

TABLE 1-3b

Citizenship of graduate students and postdoctoral appointees in science: 1980–2020

(Number and percent)

Year	Graduate students					Postdoctoral appointees				
	Total	U.S. citizens and permanent residents		Temporary visa holders		Total	U.S. citizens and permanent residents		Temporary visa holders	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
2017 ^{new} ^e	229,169	156,831	68.4	72,338	31.6	na	na	na	na	na
2018	241,327	171,049	70.9	70,278	29.1	na	na	na	na	na
2019	259,795	185,378	71.4	74,417	28.6	na	na	na	na	na
2020	267,904	204,677	76.4	63,227	23.6	na	na	na	na	na
Doctoral students										
2017 ^{new} ^e	186,399	124,226	66.6	62,173	33.4	na	na	na	na	na
2018	190,928	126,228	66.1	64,700	33.9	na	na	na	na	na
2019	193,896	126,990	65.5	66,906	34.5	na	na	na	na	na
2020	196,742	130,282	66.2	66,460	33.8	na	na	na	na	na

na = not applicable; master's and doctoral students were not reported separately until 2017.

^a In 2007, eligible fields were reclassified, newly eligible fields were added, and the survey was redesigned to improve coverage and coding of eligible units. "2007new" presents data as collected in 2007; "2007old" shows data as they would have been collected in prior years. See appendix A in <https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/nsf10307/> for more detail.

^b In 2010, the postdoctoral (postdoc) and nonfaculty researcher (NFR) section of the survey was expanded and significant effort was made to ensure that appropriate personnel were providing postdoc and NFR data. Thus, it is unclear how much of the increases in 2010 and later years over 2009 and prior years are from growth in postdocs and NFRs and how much are from improved data collection. More information on the changes to the data collection is available at <https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/infbrief/nsf13334/>.

^c Postdoc and NFR data from 2010 and 2011 were reimputed following the 2012 data collection; these data supersede those contained in previous reports.

^d In 2014, the survey frame was updated following a comprehensive frame evaluation study. The study identified potentially eligible but not previously surveyed academic institutions in the United States with master's- or doctorate-granting programs in science, engineering, or health. A total of 151 newly eligible institutions were added, and two private for-profit institutions offering mostly practitioner-based graduate degrees were determined to be ineligible. For more information, see <https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/2016/nsf16314>.

^e As part of 2017 Survey of Graduate Students and Postdoctorates in Science and Engineering (GSS) redesign, the GSS taxonomy was changed to align with the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES) Taxonomy of Disciplines (TOD), thus increasing comparability with other NCSES surveys. As a result, some eligible fields were reclassified and a small number of fields became fully or partially ineligible. Comparisons to prior years should use the 2017old estimates and should be limited to broad areas of study—detailed field comparisons are not recommended.

Note(s):

Percentages may not add to total because of rounding

Source(s):

National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Survey of Graduate Students and Postdoctorates in Science and Engineering.