



FAQ on Japan Doctoral Human Resource Profiling (JD-Pro)

1. Purpose
 2. Subjects
 3. Survey methods
 4. Answering methods
 5. Personal information management
 6. Survey data and results
-

1. Purpose

Q 1 . What is the Japan Doctoral Human Resource Profiling (JD-Pro)?

A 1 . JD-Pro is an ongoing survey of doctorate recipients, conducted by the National Institute of Science and Technology Policy (NISTEP), Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, regarding their doctoral course experience, employment status and awareness, research, and living conditions, etc. Currently, a survey of Ph.D. graduates during FY2012 is being conducted and this year's survey will be carried out for those who graduated three and half years later. Also, this year will start a survey of FY2015 Ph.D. graduates.

Q 2 . What is the purpose of the JD-Pro?

A 2 . In Japan, about 15,000 people complete doctorate courses every year, but employment opportunities are limited compared to other industrialized countries, and it has become difficult to pursue a highly specialized career. NISTEP seeks to improve this environment through the Japan Doctoral Human Resource Profiling survey by establishing objective evidence for the purpose of creating policy. The survey seeks to build an information base of doctoral course experiences, employment status and career awareness, research, and living conditions. It will be used to plan various policies and engage in policy research that makes use of those policies to improve Ph.D. career environments, improve research systems that promote science and technology, and enhance graduate school doctoral courses.

Q 3 . Why do you do a tracking survey?

A 3 . Doctorate enrollees have various backgrounds and the timing for when they receive a Ph.D. varies

from person to person. As the timing of their employment varies greatly, it cannot be tracked by the “Basic Research on School” (conducted by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology) 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 changes in their employment situation and career path. On top of that, surveying the same person allows individual variations to be taken into consideration, enabling highly reliable analysis on such things as the association between experiences during doctoral course and employment status, the association between research fund allocation and number of papers produced, and the association between career path and life events.

2. Subjects

Q 4 . Who are the subjects of JD-Pro?

A 4 . The subjects of JD-Pro are all students who completed Ph.D. courses during FY2012 (from April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013) and FY2015 (from April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016) at a national, public or private university in Japan. It also includes those who left the course without receiving a doctorate after completing the required coursework. This includes Japanese students, foreign students, and adult students.

Q 5 . Why was I selected?

A 5 . JD-Pro targets all persons who completed Ph.D. courses during FY2012 and FY2015. No person is specifically selected.

Q 6 . Do I have to participate in the JD-Pro?

A 6 . The career paths of doctorate human resources are unclear. The data from this survey is essential for understanding the current status and issues of postdoctoral careers and engaging in data-based policy discussions and planning. Participation in the survey is voluntary, but your cooperation is greatly appreciated in order to develop better policy that will improve the career paths of doctoral human resources. Please note that in the survey, there are mandatory questions about personal attributes, but other questions do not have to be answered.

Q 7 . Will I have to participate in the survey in the future?

A 7 . The survey is conducted for Ph.D. recipients to understand changes in their career paths at the initial stages, and then planned for three-and-a-half and six-and-a-half years' time. The survey is conducted once every three years. The survey results are sent to those who wish to receive a copy, so your participation is encouraged.

Q 8 . I am not Japanese, nor living in Japan. Am I still considered as a subject of JD-Pro?

A 8 . If you completed a Ph.D. course at a university in Japan in FY2012 or FY2015, you are a subject of the survey. The survey targets all Ph.D. recipients, regardless of nationality or residence.

Q 9 . I am not a doctorate recipient in FY2012 or FY2015, yet I received a request to participate in JD-Pro. Do I have to participate?

A 9 . You are not a subject of JD-Pro and do not have to respond.

Q 1 0 . I have not yet received a doctorate. Am I still considered as a subject of JD-Pro?

A 1 0 . Even if you have not received a doctorate, if you officially completed a Ph.D. course in FY2012 or FY2015, then you are a subject of the survey. Persons who withdrew from a course having completed the coursework are also the subjects of JD-Pro.

3. Survey methods

Q 1 1 . Who is conducting the JD-Pro?

A 1 1 . The survey is planned, designed, and conducted by the National Institute of Science and Technology Policy (NISTEP) and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, with some of the work commissioned to a private survey company. For the FY2016 survey, Intage Research Inc. (Social Business Promotion Department) has been commissioned to carry out work related to building the online survey system, managing the system, data processing, and conducting the survey.

Q 1 2. How do I participate in the JD-Pro?

A 1 2. Universities will email doctorate recipients requesting participation in the “Doctoral Human Resource Profiling” survey (FY2015 doctoral course graduates 6 months later) on behalf of NISTEP and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. Please log in to the website in the email and take the survey. Universities that have lost contact with doctorate recipients, may send similar information to academic societies and various organizations. If you have received multiple requests, please respond only once.

NISTEP, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology will directly send reply requests regarding the “Doctoral Human Resource Profiling” survey (FY2012 doctoral course graduates 3 and half years later).

4. Answering methods

Q 1 3. Do I have to answer all of the questions?

A 1 3. You may skip any question except for those marked “Required.” However, in the spirit of cooperation and to make the survey meaningful, please oblige us with answering as many questions as possible. Responses will be statistically processed and it will not be possible to identify individuals.

Q 1 4. I don't like online surveys or answering questions online. May I complete the JD-Pro in another way?

A 1 4. If you would like to receive a paper copy or PDF version of the survey form, please contact the secretariat listed at the end of this document. The secretariat will handle all mailing and other requests.

Q 1 5. I have a disability that makes completing the JD-Pro survey difficult. What shall I do?

A 1 5. Please contact the secretariat listed at the end of this document. The secretariat will consider alternatives and handle your request.

5. Personal information management

Q 1 6 . Won't answering about specialty and gender lead to identification of individuals?

A 1 6 . The data of your responses will be statistically processed and no information that can identify an individual will be disclosed. Personal information will be kept confidential and will not be disclosed. Intage Research Inc. (Social Business Promotion Department) has been commissioned to carry out work related to the FY2016 survey and has signed a nondisclosure agreement with NISTEP, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

Q 1 7 . Will my university know my answers?

A 1 7 . Your answers will be directly sent to NISTEP (secretariat) without going through universities, and will be processed as statistical data. Your university will never know your answers or your personal information. However, at the request of universities, processed data that does not identify individuals may be disclosed to universities.

Q 1 8 . How will personal information be managed?

A 1 8 . Personal information will be managed as follows.

(1) Purpose of Use

In the tracking survey of doctoral human resources, personal information ("personal information") collected will be used in the following manner.

- i . Career tracking of doctoral human resources
- ii . Investigation, analysis, and academic research on the status of research activities and occupation of doctoral human resources
- iii . Creation of statistics on the status of research activities and occupation of doctoral human resources
- iv . Formulation of policies for doctoral human resources
- v . Communications and contact for research, requests, and provision of information relating to items i through iv

*All gathered data will be statistically processed and no information that leads to identification of individuals will be disclosed.

(2) Safety measures

With regards to personal information, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, shall, in accordance with the act on the protection of personal information held by administrative organs, and based on other related laws and ordinances, take necessary measures for the prevention of leakage, loss, or damage of personal information and for the proper management of the information.

6. Survey data and results

Q 1 9. Where may I see the survey results?

A 1 9. The survey results will be made into a report that will be published on the NISTEP website and copies of the report will be mailed to respondents. If you wish to receive a copy of the survey results, please specify the method of delivery (post or email) in the last section of the survey.

Q 2 0. Will any changes to residential address, contact number, or email address affect the next survey?

A 2 0. NISTEP will contact you roughly once every year until the next survey to check for any changes to your address or contact information. Additionally, please contact NISTEP, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology directly of any changes to your contact information. Contact NISTEP at jd-pro@nistep.go.jp. Please note that this address is different from the one used by the secretariat below.

■ Contact

(For purpose of the survey, etc.)

National Institute of Science and Technology Policy, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

1st Policy-Oriented Research Group: Kobayashi, Tsubaki

TEL : 03-3581-2395 Mail: jd-pro@nistep.go.jp

(For surveying methods, etc.)

Social Business Promotion Department, Intage Research Inc. Toyoda, Hamano, Ogura

TEL : 0120-608-378 Mail: hakase2016@intage.co.jp

(Secretariat commissioned for FY2016 “3rd Japan Doctoral Human Resource Profiling” survey)