8167.

Thank you for your participation, and congratulations on your achievement!

Sincerely,

Kelly H. Kang  
Project Officer  
Survey of Earned Doctorates  
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics  
National Science Foundation



Study sponsored by:



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To learn more about the SED and how the results have been used, please visit <https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/srvydoctorates/>.  
2024 SED data are being collected under contract by [RTI International](#), a nonprofit research organization.

2024\_353

Subject: Please complete your Survey of Earned Doctorates

Dear Dr. <LastName>,

Our records show that you have started the Survey of Earned Doctorates (SED) but haven't yet completed it. Your timely participation helps to ensure that the data are accurate and useful to policymakers and universities across the country.

You can pick up where you left off at <https://sed-ncses.org> using your credentials below:

PIN: <caseid>354

Password: \*\*\*\*\*

*If you do not remember the password you set when you last accessed the SED, click the "Reset My Password" link on the login page or contact our Help Desk at [sed@rti.org](mailto:sed@rti.org).*

If you have any questions or need assistance completing the survey, please contact us at [sed@rti.org](mailto:sed@rti.org) or (877) 256-8167.

Thank you for your participation, and congratulations on your achievement!

Sincerely,

Kelly H. Kang  
Project Officer  
Survey of Earned Doctorates  
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics  
National Science Foundation



Study sponsored by:



For information on the SED, please visit <https://nsf.gov/statistics/srvydoctorates/>  
2024 SED data are being collected under contract by [RTI International](https://www.rti.org/), a nonprofit research organization, for NSF.

2024\_354

Subject: Participation in the Survey of Earned Doctorates

Dear Dr. <LastName>,

This is a friendly reminder that we are still waiting for your response to the Survey of Earned Doctorates (SED), an annual census of research doctorate recipients from U.S. universities sponsored by the National Science Foundation and other federal agencies.

It is very important that the survey data are representative of all research doctorate earners from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023.

Any information you provide will be kept strictly confidential. Only data aggregated to levels that do not allow for the identification of individual respondents are released for publication. The SED results are published in an annual report; the reports from earlier surveys are available at: <http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/sed/>

To complete the SED, click the button below. For security, you will be asked to create a new password prior to starting the survey.



You can also login to the survey website with your PIN and temporary password below.

<https://sed-ncses.org>

PIN: <caseid>355

Password: <Password>

If you have any questions, please contact us at [sed@rti.org](mailto:sed@rti.org) or (877) 256-8167.

Thank you in advance for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,

Kelly H. Kang  
Project Officer  
Survey of Earned Doctorates  
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics  
National Science Foundation



Study sponsored by:



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For information on the SED, please visit <https://nsf.gov/statistics/srvydoctorates/>

2024 SED data are being collected under contract by [RTI International](https://www.rti.org/), a nonprofit research organization, for NSF.

2024\_355

Subject: National Science Foundation – Survey of Earned Doctorates

Dear Dr. <LastName>,

A few weeks ago, we sent you a reminder to respond to participate in the Survey of Earned Doctorates (SED), an annual census of research doctorate recipients from U.S. universities sponsored by the National Science Foundation and other federal agencies.

Please consider completing the SED – we would like to include your answers with those of approximately 55,000 other research doctorate earners from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023.

The SED is used to make important policy decisions about graduate education, and it is important that the survey data are representative of all research doctorates in the United States. All information you provide will be kept strictly confidential and only aggregated data are used in the publications. The SED results are available in an [annual report](#), as well as in the two reports mandated by Congress - [Science and Engineering Indicators](#), and [Women, Minorities, and Persons with Disabilities in Science and Engineering](#).

To start the survey, click the button below. To protect your responses, you will be asked to create a new password prior to starting the survey.



Alternately, you can go login to the survey website with your PIN and temporary password below.

<https://sed-ncses.org>

PIN: <caseid>356  
Password: <Password>

If you have any questions, please contact us at [sed@rti.org](mailto:sed@rti.org) or (877) 256-8167.  
Congratulations again, on completing your doctorate!

Sincerely,

Kelly H. Kang  
Project Officer  
Survey of Earned Doctorates  
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics  
National Science Foundation



Study sponsored by:



For information on the SED, please visit <https://nsf.gov/statistics/srvydoctorates/>  
2024 SED data are being collected under contract by [RTI International](#), a nonprofit research organization, for NSF.

2024\_356



Subject: Survey of Earned Doctorates – we need your help

Dear Dr. <LastName>,

You are one of only approximately 55,000 research doctorates who earned their degree from July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023. Considering this accomplishment, we ask for your help in completing the Survey of Earned Doctorates (SED), an annual census of research doctorate recipients from U.S. universities sponsored by the National Science Foundation and other federal agencies.

By completing the survey, you provide valuable information used by policymakers and universities to analyze changes in the characteristics of doctorate recipients, assess investments in graduate student support, and make improvements to the U.S. doctoral education system.



click the button below. For security, you will be asked to create a new password prior to starting the survey.

You can also login to the survey website with your PIN and temporary password below.

<https://sed-ncses.org>

PIN: <caseid>357  
Password: <Password>

If you have any questions, please contact us at [sed@rti.org](mailto:sed@rti.org) or (877) 256-8167.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kelly H. Kang  
Project Officer  
Survey of Earned Doctorates  
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics  
National Science Foundation



Study sponsored by:



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HUMANITIES

For information on the SED, please visit <https://nsf.gov/statistics/srvydoctorates/>  
2024 SED data are being collected under contract by [RTI International](https://www.rti.org/), a nonprofit research organization, for NSF.

2024\_357

Subject: Please remember to complete the Survey of Earned Doctorates

Dear Dr. <LastName>,

This is just a friendly reminder to complete the Survey of Earned Doctorates (SED), sponsored by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and three other federal agencies, at your earliest convenience.

Data collected from the SED helps policymakers and universities analyze changes in the characteristics of doctorate recipients, assess investments in graduate student support, and make improvements to the U.S. doctoral education system.

You can find out more about what we've learned from previous rounds of the SED at <https://nces.nsf.gov/pubs/nsf23300>.

The online survey only takes about 20 minutes, and can be completed at <https://sed-nces.org> using your credential below:

PIN: <caseid>  
Password: <Password>

You may also call (877) 256-8167 to complete a brief version of the survey over the telephone, if you prefer. We can also send a paper version of the survey to you to complete and mail back to us.

Your responses will be kept strictly confidential and only aggregate data are publicly reported. If you have any questions, please visit the SED information website at <https://sedsurvey.org/> or contact the SED help desk at [sed@rti.org](mailto:sed@rti.org).

We look forward to learning about your experiences since earning your doctorate. Congratulations again on your achievement!

Sincerely,

Kelly H. Kang  
Project Officer  
Survey of Earned Doctorates  
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics  
National Science Foundation

For information on the SED, please visit <https://nsf.gov/statistics/srvydoctorates/>  
SED data are being collected under contract by [RTI International](#), a nonprofit research organization, for NSF

Subject: Please complete the Survey of Earned Doctorates

Dear Dr. <LastName>,

We are still conducting the Survey of Earned Doctorates (SED), sponsored by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and three other federal agencies but time is running out and we need your help. As a recent doctoral graduate of <UniversityName>, your participation in the SED is very important. The SED asks about your educational history and post-graduation plans.

I hope you will take advantage of this unique opportunity to contribute to research that provides valuable data that are used by policymakers and universities. Your responses will be kept strictly confidential and only aggregate data are publicly reported.

The online survey only takes about 20 minutes, and can be completed at <https://sed-ncses.org> using your credential below:

PIN: <caseid>  
Password: <Password>

**If you would prefer to complete a brief version of the survey over the phone, please call 877-256-8167 and reference your Study ID [PIN].** We can also send a paper version of the survey to you to complete and mail back to us.

If you have any questions, please visit the SED information website at <https://sedsurvey.org/> or contact the SED help desk at [sed@rti.org](mailto:sed@rti.org). I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Kelly H. Kang  
Project Officer  
Survey of Earned Doctorates  
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics  
National Science Foundation

For information on the SED, please visit <https://nsf.gov/statistics/srvydoctorates/>

SED data are being collected under contract by [RTI International](#), a nonprofit research organization, for NSF

Subject: Importance of Your Participation in the Survey of Earned Doctorates

Dear Dr. <Last Name>,

The 2024 Survey of Earned Doctorates (SED) will soon be closing and we are reluctant to close this year's survey without your response.

Your information on the 2022 SED will be combined with that of approximately 57,000 other research doctorate recipients from the academic year 2022 (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024). The SED data are used to help inform governmental policy, evaluate graduate education programs, and make doctorate labor force projections.

To complete the survey, please register at <https://sed-ncses.org> to obtain the web survey access information.

Please rest assured that only aggregated data will be in published reports. To learn more about the SED and how the results are used, please visit <https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/srvydoctorates/>.

If you have questions, or concerns, please contact us at [sed@rti.org](mailto:sed@rti.org) or toll-free at (877) 256-8167.

Thank you for your assistance in this important research effort.

Sincerely,

Kelly H. Kang  
Project Officer  
Survey of Earned Doctorates  
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics  
National Science Foundation

SED data are being collected under contract by [RTI International](#), a nonprofit research organization, for NSF

**Subject: Reminder to Complete the Survey of Earned Doctorates**

Dear Dr. FILL1679149398,

Happy Holidays from the National Science Foundation!

We will be closing the 2023 Survey of Earned Doctorates (SED) data collection at the end of the year. I want to appeal to you one more time to complete the survey and would like to highlight the special significance of your response as a member of the AY year 2023 (July 2022 – June 2023) cohorts who were directly impacted by the COVID pandemic. The 2023 SED includes a special module of question on how the pandemic impacted your graduate experience and career plans.

Your responses will also help future students, your institution, and the broader academic community understand the costs and benefits of the doctoral experience. I hope that you will take a moment to respond to the SED today. It takes about 20 minutes to complete the survey.

**You can complete the 2023 SED at:**

**URL:** [FILL1156059476](https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/srvydoctorates/)

**PIN:** FILL319334009

**Password:** FILL286952108

Alternatively, you can complete an abbreviated version of the SED by calling (877) 256-8167. You can learn more about the SED and how the results are used, at <https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/srvydoctorates/>. If you have questions, or concerns, please contact us at [sed@rti.org](mailto:sed@rti.org) or toll-free at (877) 256-8167.

Your participation in this important research effort is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Kelly Kang

Project Officer  
Survey of Earned Doctorates  
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics  
National Science Foundation

**Subject: Importance of Your Participation in the Survey of Earned Doctorates – FINAL REMINDER**

Dear Dr. FILL1679149398,

The 2022 Survey of Earned Doctorates (SED) is ending on December 31, 2022, and we really would like your responses to be part of the SED data, which is the only national source that helps to inform government policy, evaluate graduate education programs, and make doctorate labor force projections, among many of its uses.

**Please complete the SED online before it's too late at:**

**URL:** <https://sed-ncses.org>

**PIN:** FILL319334009

**Password:** FILL286952108

You can learn more about the SED and how the results are used, at <https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/srvydoctorates/>. If you have questions, or concerns, please contact [sed@rti.org](mailto:sed@rti.org) or toll-free at (877) 256-8167.

We would greatly appreciate your participation in this important research effort.

Sincerely,

Kelly H. Kang  
Project Officer  
Survey of Earned Doctorates  
National Center for Science and Engineering  
Statistics National Science Foundation

NONRESPONSE MAILING #1 – 1st HARDCOPY LETTER/BROCHURE MAILING TO NONRESPONDENTS

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<Date>

<FirstName> <LastName>

<Address>

<City, State, Zip>

Dear Dr. <FirstName> <LastName>:

We would like to extend our congratulations on completing your doctorate! In light of this achievement, I invite you to participate in the Survey of Earned Doctorates (SED), conducted by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and other federal agencies. SED data are being collected under contract by RTI International, a nonprofit research organization for NSF.

Because the SED is used to make important policy decisions about graduate education, it is important that the survey data are representative of all research doctorates in the United States. Your response will be combined with that of approximately 50,000 other research doctorate earners from your academic year. These aggregated data are used to help inform governmental policy, evaluate graduate programs, and make doctorate labor force projections.

We greatly value your doctoral education experiences and request you complete the SED online at:

URL: <https://sed-ncses.org>

PIN: <caseid>

Password: <Password>

<PasswordFill>

Your responses will be kept strictly confidential, and only aggregate data will be in published reports. The SED results are available at: [www.nsf.gov/statistics/sed](http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/sed).

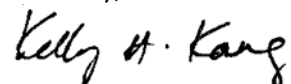
You can view a paper version of the questionnaire at:

<https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/srvydoctorates/surveys/srvydoctorates-2022.pdf>

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at [sed@rti.org](mailto:sed@rti.org) or (877) 256-8167.

Congratulations again on this monumental accomplishment.

Sincerely,



Kelly H. Kang

Project Officer

Survey of Earned Doctorates

National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics

National Science Foundation

<controlID>

**HOW WILL MY INFORMATION BE PROTECTED?**

The confidentiality of any information provided as part of the SED is safeguarded under the Privacy Act of 1974 and the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended. Staff working with data are required to sign binding confidentiality affidavits with fines up to \$250,000 or imprisonment as punishment for disclosure. In addition, the processing facilities and computer equipment used to store or access data are designed and maintained to ensure confidentiality.

**WHY DOES THE SED NEED THE PARTIAL SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER (SSN)?**

We use the last four digits of the SSN for two reasons:

- to identify duplicate records for doctorate recipients in historical SED data files; and
- to match SED data to information on federal funding support for graduate education.

We will safeguard your partial SSN with the utmost security, and it will not be used for any purpose other than those listed above.

**SURVEY SPONSORS**



**HOW DO I PARTICIPATE?**

You can complete the SED at:



<https://sed-ncses.org>

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT:**

National Science Foundation  
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics  
Attention: SED  
2415 Eisenhower Ave.  
Alexandria, VA 22314

RTI International – Project: SED  
Research Operations Center  
5265 Capital Blvd.  
Raleigh, NC 27616  
877-256-8167  
sed@rti.org



**WHAT IS THE SED?**

The Survey of Earned Doctorates (SED) is an annual census of individuals who were awarded a research doctorate from an accredited U.S. institution.

**WHY AM I BEING ASKED TO PARTICIPATE?**

As a recipient of a research doctorate, your participation is essential to the federal agencies who sponsor this study to learn more about those who graduate with a research doctoral degree.

**WHO IS SPONSORING THE STUDY?**

The study is being conducted on behalf of the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics of the National Science Foundation; the National Institutes of Health; the U.S. Department of Education; and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

SED data are being collected under contract by RTI International,<sup>1</sup> a nonprofit research organization based in North Carolina.

**HOW WILL MY INFORMATION BE USED?**

Your information will be combined with that of approximately 55,000 other research doctorate earners from your academic year. These combined data will be used by various entities (e.g., universities, federal and state agencies) to inform governmental policy, evaluate graduate education programs, and make labor force projections. Additionally, graduate deans may receive data on their own graduates, which they agree to use for statistical purposes only.

Any information you provide will be kept strictly confidential. Only data aggregated to levels that will not allow the identification of individual respondents are released for publication.

**FOR EXAMPLE, RECENT SED RESULTS REVEALED:**

- Overall, 46% of all doctorates in 2020 were awarded to women. Since 2002, women have earned just over half of all research doctorates awarded to U.S. citizens and permanent residents and more than 30% of research doctorates awarded to temporary visa holders.<sup>2</sup>
- In 2020, the proportion of research doctorate recipients in mathematics and computer sciences and in psychology and social sciences who had definite commitments reached their highest points in the past 20 years (76% in each field).<sup>3</sup> Non-science and engineering (non-S&E) fields similarly have recovered from lows in 2014–16.<sup>4</sup>
- In 2020, 44% of U.S. citizens and permanent residents with definite postgraduation commitments for employment in the United States had committed to jobs in academia (down from 51% in 2000), and 30% were planning on working in industry or business (up from 21% in 2000).<sup>5</sup> Among their temporary visa holder counterparts, 67% had lined up jobs in industry or business (up from 58% in 2000), and 28% had commitments in academia (down from 34% in 2000).<sup>6</sup>
- Data from the survey are available on the NSF website and in annual reports published online (<http://nsf.gov/statistics/sed/>).

<sup>1</sup> RTI International is a registered trademark and a trade name of Research Triangle Institute.

<sup>2</sup> National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, National Science Foundation (NCSES/NSF). 2021. *Doctorate Recipients from U.S. Universities: 2020*. Figure 4. NSF 22-300. Alexandria, VA. Available at <https://ncses.nsf.gov/pubs/nsf22300/>.

<sup>3</sup> See (NCSES/NSF 2021, Figure 20).

<sup>4</sup> See (NCSES/NSF 2021, Figure 35).

<sup>5</sup> See (NCSES/NSF 2021, Figure 21).

<sup>6</sup> See (NCSES/NSF 2021, Figure 36).



# DATA COLLECTION ENDS SOON!

You can still contribute to important research.

Dear Dr. <FirstNameLastName>:

This is a friendly reminder to complete the Survey of Earned Doctorates (SED), sponsored by the National Science Foundation and other federal agencies. If you have already completed the survey, we thank you!

If you haven't, we ask that you do so as soon as possible. We would like to include your responses in this important survey.

We greatly value your doctoral education experiences and request you complete the SED online at:

URL: <https://sed-ncses.org>

PIN: <pin>

Password: <>

<PasswordFill>

If you have any questions, please contact us by email at [sed@rti.org](mailto:sed@rti.org) or by telephone toll-free at 1-877-256-8167.

We greatly appreciate your time and effort.



<Date>

<FirstName> <LastName>

<Address>

<City, State, Zip>

Dear Dr. <FirstName> <LastName>:

A few weeks ago, we asked for your participation in the Survey of Earned Doctorates (SED), an annual census of research doctorate recipients from U.S. universities sponsored by the National Science Foundation and other federal agencies.

We would greatly appreciate your participation as the efficacy and accuracy of this survey rely on a high response rate. Any information you provide will be kept strictly confidential. Only data aggregated to levels that do not allow the identification of individual respondents are released for publication.

You can complete the survey online by going to: <https://sed-ncses.org/>

Your PIN is: <caseID>

Your Password is: <Password>

<PasswordFill>

You can view a paper version of the questionnaire at:

<https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/srvydoctorates/surveys/srvydoctorates-2022.pdf>

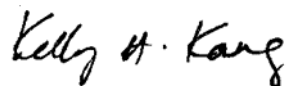
If you have already completed the survey, we thank you for your response. The SED results will be published in an annual report; the annual reports on earlier surveys are available at: <http://nsf.gov/statistics/sed/>.

This survey is conducted under contract by RTI International, a nonprofit research organization, for NSF.

If you have any questions, please contact us at [sed@rti.org](mailto:sed@rti.org) or (877) 256-8167.

Congratulations on completing your doctorate.

Sincerely,



Kelly H. Kang

Project Officer

Survey of Earned Doctorates

National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics

National Science Foundation

<controlID>

NONRESPONSE MAILING INTERNATIONAL ADDRESSES

---

<Date>

<FirstName> <LastName>

<Address1>

<Address2>

<City> <Country>

Dear Dr. <LastName>:

The 2024 Survey of Earned Doctorates (SED) will soon be closing and we are reluctant to close this year's survey without your response.

You are one of approximately 55,000 research doctorates who earned their degree from July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024. Considering this accomplishment, we ask for your help in completing the Survey of Earned Doctorates (SED), an annual census of research doctorate recipients from U.S. universities sponsored by the National Science Foundation and other federal agencies.

By completing the survey, you provide valuable information used by policymakers and universities to analyze changes in the characteristics of doctorate recipients, assess investments in graduate student support, and make improvements to the U.S. doctoral education system.

Please complete the SED online at <https://sed-ncses.org> using your credentials below:

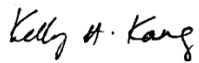
PIN: <caseid>

Password: <Password>

Your responses will be kept strictly confidential, and only aggregate data will be in published reports. The SED results are available at: [www.nsf.gov/statistics/sed](http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/sed). If you have any questions, please contact us at [sed@rti.org](mailto:sed@rti.org) or (877) 256-8167.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Kelly H. Kang

Project Officer

Survey of Earned Doctorates

National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics

National Science Foundation

<controlID>

## SMS TEXT MESSAGE REMINDERS TO NONRESPONDENTS

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### Initial Text

Hello, congratulations on behalf of the National Science Foundation on your doctoral degree. We invite you to complete the Survey of Earned Doctorates at <https://link.rti.org/VJowfe7-91>. All information you provide will be kept strictly confidential. Reply STOP to opt out.

### Reminder Text #1

This is a reminder on behalf of NSF to please complete the Survey of Earned Doctorates at <https://link.rti.org/VJoife7-91>. SED is an annual census of U.S. research doctorate recipients sponsored by NSF, NIH, ED and NEH. Your participation is very important! If you have any questions, please contact us at [sed@rti.org](mailto:sed@rti.org). Reply STOP to opt out.

### Reminder Text #2

This is a friendly reminder to please complete the Survey of Earned Doctorates at <https://link.rti.org/VJoife7-91>. Information on the survey is available at <https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/srvydoctorates/>. Reply STOP to opt out.

### Reminder Text #3

Please consider completing the Survey of Earned Doctorates at <https://link.rti.org/VJoife7-91> as we would like to include your answers with those of other research doctorate earners from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. Information on the survey is available at <https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/srvydoctorates/>. Reply STOP to opt out.

### Reminder Text #4

The 2022 Survey of Earned Doctorates data collection will be ending soon. Please complete the survey today at <https://link.rti.org/VJoife7-91>. Your response would be greatly appreciated. The SED results are published in an annual report at: <https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/srvydoctorates/>. Reply STOP to opt out.

### Reminder Text #5

We are nearing the end of the SED data collection. This is a reminder to please complete the Survey of Earned Doctorates at <https://link.rti.org/VJoife7-91>. Completing the survey is a service to your institution, to your peers, and to future doctoral students. Information on the survey is available at <https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/srvydoctorates/>. Reply STOP to opt out.

### Final Text

The 2023 Survey of Earned Doctorates data collection will be ending at the end of December. This is our final text asking you to please complete the survey today at <https://link.rti.org/VJoife7-91>. Your response would be greatly appreciated. Information on the survey is available at <https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/srvydoctorates/>. Reply STOP to opt out.

## EMAIL TO FACULTY ADVISORS OF NONRESPONDENTS

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Subject: Request from the National Science Foundation

Dear Dr. <Advisor First Name> <Advisor Last Name>:

I would like to ask for your assistance with the Survey of Earned Doctorates (SED), sponsored by the National Science Foundation and other federal agencies. We need to find the contact information for one of your former students, <Respondent First Name> <Respondent Last Name>, so we can send an invitation to complete the SED.

As you may know, the SED is an annual census of all research doctorate recipients in the U.S., conducted since 1958. The aggregated survey data are used to help inform government policy, in evaluation of graduate programs, and projection of the doctorate workforce, among many important data uses. Information and data from the SED can be found online at: <https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/srvydoctorates/>.

We will soon be closing the SED data collection for the AY2022 (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024) graduates and would like to ensure Dr. <Respondent First Name> <Respondent Last Name>'s responses are included in this important national census.

If you have any contact information for Dr. <Respondent Last Name>, please let us know at [sed@rti.org](mailto:sed@rti.org) or (877) 256-8167.

We greatly appreciate your assistance with this important effort.

Sincerely,

Kelly H. Kang  
Project Officer  
Survey of Earned Doctorates  
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics  
National Science Foundation

SED data are being collected under contract by [RTI International](https://www.rti.org/), a nonprofit research organization, for NSF

REMINDER EMAIL TO FACULTY ADVISORS OF SED NONRESPONDENTS

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Subject: Request from the National Science Foundation - Reminder

Dear Dr. <Advisor First Name> <Advisor Last Name>:

I am following up on my earlier request for your assistance with the Survey of Earned Doctorates (SED), sponsored by the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, and other federal agencies.

We would like to contact one of your former doctoral students, <Respondent First Name> <Respondent Last Name>, to send an invitation to complete the 2024 SED.

As you may know, the SED is an annual census of all research doctorate recipients in the U.S., conducted since 1958. The aggregated data from the SED are used to help inform government policy, in evaluation of graduate programs, and projection of the doctorate workforce, among many important data uses. The released data from the 2020 SED can be found at: <https://nces.nsf.gov/pubs/nsf22300/>.

If you have any contact information for Dr. <Respondent Last Name>, please let us know at [sed@rti.org](mailto:sed@rti.org) or (877) 256-8167.

If you prefer, you can also forward this email to Dr. <Respondent Last Name>.

We greatly appreciate your assistance with this important effort.

Sincerely,

Kelly H. Kang  
Project Officer  
Survey of Earned Doctorates  
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics  
National Science Foundation

SED data are being collected under contract by [RTI International](#), a nonprofit research organization, for NSF.

SED Survey Link: <https://sed-nces.org>

Subject: Your SED Survey Login Information

Dear Dr. <Last Name of Nonrespondent>,

We greatly appreciate your participation in the Survey of Earned Doctorates.

Please complete the SED online at <https://sed-ncses.org> using your credentials below:

PIN: <caseid>  
Password: <Password>

Your responses will be kept strictly confidential and only aggregate data will be publicly reported.

If you have any questions, please contact us at [SED@rti.org](mailto:SED@rti.org) or (877) 256-8167.

Thank you for your participation, and congratulations on your achievement!

Sincerely,

The SED Project Team

For more information about the SED, please visit <https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/srvydoctorates/>

To learn more about how your information is protected, please see:  
[https://sedsurvey.org/content/pdf/Student\\_Brochure.pdf](https://sedsurvey.org/content/pdf/Student_Brochure.pdf)

Subject line – We left you a voicemail message on behalf of NSF

Dear Dr. <LAST NAME>,

A member of our survey team called you and left a voicemail message regarding the Survey of Earned Doctorates. The SED is conducted by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and other federal agencies and the survey data are being collected under contract by RTI International, a nonprofit research organization. The SED survey will soon come to a close, so we hope you will take just 10 minutes to complete it over the phone or complete it online at your convenience.

The SED is an annual census that gathers information from new research doctorate graduates from U.S. universities about their educational histories, funding sources, and post-doctoral plans. We don't want you to miss out on providing valuable input that will be used to inform governmental policy, evaluate graduate education programs, and make labor force projections. Your responses will be kept strictly confidential, and only aggregate data will be publicly reported.

To complete the survey online, use the secure login credentials to access the survey at <https://sed-ncses.org>:

**Pin:** [CASEID]

**Password:** [PASSWORD]

If you would like to complete the survey over the phone with one of our interviewers, please call **877-256-8167** and reference ID number [CASEID].

Thank you in advance for your participation, and congratulations on your achievement!

Dr. Peter Einaudi,

SED Project Director, RTI International

For more information about the SED, please visit <https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/srvydoctorates/>



**EMAIL FOLLOW-UP SENT TO NONRESPONDENTS WHO HAVE RECEIVED MORE THAN 10 CATI CALLS WITHOUT CONTACT**

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Subject line – A message on behalf of NSF

Dear Dr. <LAST NAME>,

We have tried to contact you several times regarding the Survey of Earned Doctorates (SED) but have been unsuccessful. We know that receiving unwanted phone calls can be annoying, so we want to reach out to explain the purpose of our calls.

The SED is an annual census that gathers information from new research doctorate graduates from U.S. universities about their educational histories, funding sources, and post-doctoral plans. We don't want you to miss out on providing valuable input that will be used to inform governmental policy, evaluate graduate education programs, and make labor force projections. Your responses will be kept strictly confidential, and only aggregate data will be publicly reported.

To complete the survey online, use the secure login credentials to access the survey at <https://sed-ncses.org>:

**Pin:** [CASEID]

**Password:** [PASSWORD]

To complete a short version of the survey by phone, please call 877-256-8167 and reference ID number [CASEID]. Thank you in advance for your participation, and congratulations on your achievement!

Dr. Peter Einaudi,  
SED Project Director, RTI International

For more information about the SED, please visit <https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/srvydoctorates/>

SUBJECT: Recent Phone Call about the SED

Dear Dr. [LASTNAME],

Thank you for taking the time to speak to us recently about the Survey of Earned Doctorates (SED). The SED is conducted by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and other federal agencies, with the survey data collection by RTI International, a nonprofit research organization. The SED is an annual census that collects important information on new U.S. research doctorate graduates about their educational history, graduate education funding, and postgraduation plans.

We invite you to complete an abbreviated survey which takes about 10 minutes over the phone or complete the full Web survey at your convenience. We understand that you're very busy, but we want to make sure your information is included in the valuable data that is used to inform government policy, evaluate graduate education programs, and make labor force projections. Your responses will be kept strictly confidential, and only aggregate data will be publicly reported.

To complete the survey online, use the secure login credentials to access the survey at <https://sed-ncses.org>:

**PIN:** [CASEID\_TRACKING]

**Password:** [PASSWORD]

To complete the survey over the phone, please call **877-256-8167** and reference ID number [CASEID]. Thank you in advance for your participation, and congratulations on your achievement!

Peter Einaudi,  
SED Project Director, RTI International

For more information about the SED, please visit <https://nsf.gov/statistics/srvydoctorates/>.