

## Understanding PhD Career Pathways



You are invited to participate in the *Understanding PhD Career Pathways* research project as a PhD graduate of an Australian Group of Eight (Go8) University (see page 2 for the list of participating universities). The project is being funded by the participating universities and by the Group of Eight Australia (<https://go8.edu.au/>).

We have provided information about the project below, so that you can decide if you would like to take part in this research. Please take the time to read this information carefully. You may ask questions about anything you don't understand or want to know more about.

This research aims to understand the career paths of PhD graduates by taking a snapshot of their employment status and occupation 3, 8 and 15 years post-graduation. Participants will be invited to complete an online survey. The survey is being administered by the Social Research Centre on behalf of the universities.

The results of the survey will be shared with the participating universities and the Group of Eight Australia to inform the educational experiences and programs needed for today's PhD students. The results will also be compared with those received by the US Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) *Understanding PhD Career Pathways for Program Improvement* survey, and other international participating universities to benchmark the career directions of Go8 PhD graduates with those who obtained their PhD in the US and elsewhere.

Should you agree to participate, you will be asked to complete an online survey about your current employment status and occupation and your PhD experience. The survey should take less than 20 minutes to complete. Participation is completely voluntary. Should you wish to withdraw at any stage, or to withdraw any unprocessed data you have supplied, you are free to do so.

If you do not wish to participate in the survey, you can opt-out of receiving further communication about the survey via the opt-out link at the end of the invitation email. If you do not opt-out, you will be sent regular reminders to participate. The reminders will be sent by email, and by SMS if you have provided your phone number to your institution. These reminder communications will also contain an opt-out link, if you do not wish to receive subsequent reminders.

Understanding the career pathways of PhD graduates will enable us to provide better advice to intending PhD students on their career options, to design PhD programs and services such as career mentoring and professional skills development relevant to graduate needs, and to inform discussions on the future directions of research training in Australia.

Once the report arising from this project has been completed, a brief summary of the findings will be available to you on application. The results may also be published on the Group of Eight Australia and/or participating university websites, in submissions or reports on the future of the PhD, in journal articles and presented at academic conferences. The data will be kept securely for five years from the date of reporting, before being destroyed.

The survey responses will be collected by the Social Research Centre. Your anonymity will be protected. De-identified data will be provided to the participating universities and to the CGS for international comparison and Australian benchmarking.

At the end of the survey you will be invited to provide your Student identifier (ID) number if you wish to give your University permission to conduct more detailed analysis of your information. By sharing your student ID, you will be giving the researchers at *your University only* permission to match your survey responses with administrative

records, such as courses taken. This will allow your University to conduct more detailed analysis and program evaluations. Your records will not be used any other purpose other than for this project, and no personally identifiable data will be shared outside of the project team at your University. There is no obligation to provide your student ID.

If you would like more information about the project, please contact the relevant person from your University.

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This research project has been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee of The University of Melbourne. If you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of this research project, which you do not wish to discuss with the research team, you should contact the Manager, Human Research Ethics, Research Ethics and Integrity, University of Melbourne, VIC 3010. Tel: +61 3 8344 2073 or Email: [HumanEthics-complaints@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:HumanEthics-complaints@unimelb.edu.au). All complaints will be treated confidentially. In any correspondence please provide the name of the research team or the name or ethics ID number of the research project.

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