

Informed Consent Form

This informed consent form is for PhD graduates of European universities, who are invited to participate in the DocEnhance PhD graduates' career-tracking survey carried out by the European Science Foundation.

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This Informed Consent Form has two parts:

- Information Sheet (to share with your information about the study)
- Certificate of Consent (for signatures if you choose to participate)

You will be able to download and keep a copy of the full Informed Consent Form

Part I: Information Sheet

Introduction

European Science Foundation-Science Connect (ESF) is involved in the European Union-funded project DocEnhance and as part of this project, we would like to give you information and invite you to be part of the research we are going to carry out on careers of doctorate holders. If you are not sure whether you would like to participate in the research or not, or if there are words in this survey that you do not understand, you can talk to anyone you feel comfortable with about the research or contact us directly (see Section Who to contact), and then decide.

Purpose of the research

We want to study occupational patterns of doctorate graduates and understand if they have pursued research careers in academia or industry thanks to transferable skills acquired, or whether they have moved on to other occupations. We would like to explore whether doctoral training has enabled them to progress towards their desired career goals and how satisfied they are with their jobs. This questionnaire will offer valuable feedback to the participating universities on how to improve their doctoral training.

Type of Research Intervention

This research will involve filling out an online questionnaire.

Participant Selection

You are being invited to fill out this questionnaire because you have pursued and completed a doctoral degree at one of the DocEnhance partner universities in the relevant time period (2016-2020).

Voluntary Participation

Your participation in this research is voluntary. It is your choice whether to participate or not. You may change your mind later and stop participating, even if you have agreed to do so previously.

Procedures

- A. This research study consists of an online questionnaire. If you choose to participate, you will help us to learn more about the career paths of doctorate holders. In this way, you will contribute to improve and enhance doctoral training in Europe and beyond.
- B. You are invited by your university to fill out this questionnaire. The questionnaire is to be filled out online. If you do not wish to answer any of the questions included in the survey, you may skip them and move on to the next question. The types of questions will concern, for instance, your doctorate completion time, competences gained, transition to the first position, employment status and sector of employment, relationship between work and doctorate, engagement or not in research, as well as motivation for and satisfaction with the current job.

Duration

The DocEnhance career tracking survey task takes place over 24 months and involves several stages: preparation of the questionnaire, design and set-up of the survey, survey launch, analysis of collected data and preparation of the report(s) outlining the main results. The survey will be open for a period of approximately three-four weeks.

Risks

The questionnaire is not asking for any sensitive information (e.g. political opinions or community beliefs) and the confidentiality arrangements in place will guarantee that any potentially identifying data collected (e.g. year of birth, gender or citizenship) will be used for the purposes of statistical analysis only and anonymized before analysis. There is a risk that in open-ended questions you may share some personal or confidential information by chance or that you may feel uncomfortable answering some of the questions. You do not have to answer any question if you feel the question is too personal or if answering it makes you uncomfortable. The answers will be anonymised. Any potentially identifying personal data collected by the survey such as the year of birth, gender, or citizenship are only used for statistical analysis of aggregate trends. The data collected will be used for research and evaluation purposes. It will be made available to institutions and other researchers anonymously only. At the end of the questionnaire, you will be asked if you would agree to be contacted again for any follow up survey in several years' time. In case you agree, you will be asked to provide a contact email. Your contact data will always be processed and stored separately from the survey data.

Benefits

There will be no direct benefit to you, but your participation is likely to help us find out more about how to adjust doctoral training programme so that it leads to fulfill careers for the doctorate holders. You may also be interested in finding out which career paths the graduates from your university have followed.

Reimbursements

This is an online survey without direct costs to you. You will therefore not receive any monetary reimbursement for your participation.

Confidentiality

The questionnaire does not seek any personally identifiable information except for your year of

birth, gender and citizenship, which are only used for the purposes of the statistical analysis of aggregated trends. At the end of the questionnaire, you will be asked if you would agree to be contacted again for any follow up survey in several years' time. In case you agree, you will be asked to provide a contact email. Your contact data will always be processed and stored separately from the survey data. You can revoke your acceptance of the storage of your contact data in written form at any time (via email at database@esf.org) without giving reasons. It will then be immediately deleted.

Sharing the Results

The knowledge that we gain from this research will be shared and made widely available to the public via the DocEnhance project website and European Science Foundation-Science Connect website.

Right to Refuse or Withdraw

You do not have to take part in this research if you do not wish to do so, and you may stop participating in the survey at any time.

Contact

If you have any questions about this survey, please contact Julia Boman at jboman@esf.org.

If you have any ethical or data questions regarding General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), you can contact the ESF designated Data Protection Officer, Isabelle Vonesch, contact at database@esf.org. The Data Protection Officer will ensure that personal data collection and processing in the frame of this survey will be carried out according to EU and national legislation.

Part II: Certificate of Consent

I have been invited to participate in a career-tracking survey designed for doctoral graduates from European universities. I am willing to participate in this study in order to enable a better understanding of doctoral graduates' career paths and their transferable skills. I have read the foregoing information.

I have read the foregoing information. I have had the opportunity to ask questions about it and any questions I have been asked, have been answered to my satisfaction. I consent voluntarily to be a participant in this study. I reserve the right to withdraw from the study at any point, without giving any reason or explanation.

- Print name of participant, Date and Signature – via online system