

Table 9-15

Humanities research doctorate recipients, postgraduation plans by sex and major field of doctorate: 2021

(Number and percent)

Characteristic	All humanities fields	English language and literature, letters	Foreign languages, literatures, and linguistics	History	Philosophy and religious studies	Humanities, other
Doctorate recipients reporting postgraduation status (number)	2,736	827	448	611	535	315
Definite postdoctoral training plans	16.0	11.5	12.1	22.7	22.4	9.2
Definite employment plans	44.8	48.4	44.2	36.7	41.3	58.4
Seeking employment or study	34.8	36.3	39.5	36.0	30.8	28.9
Other status ^a	4.3	3.7	4.2	4.6	5.4	3.5
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%) ^b						
Postdoc fellowship or research associateship	96.8	96.8	94.4	97.1	97.5	96.6
Other training or unknown ^c	3.2	3.2	5.6	2.9	2.5	3.4
Definite employment plans (%) ^d						
Academe	66.3	79.3	72.7	60.3	64.7	40.8
In tenure track faculty position (%)	35.1	36.0	27.8	39.3	35.0	38.7
Not in tenure track position (%)	62.0	62.8	68.8	58.5	60.8	54.7
Government	3.7	1.8	D	11.6	2.7	D
Industry or business ^e	7.8	7.0	D	7.1	10.4	D
Nonprofit organization	12.9	3.5	5.1	7.6	14.5	46.2
Other or unknown ^f	9.3	8.5	12.6	13.4	7.7	4.3
Primary activity ^g						
Research and development	9.6	5.9	9.9	13.8	16.2	5.1
Teaching	66.6	74.6	75.4	62.9	57.8	53.7
Management or administration	10.2	10.3	6.3	14.3	6.4	14.1
Professional services and other	13.6	9.2	8.4	9.0	19.6	27.1
Secondary activity ^g						
Research and development	34.2	32.8	44.5	35.2	32.4	27.1
Teaching	14.0	10.8	8.9	11.4	18.6	24.3
Management or administration	12.1	12.1	11.0	10.5	9.8	18.1
Professional services and other	7.5	6.9	5.2	8.1	7.4	10.7
No secondary activity	32.2	37.4	30.4	34.8	31.9	19.8
Activity unknown	4.5	2.5	3.5	6.3	7.7	3.8
Postgraduation location (%) ^h						
United States ⁱ	87.4	94.1	82.1	87.1	84.8	82.6
Midwest	17.5	18.8	12.7	14.3	21.4	19.2
Northeast	21.5	20.4	24.6	25.9	20.8	13.6
South	30.4	36.4	24.6	30.9	22.6	35.2
West	17.4	18.0	19.4	15.2	19.1	14.6
Outside the United States	12.4	5.9	17.5	12.7	15.0	17.4
Location unknown	0.2	0.0	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.0
Postgraduation location in same state as doctorate institution (%)	37.3	47.5	34.9	33.3	31.1	32.9
Male doctorate recipients reporting postgraduation status (number)	1,442	324	195	349	342	232
Definite postdoctoral training plans	16.1	13.6	11.8	22.3	20.8	6.9
Definite employment plans	44.5	46.0	42.1	35.5	40.4	63.8
Seeking employment or study	35.5	37.3	40.0	38.7	33.0	28.0

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(Number and percent)

Characteristic	All humanities fields	English language and literature, letters	Foreign languages, literatures, and linguistics	History	Philosophy and religious studies	Humanities, other
Other status ^a	3.9	2.8	6.2	3.4	5.8	1.3
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%) ^b						
Postdoc fellowship or research associateship	97.4	95.5	95.7	98.7	97.2	100.0
Other training or unknown ^c	2.6	4.5	4.3	1.3	2.8	0.0
Definite employment plans (%) ^d						
Academe	59.6	77.2	73.2	54.0	64.5	34.5
In tenure track faculty position (%)	35.1	37.4	26.7	40.3	31.5	39.2
Not in tenure track position (%)	61.3	61.7	70.0	55.2	64.0	52.9
Government	4.5	D	D	14.5	D	D
Industry or business ^e	8.1	8.7	D	8.1	D	6.8
Nonprofit organization	18.3	D	D	8.1	13.0	D
Other or unknown ^f	9.5	7.4	13.4	15.3	9.4	4.7
Primary activity ^g						
Research and development	9.1	7.5	D	14.5	D	D
Teaching	63.2	70.7	75.9	61.5	60.9	51.7
Management or administration	11.2	8.8	D	18.8	D	D
Professional services and other	16.4	12.9	11.4	5.1	18.8	30.1
Secondary activity ^g						
Research and development	30.9	28.6	44.3	35.9	27.3	25.2
Teaching	16.0	13.6	D	10.3	15.6	D
Management or administration	12.9	11.6	13.9	7.7	11.7	18.9
Professional services and other	7.8	6.1	D	10.3	6.3	D
No secondary activity	32.4	40.1	31.6	35.9	39.1	16.1
Activity unknown	4.2	1.3	3.7	5.6	7.2	3.4
Postgraduation location (%) ^h						
United States ⁱ	85.3	92.2	85.7	85.1	81.3	82.3
Midwest	18.8	21.2	12.4	15.8	20.6	21.3
Northeast	20.5	23.3	28.6	24.3	17.7	11.0
South	29.3	33.2	25.7	27.7	22.5	37.8
West	16.4	14.0	19.0	17.3	19.6	12.2
Outside the United States	14.4	7.8	14.3	14.4	18.2	17.7
Location unknown	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.5	0.0
Postgraduation location in same state as doctorate institution (%)	35.5	48.2	36.2	31.7	31.1	30.5
Female doctorate recipients reporting postgraduation status (number)	1,294	503	253	262	193	83
Definite postdoctoral training plans	15.8	10.1	12.3	23.3	25.4	15.7
Definite employment plans	45.3	49.9	45.8	38.2	43.0	43.4
Seeking employment or study	34.1	35.6	39.1	32.4	26.9	31.3
Other status ^a	4.8	4.4	2.8	6.1	4.7	9.6
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%) ^b						

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(Number and percent)

Characteristic	All humanities fields	English language and literature, letters	Foreign languages, literatures, and linguistics	History	Philosophy and religious studies	Humanities, other
Postdoc fellowship or research associateship	96.1	98.0	93.5	95.1	98.0	92.3
Other training or unknown ^c	3.9	2.0	6.5	4.9	2.0	7.7
Definite employment plans (%) ^d						
Academe	73.7	80.5	72.4	68.0	65.1	66.7
In tenure track faculty position (%)	35.2	35.1	28.6	38.2	40.7	37.5
Not in tenure track position (%)	62.7	63.4	67.9	61.8	55.6	58.3
Government	2.7	D	D	8.0	D	D
Industry or business ^e	7.5	6.0	8.6	6.0	D	D
Nonprofit organization	7.0	D	D	7.0	16.9	D
Other or unknown ^f	9.0	9.2	12.1	11.0	4.8	2.8
Primary activity ^g						
Research and development	10.2	4.9	D	12.9	D	D
Teaching	70.3	77.0	75.0	64.5	52.6	61.8
Management or administration	9.1	11.1	D	8.6	D	D
Professional services and other	10.4	7.0	6.3	14.0	21.1	14.7
Secondary activity ^g						
Research and development	37.8	35.4	44.6	34.4	40.8	35.3
Teaching	11.8	9.1	D	12.9	23.7	D
Management or administration	11.3	12.3	8.9	14.0	6.6	14.7
Professional services and other	7.2	7.4	D	5.4	9.2	D
No secondary activity	31.9	35.8	29.5	33.3	19.7	35.3
Activity unknown	4.8	3.2	3.4	7.0	8.4	5.6
Postgraduation location (%) ^h						
United States ⁱ	89.6	95.4	79.6	89.4	90.2	83.7
Midwest	16.1	17.2	12.9	12.4	22.7	12.2
Northeast	22.5	18.5	21.8	28.0	25.8	22.4
South	31.6	38.4	23.8	34.8	22.7	26.5
West	18.5	20.5	19.7	12.4	18.2	22.4
Outside the United States	10.2	4.6	19.7	10.6	9.8	16.3
Location unknown	0.1	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
Postgraduation location in same state as doctorate institution (%)	39.2	47.0	34.0	35.4	31.1	40.8

D = suppressed to avoid disclosure of confidential information.

^a Includes doctorate recipients reporting: no plans to work or study, some other type of postgraduation plans, or definite plans for other full-time degree program.^b Excludes doctorate recipients reporting plans for other full-time degree program. Percentages based on number of doctorate recipients reporting definite postdoctoral plans for study.^c Other includes doctorate recipients who reported definite postdoctoral plans for traineeship, internship or clinical residency, or other study.^d Percentages based on number of doctorate recipients reporting definite postgraduation plans for employment.^e Includes doctorate recipients reporting self-employment.^f Other is mainly composed of elementary and secondary schools.^g Percentages based on number of doctorate recipients reporting definite postgraduation plans for employment and primary or secondary work

activity.

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

ⁱ Includes cases with an unknown U.S. region of employment after doctorate, thus the percentages by regions will not sum to the value for United States; see the "Technical Notes" for states or territories included in regions.

Note(s):

Due to rounding, percentages may not sum to 100. Beginning in 2021, a modified version of the 2020 Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) codes was used in the survey data collection, and the new broad, major, and detailed fields were used in tables reporting only the most recent data year. Therefore, the field of doctorate data in 2021 may not be comparable to prior years; see the "Technical Notes" for more information, table A-4 for a summary of SED-CIP codes in the new SED field taxonomy, table A-5 for a full list of SED-CIP codes in the new field taxonomy, and table A-6 for the SED-CIP code crosswalk to the historical field taxonomy.

Source(s):

National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Survey of Earned Doctorates.