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### **1. Purpose, etc., of profiling**

#### **Q1. What is the Japan Doctoral Human Resource Profiling (JD-Pro.)?**

A1. JD-Pro. is an ongoing survey on doctorate recipients regarding their employment status, living conditions, etc., for the purpose of examining policies to improve the educational quality of doctoral candidature and to realize a society where a wide variety of highly educated people can flourish utilizing their skills. The collected data are statistically processed and used in research studies by the National Institute of Science and Technology Policy (NISTEP).

#### **Q2. What is the purpose of the JD-Pro.?**

A2. In Japan, about 15,000 people receive a doctorate degree every year and start their career in various fields as major contributors to science and technology innovations and as highly skilled workers. However, it is known that building a highly specialized career is becoming difficult due to escalating competition in research and the recent poor employment situation in Japan. The JD-Pro. is designed to continuously understand the current situation surrounding doctorate recipients for the purpose of establishing policies to improve the career environment. The results will be utilized as a political information base, such as for ideal research fund allocation for promoting science and technology and improving the environment of doctoral candidature.

#### **Q3. Why do you do a tracking survey (profiling)?**

A3. Doctorate recipients have various backgrounds and the timing for when they receive a doctorate varies from person to person. As a result, the timing of their employment varies greatly, which cannot be tracked by the "Basic Research on School" (conducted by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology in May) alone. Additionally, it has become common for research positions to shift from a term limit system to a tenure-track system, and the type of employment usually changes as time goes by even if the occupation itself remains the same. A tracking survey allows the accurate identification of such changes in their career path. On top of that, profiling the same person allows for the omitting of other conditions (individual variations), enabling highly reliable analysis on, for instance, the association between experiences during doctoral candidature and employment status, the association between research fund allocation and number of papers produced, and the association between career path and their life events.

## 2. Subjects

### Q4. Who are the subjects of JD-Pro.?

A4. The subjects of JD-Pro. are all students who completed a Ph.D. course during FY2012 (from April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013) at a national, public or private university in Japan (includes those who left the course without receiving a doctorate after completing the required candidature). This includes Japanese students, foreign students and adult students.

### Q5. Why was I selected?

A5. JD-Pro. targets all persons who completed a Ph.D. course during FY2012. It is a survey for all relevant persons; no person is specifically selected.

### Q6. Why do I have to participate in the JD-Pro.?

A6. While doctorate recipients play an important role in contributing to research and innovation, their career path still remains unclear. In order to improve the career environment of doctorate recipients, it is vitally important to firstly understand the current career situations. To date, no ongoing surveys on doctorate recipients have been carried out in Japan. JD-Pro. is essential for understanding the current status and issues of postdoctoral careers and planning appropriate governmental policies for highly skilled persons based on the obtained data. Your participation will be greatly appreciated.

### Q7. Will the JD-Pro. be continued for all doctorate recipients in the future?

A7. The next JD-Pro. is planned for 3 years' time, i.e., for those who receive a doctorate in FY2015. The subjects or frequency of the survey may well be changed in the future based on the survey results.

### Q8. I am not living in Japan. Am I still considered as a subject of JD-Pro.?

A8. If you completed a Ph.D. course at a university in Japan in FY2012, you are a subject of JD-Pro.

### Q9. I am not a Japanese, nor working in Japan. Am I still considered as a subject of JD-Pro.?

A9. If you completed a Ph.D. course at a university in Japan in FY2012, you are a subject of JD-Pro.

### Q10. I am not a doctorate recipient in FY2012, yet I received a request to participate in JD-Pro.

A10. You are not a subject of JD-Pro. and do not have to respond. We apologize for any problems or confusion created.

### Q11. I have not yet received a doctorate. Am I still considered as a subject of JD-Pro.?

A11. Even if you have not received a doctorate, if you officially completed a Ph.D. course in FY2012 then you are a subject of JD-Pro. Persons who withdrew from a course having completed the coursework are also the subjects of JD-Pro.

### 3. Profiling methods

#### Q12. Who is conducting the JD-Pro.?

A12. The survey itself is conducted by NISTEP. For the FY2014 survey, NISTEP commissioned Mitsubishi UFJ Research and Consulting Co., Ltd. to carry out a series of work related to the survey, including management of the online survey system, data processing, and data analysis.

#### Q13. How do I participate in the JD-Pro.?

A13. Universities send an email to doctorate recipients requesting participation in the “1st Japan Doctoral Human Resource Profiling”. In the case of universities losing contact with doctorate recipients, similar information is sent to academic societies and various organizations; there may be an occasion of receiving multiple notices requesting participation. Please respond only once, by accessing the website shown in the email.

#### Q14. Will I have to participate in the JD-Pro. every year?

A14. Establishment of statistically and analytically meaningful data that track changes in career paths requires long-term fixed-point surveys. This especially applies to people employed under a term limit system who move to the next position after a term of 3-5 years. Therefore, we believe that we need to know individual's career status for at least 6 years after graduation. Please oblige us with your annual participation to the extent possible.

### 4. Answering methods

#### Q15. Can I ignore the questions that I don't want to answer?

A15. You certainly don't have to answer any questions you don't want to answer. However, in order to improve the statistical meaningfulness of data, please oblige us with answering as many questions as possible.

#### Q16. I don't like online surveys or answering questions online. May I complete the JD-Pro. in another way?

A16. If you wish us to send a paper survey form either by post or email, please contact our secretariat. We will happily send a form to you.

#### Q17. I have a disability that makes completing the JD-Pro. survey difficult. What shall I do?

A17. Please contact our secretariat shown below. We will offer various alternative methods so that we can select a method that suits you.

### 5. Personal information management

[Q18. Answering about specialty and gender might lead to identification of individuals.](#)

A18. All gathered data will be statistically processed and no information that leads to identification of individuals will be disclosed. Individual descriptions will be dealt confidentially and will never be disclosed to any third parties. Regarding the FY2014 survey, NISTEP commissioned Mitsubishi UFJ Research and Consulting Co., Ltd. to carry out a series of work related to the survey after concluding a non-disclosure agreement.

[Q19. Will my university know my answers?](#)

A19. Your answers will be directly sent to NISTEP (secretariat) without going through universities. Therefore, your university will never know your answers.  
However, at the request of universities, processed data may be disclosed to universities. The disclosed data will not contain any information that enables identification of individuals.

## 6. Profiling data and results

### Q20. Where may I see the survey results?

A20. If you want to receive a prompt report of the survey results, please specify the reception method (post, or email) in the last section of the survey. We are also planning to disclose official survey results on our website (<http://www.nistep.go.jp/>).

### Q21. How is the gathered data used?

A21. It is an ongoing profiling survey, and your answers and email address will be strictly managed by NISTEP and will be used in successive surveys. The gathered information will never be used for any purpose other than for survey and research.

### Q22. Will any changes to residential address, contact numbers or email address affect the next survey?

A22. It will help us greatly if you notify us of any changes to your contact information at our email address: [jd-pro@go.jp](mailto:jd-pro@go.jp). Please note that this address is different from that of the JD-Pro. secretariat shown below.

### Q23. How will my answers be utilized?

A23. Your answers will be digitized and processed with data cleaning to resolve any discrepancies in the answers. The data will then be statistically processed and analyzed, and summarized into a report. Analysis results will be utilized for implementing political solutions to resolve various issues.

### Q24. Is there any research that has used the JD-Pro.?

A24. This is the first survey and there is no advance research using the data of JD-Pro. However, NISTEP has conducted other research and surveys in the past on doctoral graduates, which can be viewed on our website. Especially, our research and survey on highly skilled human resources are summarized in the NISTEP Booklet-2.

NISTEP Booklet-2↓

<http://data.nistep.go.jp/dspace/bitstream/11035/2457/3/NISTEP-booklet002.pdf>

- Contact information of JD-Pro. Secretariat  
(For answering methods and sending of paper survey format)  
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