

# Doctoral Exit Survey

## 2020 Career-Related Survey Results

### **About this Report:**

Summarizes doctoral career-related information including graduation plans, top employers and industries, as well as starting salaries by department and occupation. For the full results go to: <https://ir.mit.edu/doctoral-exit-results>.



# Doctoral Exit Survey

## Career Information Report

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# Welcome to the Career Information from the Summer 2020 Doctoral Exit Survey

Please take a moment to learn more about the survey and the data we collect and present.

The Doctoral Exit Survey is an annual survey administered by Institutional Research, Office of the Provost at MIT, on an ongoing basis to PhD/ScD recipients. All information about the Doctoral Exit, including purpose, method, format, and past reports can be found on the Institutional Research Doctoral Exit Survey Information web page, <https://ir.mit.edu/doctoral-exit-results>.

We have taken career related information from the Doctoral Exit Survey and published this in a brief report for the MIT community and partners. For more information about the career-related results from the Doctoral Exit Survey, please email Career Advising and Professional Development at [hiremit@mit.edu](mailto:hiremit@mit.edu).

## PURPOSE:

The purpose of the Doctoral Exit Survey is to promote an accurate understanding of the program experience and immediate post-graduation plans of graduating MIT PhD/ScD students.

## METHOD:

The Doctoral Exit Survey is a completely voluntary web-based survey. The survey is emailed as a link multiple times throughout late spring, summer and fall in an effort to capture as much of the graduating student population as possible.

## RESULTS:

All data are self-reported and presented anonymously in aggregate form. Questions with fewer than 5 respondents are not displayed to protect the privacy of respondents. Due to the variety of MIT degrees granted, the majority of statistics presented are by classification instead of major. The most recent reports focus on employment and salary data.

## Salary for Post-doctoral Positions by Department

Doctoral Exit Survey Salaries  
Academic year: 2020

	Post-doctoral positions					
	N	Avg. Salary	Median Salary	N reported bonus	Avg. Bonus	Median Bonus
Aeronautics and Astronautics						
Biological Engineering						
Biology	18	\$52,303	\$52,000			
Brain and Cognitive Sciences						
Chemical Engineering	5	\$54,400	\$50,000			
Chemistry	8	\$53,875	\$50,500			
Civil and Environmental Engineering						
EAPS						
Economics						
EECS	13	\$81,190	\$65,000			
ESD						
HST						
Linguistics and Philosophy						
Management						
Materials Science and Engineering						
Mathematics	8	\$61,188	\$60,250			
Mechanical Engineering	8	\$73,375	\$70,000			
Media Arts and Sciences						
Nuclear Science and Engineering						
Operations Research						
Physics	13	\$74,692	\$69,000			
Political Science						
STS						
Urban Studies and Planning						
Grand Total	107	\$65,070	\$56,000	8	\$25,250	\$17,000

## Salary for Post-doctoral Positions by Occupation

Doctoral Exit Survey Salaries  
Academic year: 2020

	Post-doctoral positions					
	N	Avg. Salary	Median Salary	N reported bonus	Avg. Bonus	Median Bonus
Architecture and Engineering Occupations						
Computer and Mathematical Occupations	11	\$95,364	\$70,000			
Education, Training, and Library Occupations	11	\$64,045	\$65,000			
Management Occupations						
Scientists, Social Scientists	67	\$58,023	\$55,000			
Grand Total	95	\$65,905	\$56,000	8	\$25,250	\$17,000

## Salary for Post-doctoral Positions by Industry

Doctoral Exit Survey Salaries  
Academic year: 2020

	Post-doctoral positions					
	N	Avg. Salary	Median Salary	N reported bonus	Avg. Bonus	Median Bonus
Education	30	\$64,450	\$63,000			
Energy						
Other						
Public Administration (Government)						
Research, Consulting, and Legal Services	46	\$62,632	\$55,000			
Technology	6	\$118,246	\$106,000			
Grand Total	87	\$66,713	\$56,000	8	\$25,250	\$17,000

## Salary for Non-post-doctoral Positions by Department

Doctoral Exit Survey Salaries

Academic year: 2020

	Non-post-doctoral positions					
	N	Avg. Salary	Median Salary	N reported bonus	Avg. Bonus	Median Bonus
Aeronautics and	10	\$122,480	\$121,500	5	\$31,600	\$10,000
Architecture						
Biological Engineering						
Biology	5	\$103,000	\$103,000			
Chemical Engineering	16	\$116,500	\$113,500	6	\$15,417	\$15,000
Chemistry	8	\$99,239	\$112,500			
Civil and Environmental E..						
CSB						
EAPS						
Economics	10	\$171,900	\$183,000	5	\$37,600	\$25,000
EECS	31	\$176,640	\$150,000	20	\$58,800	\$45,000
ESD						
HST						
IDS						
Linguistics and Philosophy						
Management	5	\$224,400	\$232,000			
Materials Science and	7	\$131,226	\$120,000			
Mathematics						
Mechanical Engineering	22	\$157,714	\$142,500	11	\$42,273	\$50,000
Media Arts and Sciences						
Nuclear Science and	8	\$135,875	\$145,000			
Operations Research	6	\$160,000	\$152,500			
Physics						
Political Science						
Urban Studies and Planni..						
Grand Total	160	\$141,858	\$130,000	74	\$35,399	\$25,000

## Salary for Non-post-doctoral Positions by Occupation

Doctoral Exit Survey Salaries

Academic year: 2020

	Non-post-doctoral positions					
	N	Avg. Salary	Median Salary	N reported bonus	Avg. Bonus	Median Bonus
Architecture and Engineering Occupations	28	\$119,768	\$120,000	15	\$22,300	\$15,000
Computer and Mathematical Occupations	42	\$173,536	\$150,000	25	\$56,360	\$50,000
Education, Training, and Library Occupations	13	\$148,180	\$125,000			
Finance Professional						
Legal Occupations	5	\$101,400	\$110,000			
Management Occupations	9	\$160,833	\$165,000	7	\$23,286	\$25,000
Other Occupations	6	\$143,833	\$157,500			
Scientists, Social Scientists	49	\$117,773	\$120,000	20	\$17,750	\$10,000
Grand Total	156	\$141,549	\$130,000	72	\$36,174	\$25,000



## Salary for Non-post-doctoral Positions by Industry

Doctoral Exit Survey Salaries  
Academic year: 2020

	Non-post-doctoral positions					
	N	Avg. Salary	Median Salary	N reported bonus	Avg. Bonus	Median Bonus
Education	26	\$132,034	\$115,000	5	\$28,400	\$25,000
Energy	6	\$121,667	\$123,000			
Finance and Insurance	7	\$229,286	\$175,000	5	\$91,800	\$64,000
Manufacturing	10	\$113,300	\$113,500			
Non-profit and membership organizations						
Other	7	\$108,957	\$120,000			
Public Administration (Government)						
Research, Consulting, and Legal Services	53	\$134,347	\$122,000	29	\$27,914	\$20,000
Technology	41	\$165,305	\$150,000	24	\$43,792	\$35,000
Grand Total	155	\$142,277	\$130,000	72	\$35,271	\$25,000

## Salary for All Position Types by Department

Doctoral Exit Survey Salaries  
Academic year: 2020

	All positions					
	N	Avg. Salary	Median Salary	N reported bonus	Avg. Bonus	Median Bonus
Aeronautics and	11	\$123,164	\$122,000	5	\$31,600	\$10,000
Architecture						
Biological Engineering	6	\$71,430	\$60,040			
Biology	23	\$63,324	\$53,500			
Brain and Cognitive Scien..						
Chemical Engineering	21	\$101,714	\$108,000	6	\$15,417	\$15,000
Chemistry	16	\$76,557	\$59,455			
Civil and Environmental E..						
CSB						
EAPS	5	\$58,000	\$60,000			
Economics	13	\$151,154	\$165,000	5	\$37,600	\$25,000
EECS	44	\$148,439	\$137,500	22	\$56,864	\$42,500
ESD						
HST						
IDS						
Linguistics and Philosophy						
Management	6	\$215,333	\$216,000			
Materials Science and	9	\$115,620	\$115,000			
Mathematics	11	\$75,727	\$70,000			
Mechanical Engineering	30	\$135,223	\$125,500	11	\$42,273	\$50,000
Media Arts and Sciences	6	\$106,333	\$101,500			
Nuclear Science and	10	\$119,900	\$130,000			
Operations Research	8	\$138,250	\$130,000			
Physics	17	\$84,176	\$70,000	6	\$19,333	\$10,000
Political Science	6	\$78,115	\$75,000			
STS						
Urban Studies and Planni..	6	\$67,750	\$61,250			
Grand Total	267	\$111,085	\$105,000	82	\$34,409	\$25,000

## Salary for All Position Types by Occupation

Doctoral Exit Survey Salaries  
Academic year: 2020

	All positions					
	N	Avg. Salary	Median Salary	N reported bonus	Avg. Bonus	Median Bonus
Architecture and Engineering Occupations	32	\$115,109	\$120,000	15	\$22,300	\$15,000
Computer and Mathematical Occupations	53	\$157,311	\$149,000	28	\$55,679	\$50,000
Education, Training, and Library Occupations	24	\$109,618	\$83,750			
Finance Professional						
Legal Occupations	5	\$101,400	\$110,000			
Management Occupations	11	\$157,955	\$165,000	8	\$25,375	\$27,500
Other Occupations	6	\$143,833	\$157,500			
Scientists, Social Scientists	116	\$83,262	\$62,850	23	\$15,870	\$10,000
Grand Total	251	\$112,919	\$110,000	80	\$35,081	\$25,000

## Salary for All Position Types by Industry

Doctoral Exit Survey Salaries  
Academic year: 2020

	All positions					
	N	Avg. Salary	Median Salary	N reported bonus	Avg. Bonus	Median Bonus
Education	56	\$95,828	\$70,000	7	\$21,143	\$10,000
Energy	8	\$101,875	\$119,500			
Finance and Insurance	7	\$229,286	\$175,000	5	\$91,800	\$64,000
Manufacturing	10	\$113,300	\$113,500			
Non-profit and membership organizations						
Other	9	\$97,522	\$105,000			
Public Administration (Government)	5	\$100,282	\$80,000			
Research, Consulting, and Legal Services	99	\$101,025	\$87,000	32	\$26,734	\$17,500
Technology	47	\$159,297	\$150,000	27	\$44,481	\$35,000
Grand Total	242	\$115,111	\$112,000	80	\$34,269	\$25,000

## Name of Employer and Number of Hires

Doctoral Exit Survey Employer Names  
Academic year: 2020

MIT	38
Stanford University	11
University of California, Berkeley	10
Google	10
Harvard University	8
Facebook	5
Apple	5
MIT Lincoln Laboratory	4
McKinsey & Company	4
Boston Consulting Group	4
University of Washington	3
University of Chicago	3
Microsoft	3
Massachusetts General Hospital	3
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory	3
Exponent, Inc.	3
Citadel LLC	3
Children's Hospital, Boston	3
3M	3
Wolf, Greenfield, and Sacks	2
Washington University in St. Louis	2
University of Waterloo	2
University of Texas	2
University of Pennsylvania	2
University of Maryland	2
University of Cambridge	2
University of California, Los Angeles	2
Two Sigma Investments	2
New York University	2
NeuralMagic	2
Merck	2
LiquiGlide Inc.	2
Dyno Therapeutics	2
Draper Laboratory	2

## Name of Employer and Number of Hires (cont'd)

Doctoral Exit Survey Employer Names  
Academic year: 2020

Dartmouth College	2
California Institute of Technology	2
Brown University	2
Boston University	2
Amazon, Inc.	2
ACTnano, Inc.	2
Yale University	1
Whitehead Institute	1
Waymo	1
Wayfair, LLC	1
VMWare	1
Vistapath Biosystems	1
Visa	1
Vertex Pharmaceuticals	1
Vanderbilt University	1
University of Wisconsin	1
University of Toronto	1
University of the District of Columbia	1
University of Pittsburgh	1
University of Montpellier	1
University of Michigan	1
University of Massachusetts, Worcester	1
University of Haifa	1
University of Geneva	1
University of Colorado	1
University of California, San Diego	1
University of British Columbia	1
University of Arizona	1
University College London	1
U.S. Naval Academy	1
U.S. Government	1
U.S. Air Force	1
Tufts University	1
Tsinghua University	1
Trinity College	1

## Name of Employer and Number of Hires (cont'd)

### Doctoral Exit Survey Employer Names Academic year: 2020

Trexquant	1
Toyota Technological Institute at Chicago	1
Texas Instruments Inc.	1
Tagup	1
Sunflower Therapeutics	1
Snapchat Inc.	1
SimpleBet	1
Simons Foundation	1
SES	1
Self-employed	1
Schlumberger	1
Samsung Corporation	1
Rockefeller University	1
Robert McNeel & Associates	1
Rice University	1
Resilience Gives	1
Princeton University	1
Pfizer	1
Pacific Disaster Center	1
Nye Lubricants	1
Northwestern University	1
None	1
National Science Foundation	1
National Renewable Energy Laboratory	1
Morrison and Foerster	1
MetOcean Solutions	1
McGill University	1
Maxim Integrated Products	1
Max Planck Institute	1
MathWorks	1
Mammoth Biosciences	1
Lyft	1
Lummus Technology	1
London Business School	1
Jet Propulsion Laboratory	1



## Name of Employer and Number of Hires (cont'd)

### Doctoral Exit Survey Employer Names Academic year: 2020

Insight Data Science	1
Ingrooves Music Group	1
Idaho National Laboratory	1
IBM	1
HRL Laboratories, LLC	1
HHMI	1
Gritstone Oncology	1
Gradient Technologies	1
GHGSat Inc.	1
George Mason University	1
General Electric	1
G-Research	1
Form Energy	1
Flagship Ventures	1
Exxon Mobil	1
EPFL	1
Environmental Protection Agency	1
DSO National Laboratories	1
Drew University	1
Dow Chemical	1
Dewpoint Therapeutics	1
Concerto Biosciences, Inc.	1
Commonwealth Fusion Systems	1
Columbia University	1
Choate, Hall and Stewart	1
CEMFI	1
Carnegie Endowment for International Peace	1
C-Zero	1
Broad Institute	1
Brigham Young University	1
Brandeis University	1
Boston Dynamics	1
Boston College	1
BlueSky D2D	1
BASF AG	1



## Name of Employer and Number of Hires (cont'd)

### Doctoral Exit Survey Employer Names

Academic year: 2020

General Electric	1
G-Research	1
Form Energy	1
Flagship Ventures	1
Exxon Mobil	1
EPFL	1
Environmental Protection Agency	1
DSO National Laboratories	1
Drew University	1
Dow Chemical	1
Dewpoint Therapeutics	1
Concerto Biosciences, Inc.	1
Commonwealth Fusion Systems	1
Columbia University	1
Choate, Hall and Stewart	1
CEMFI	1
Carnegie Endowment for International Peace	1
C-Zero	1
Broad Institute	1
Brigham Young University	1
Brandeis University	1
Boston Dynamics	1
Boston College	1
BlueSky D2D	1
BASF AG	1
Banque de France	1
Bain & Company	1
Ayar Labs, Inc.	1
AstraZeneca	1
Aptiv	1
Analog Devices	1
American Institute of Physics	1
Adimab, LLC	1
AB InBev	1
A*STAR	1