

### What is Nacaps about?

Nacaps, the *National Academics Panel Study*, is a new longitudinal study of doctoral candidates and doctorate holders in Germany. Doctoral candidates and doctorate holders throughout the country are surveyed at regular intervals with regard to the study conditions for their doctorates, career goals and professional development, as well as their general life situation.

### Who is carrying out the study?

The Nacaps panel study is conducted by the *German Centre for Higher Education and Science Studies* (DZHW). DZHW's cooperation with the *National Report on Junior Scholars* (BuWiN), the *National Educational Panel Study* (NEPS), and the *Social Survey* (Sozialerhebung), as well as its own relevant panel studies such as *ProFile*, the *doctoral candidates panel*, *WiNbus*, the online panel for early career researchers in Germany, or the *Careers of PHD Holders* project, exemplify the centre's competence and experience in the field of online surveys in the higher education and science area. The project team combines expertise in empirical social research, technological competence in data management, and years of experience in the implementation and evaluation of longitudinal studies. The study is funded by the *German Federal Ministry of Education and Research* (BMBF).

### How can external researchers use the Nacaps study data?

Nacaps makes the data available for scientific examination free of charge in the form of anonymised scientific use files in DZHW's *Research Data Centre* (FDZ).

### Contact

If you want to learn more about Nacaps or to get in touch with us, please contact:

Dominik Adrian  
HEI Cooperation and Public Relations  
Tel.: +49 (0)30 206 4177 – 34  
nacaps-info@dzhw.eu  
www.nacaps.de

# DZHW.

German Centre for  
Higher Education Research and Science Studies  
Deutsches Zentrum für  
Hochschul- und Wissenschaftsforschung

Lange Laube 12 , 30159 Hannover, Germany  
www.dzhw.eu

[www.nacaps.de](http://www.nacaps.de)

SPONSORED BY THE



Federal Ministry  
of Education  
and Research



National Academics  
Panel Study

**A longitudinal study of doctoral  
candidates and doctorate holders**

### How is the study designed?

Nacaps is a multi-cohort panel study. Every two years, a new cohort of doctoral candidates is integrated into the panel study. Questions are addressed to the survey respondents, first annually, then every two years, and their career paths are followed for up to 15 years after they obtained their doctorates. In this way, every respondent's individual data are gradually added, thus gaining a temporal, longitudinal perspective.

### What insights can be expected from the data?

Nacaps will provide a detailed depiction of the doctorate landscape in Germany. The survey data not only allow to draw insights about individual career paths, but can also relate to more general national and international developments in the higher education and science system. Thus, for the first time it is possible to systematically investigate the role of early career researchers in higher education, science and innovation processes in Germany. Scientific research, HEIs and educational policy will benefit from this information.

### When did Nacaps start?

The first online survey was conducted in spring 2019. Together with more than 50 HEIs the DZHW managed to invite about 80.000 doctoral candidates of whom more than 25.000 actually took part. The majority agreed to also participate in future follow-up surveys.

## Topics

Motivation and Attitudes	Qualification Process	Academic Work	Career Paths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Doctorate topic</li> <li>■ Motivation for taking a doctorate</li> <li>■ Career aims</li> <li>■ Life goals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Mentor-mentee relationship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Academic activities</li> <li>■ Working conditions</li> <li>■ Networks and social capital</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Career strategies and decisions</li> <li>■ Careers in and outside academia</li> <li>■ Paths to a (university of applied sciences) professorship</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Attitudes towards academia</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Promotion and Financing</li> <li>■ Membership in doctoral programmes and evaluation</li> </ul>	<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Individual and societal returns</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ International mobility</li> </ul>
<p><b>Personal Background</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Family and cohabitation</li> <li>■ Social background</li> <li>■ Educational trajectories</li> <li>■ Personality traits</li> <li>■ Health</li> <li>■ Social demography</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Knowledge transfer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Doctoral success and dropout</li> </ul>	

### The data collected will be made available via:

 Data Portal	 Reporting	 Micro Data
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ For Nacaps' partner HEIs: exclusive access to survey data and anonymised benchmarks</li> <li>■ For the expert public and decision makers in higher education and science policy: indicator based reporting on an aggregated level</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Focal point reports on certain topics</li> <li>■ Scientific publications</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Provision of <i>scientific use files</i> for scientific analyses via the Research Data Centre (FDZ) of the DZHW</li> <li>■ Methodology reports for each survey</li> </ul>