# nacaps

# 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:

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# DZHW.

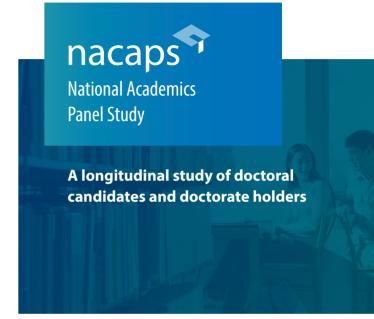
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#### How is the study designed?

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**

- Doctorate topic
- Motivation for taking a doctorate
- Career aims
- Life goals
- Attitudes towards academia

#### **Personal Background**

- Family and cohabitation
- Social background
- Educational trajectories
- Personality traits
- Health
- Social demography

#### **Qualification Process**

- Mentor-mentee relationship
- Promotion and Financing
- Membership in doctoral programmes and evaluation
- Knowledge transfer

#### Academic Work

- Academic activities
- Working conditions
- Networks and social capital

#### **Outcomes**

- Individual and societal returns
- Doctoral success and dropout

#### **Career Paths**

- Career strategies and decisions
- Careers in and outside academia
- Paths to a (university of applied sciences) professorship
- International mobility

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

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#### **Data Portal**

- For Nacaps' partner HEIs: exclusive access to survey data and anonymised benchmarks
- For the expert public and decision makers in higher education and science policy: indicator based reporting on an aggregated level



# Reporting

- Focal point reports on certain topics
- Scientific publications



### **Micro Data**

- Provision of scientific use files for scientific analyses via the Research Data Centre (FDZ) of the DZHW
- Methodology reports for each survey