

TABLE 3-6

Primary mechanism of support for postdoctoral appointees in science, engineering, and health, by broad field: 2021

(Number and percent)

Broad field	Total	Fellowships		Research grants		Traineeships		Other types of support	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Other	
								Number	Percent
All surveyed fields	63,328	6,519	10.3	38,697	61.1	3,645	5.8	14,467	22.8
Science	37,189	3,683	9.9	24,014	64.6	1,608	4.3	7,884	21.2
Agricultural and veterinary sciences	1,595	75	4.7	966	60.6	94	5.9	460	28.8
Biological and biomedical sciences	20,245	1,851	9.1	13,275	65.6	1,047	5.2	4,072	20.1
Computer and information sciences	880	99	11.3	594	67.5	17	1.9	170	19.3
Geosciences, atmospheric sciences, and ocean sciences	1,797	211	11.7	1,213	67.5	20	1.1	353	19.6
Mathematics and statistics	1,112	178	16.0	428	38.5	73	6.6	433	38.9
Multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary studies	878	103	11.7	509	58.0	42	4.8	224	25.5
Natural resources and conservation	889	59	6.6	624	70.2	26	2.9	180	20.2
Physical sciences	6,823	631	9.2	4,883	71.6	113	1.7	1,196	17.5
Psychology	1,325	179	13.5	766	57.8	105	7.9	275	20.8
Social sciences	1,645	297	18.1	756	46.0	71	4.3	521	31.7
Engineering	8,340	756	9.1	6,057	72.6	115	1.4	1,412	16.9
Aerospace, aeronautical, and astronautical engineering	277	26	9.4	170	61.4	1	0.4	80	28.9
Biological, biomedical, and biosystems engineering	1,616	150	9.3	1,147	71.0	55	3.4	264	16.3
Chemical, petroleum, and chemical-related engineering	1,167	131	11.2	807	69.2	24	2.1	205	17.6
Civil, environmental, transportation and related engineering fields	968	81	8.4	729	75.3	6	0.6	152	15.7
Electrical, electronics, communications and computer engineering	1,275	105	8.2	939	73.6	13	1.0	218	17.1
Industrial, manufacturing, systems engineering and operations research	127	14	11.0	84	66.1	0	0.0	29	22.8
Mechanical engineering	1,200	138	11.5	848	70.7	11	0.9	203	16.9
Metallurgical, mining, materials and related engineering fields	562	35	6.2	413	73.5	0	0.0	114	20.3
Other engineering	1,148	76	6.6	920	80.1	5	0.4	147	12.8
Health	17,799	2,080	11.7	8,626	48.5	1,922	10.8	5,171	29.1
Clinical medicine ^a	15,561	1,800	11.6	7,441	47.8	1,707	11.0	4,613	29.6
Other health	2,238	280	12.5	1,185	52.9	215	9.6	558	24.9

^a Clinical medicine includes postdoctoral appointees in anesthesiology, cardiology, endocrinology, gastroenterology, hematology, neurology, obstetrics and gynecology, oncology and cancer research, ophthalmology, otorhinolaryngology, pediatrics, psychiatry, public health, pulmonary disease, radiological sciences, surgery, and clinical medicine not elsewhere classified.

Note(s):

"Field" refers to the field of the unit that reports postdoctoral appointees to the Survey of Graduate Students and Postdoctorates in Science and Engineering (GSS). Percentages may not add to total because of rounding. For more information on the mapping of GSS fields and codes, see technical table A-17.

Source(s):

National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Survey of Graduate Students and Postdoctorates in Science and Engineering, 2021.