

Table 57. Statistical profile of postgraduation plans of doctorate recipients in life sciences fields, by sex and field of study: 2015

Characteristic	All life sciences fields	Agricultural sciences and natural resources	Biological and biomedical sciences	Health sciences
All doctorate recipients (number) ^a	12,520	1,439	8,801	2,280
Postgraduation status (number) ^b				
Definite postgraduation study	3,896	333	3,216	347
Definite employment	2,258	378	1,101	779
Seeking employment or study	3,925	472	2,775	678
Other ^c	788	43	669	76
Definite postgraduation study (%) ^d				
Postdoc fellowship	55.6	34.5	57.4	59.7
Postdoc research associateship	41.2	63.4	39.9	31.7
Other or unknown ^e	3.2	2.1	2.7	8.6
Definite employment (%) ^f				
Academe	45.9	43.1	36.5	60.5
Government	10.5	14.3	10.4	8.7
Industry or business ^g	31.7	34.7	43.5	13.6
Nonprofit organization	9.5	5.0	7.1	15.1
Other or unknown ^h	2.4	2.9	2.5	2.1
Primary activity ⁱ				
R&D	46.3	61.5	52.7	29.6
Teaching	26.6	19.1	18.5	41.9
Management or administration	10.4	6.6	9.4	13.7
Professional services	13.6	10.0	15.4	12.9
Other	3.0	2.8	3.9	1.9
Secondary activity ^j				
R&D	25.4	21.6	18.7	36.9
Teaching	12.9	17.5	9.0	16.2
Management or administration	18.4	20.5	20.2	14.9
Professional services	9.8	9.1	9.4	10.7
Other	2.3	1.1	3.0	1.9
No secondary activity	31.1	30.2	39.6	19.4
Activity unknown	4.3	4.5	3.5	5.1
Postgraduation location (%) ^k				
United States ^l	91.5	84.4	92.1	93.6
New England	10.1	6.5	11.5	6.7
Middle Atlantic	11.4	6.5	12.1	12.1
East North Central	10.4	12.7	9.7	11.5
West North Central	6.6	11.0	5.9	6.4
South Atlantic	18.6	13.9	18.2	22.9
East South Central	3.8	4.1	3.4	5.2
West South Central	7.1	6.9	6.5	9.5
Mountain	4.9	8.0	4.1	6.2
Pacific and insular	18.5	14.9	20.5	12.9
Not in United States	8.4	15.6	7.8	6.3

Table 57. Statistical profile of postgraduation plans of doctorate recipients in life sciences fields, by sex and field of study: 2015

Characteristic	All life sciences fields	Agricultural sciences and natural resources	Biological and biomedical sciences	Health sciences
Location unknown	*	0.0	*	0.1
Male doctorate recipients (number)	5,578	748	4,112	718
Postgraduation status (number) ^b				
Definite postgraduation study	1,883	175	1,573	135
Definite employment	950	214	516	220
Seeking employment or study	1,616	228	1,180	208
Other ^c	376	20	336	20
Definite postgraduation study (%) ^d				
Postdoc fellowship	53.6	30.9	56.1	53.3
Postdoc research associateship	42.9	66.3	40.9	35.6
Other or unknown ^e	3.5	2.9	2.9	11.1
Definite employment (%) ^f				
Academe	41.5	39.7	35.3	57.7
Government	10.7	15.4	9.1	10.0
Industry or business ^g	39.2	36.0	48.6	20.0
Nonprofit organization	6.6	5.6	5.0	11.4
Other or unknown ^h	2.0	3.3	1.9	0.9
Primary activity ⁱ				
R&D	54.7	67.0	56.6	37.7
Teaching	20.9	15.3	16.1	38.2
Management or administration	8.0	6.9	8.2	8.8
Professional services	14.3	8.9	16.7	13.7
Other	2.1	2.0	2.4	1.5
Secondary activity ^j				
R&D	22.6	18.7	18.3	36.8
Teaching	14.5	19.7	10.8	18.6
Management or administration	20.0	23.6	19.9	16.7
Professional services	9.4	9.9	9.6	8.3
Other	1.9	1.5	2.2	1.5
No secondary activity	31.7	26.6	39.2	18.1
Activity unknown	4.3	5.1	2.7	7.3
Postgraduation location (%) ^k				
United States ^l	89.9	82.3	91.0	92.1
New England	9.9	5.4	11.8	3.9
Middle Atlantic	10.5	6.4	11.6	8.2
East North Central	10.7	13.4	9.8	13.2
West North Central	7.3	11.8	6.4	7.6
South Atlantic	17.3	12.6	17.7	19.7
East South Central	3.7	3.1	3.3	6.8
West South Central	7.1	8.2	6.3	10.7
Mountain	5.1	7.5	4.0	9.0
Pacific and insular	18.2	13.9	19.9	12.7
Not in United States	10.0	17.7	9.0	7.9

Table 57. Statistical profile of postgraduation plans of doctorate recipients in life sciences fields, by sex and field of study: 2015

Characteristic	All life sciences fields	Agricultural sciences and natural resources	Biological and biomedical sciences	Health sciences
Location unknown	*	0.0	*	0.0
Female doctorate recipients (number)	6,941	691	4,688	1,562
Postgraduation status (number) ^b				
Definite postgraduation study	2,013	158	1,643	212
Definite employment	1,308	164	585	559
Seeking employment or study	2,309	244	1,595	470
Other ^c	412	23	333	56
Definite postgraduation study (%) ^d				
Postdoc fellowship	57.6	38.6	58.6	63.7
Postdoc research associateship	39.5	60.1	38.9	29.2
Other or unknown ^e	2.9	1.3	2.5	7.1
Definite employment (%) ^f				
Academe	49.1	47.6	37.6	61.5
Government	10.3	12.8	11.6	8.2
Industry or business ^g	26.3	32.9	39.0	11.1
Nonprofit organization	11.6	4.3	8.9	16.6
Other or unknown ^h	2.7	2.4	2.9	2.5
Primary activity ⁱ				
R&D	40.2	54.4	49.3	26.5
Teaching	30.8	24.1	20.7	43.4
Management or administration	12.1	6.3	10.5	15.5
Professional services	13.2	11.4	14.3	12.5
Other	3.7	3.8	5.2	2.1
Secondary activity ^j				
R&D	27.5	25.3	19.1	37.0
Teaching	11.7	14.6	7.5	15.3
Management or administration	17.2	16.5	20.4	14.2
Professional services	10.1	8.2	9.3	11.6
Other	2.6	0.6	3.8	2.1
No secondary activity	30.7	34.8	40.0	19.8
Activity unknown	4.2	3.7	4.3	4.3
Postgraduation location (%) ^k				
United States ^l	92.8	87.0	93.2	94.3
New England	10.2	7.8	11.3	7.9
Middle Atlantic	12.2	6.5	12.5	13.9
East North Central	10.0	11.8	9.5	10.8
West North Central	6.0	9.9	5.5	5.8
South Atlantic	19.7	15.5	18.7	24.4
East South Central	4.0	5.3	3.6	4.5
West South Central	7.1	5.3	6.8	8.9
Mountain	4.7	8.7	4.1	4.9
Pacific and insular	18.7	16.1	21.1	13.0
Not in United States	7.1	13.0	6.8	5.6

Table 57. Statistical profile of postgraduation plans of doctorate recipients in life sciences fields, by sex and field of study: 2015

Characteristic	All life sciences fields	Agricultural sciences and natural resources	Biological and biomedical sciences	Health sciences
Location unknown	0.1	0.0	*	0.1

* = value < 0.05%.

^a Includes respondents who did not report sex.

^b Includes only respondents who reported postgraduation status.

^c Includes respondents who indicated that they did not plan to work or study, respondents who indicated some other type of postgraduation plans, and respondents who indicated definite plans for other full-time degree program.

^d Excludes respondents who indicated plans for other full-time degree program. Percentages based on number of doctorate recipients reporting definite postgraduation plans for study.

^e "Other" includes respondents who indicated definite postgraduation study plans for traineeship, internship or clinical residency, or other study.

^f Percentages based on number of doctorate recipients reporting definite postgraduation plans for employment.

^g Includes doctorate recipients who indicated self-employment.

^h "Other" is mainly composed of elementary and secondary schools.

ⁱ Percentages based on number of doctorate recipients reporting definite postgraduation plans for employment and primary work activity.

^j Percentages based on number of doctorate recipients reporting definite postgraduation plans for employment and secondary work activity.

^k Percentages based on number of doctorate recipients reporting definite postgraduation plans and type of plans.

^l Includes cases with an unknown U.S. region of employment after doctorate; see technical notes for states or territories included in regions.

NOTES: Due to rounding, percentages may not sum to 100. See table A-6 in the technical notes for a listing of major fields and their constituent subfields.

SOURCE: National Science Foundation, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Survey of Earned Doctorates, 2015.