Leibniz PhD Survey

Presentation of results

19th February 2019, Working Group Survey, Leibniz PhD Network
Visit https://leibniz-phd.net/survey for more information
Development of the Survey

Development by the Working Group on Working Conditions of the Leibniz PhD Network

- Supported by the Leibniz Association and PhD Networks of Helmholtz and Max-Planck

Population of interest: All doctoral researchers at all Leibniz Institutes and Research Museums

Distribution: via doctoral representatives, working councils, career development contacts and directors of institutes

Online survey in English (Fieldwork period: December 2017 – February 2018)
Content of the Survey

Part A: Demographic description

Part B: Contracts, working conditions and PhD supervision

Part C: Support for career development

Part D: The situation of internationals

Part E: Work-life balance

(Part F: Leibniz PhD Network)

(Part G: General Feedback)
Participation

- Leibniz Association: 40.5%
- Section A: 41.9%
- Section B: 44.9%
- Section C: 35.6%
- Section D: 37.9%
- Section E: 45.2%

- Section A: 28.8%
- Section B: 11.3%
- Section C: 12.5%
- Section D: 20.4%
- Section E: 27.1%
Chapter A: Demographic description

- Leibniz Association (N=991):
  - Male: 46.3%
  - Female: 53.7%

- Section A (N=122):
  - Male: 30.3%
  - Female: 69.7%

- Section B (N=203):
  - Male: 42.9%
  - Female: 57.1%

- Section C (N=269):
  - Male: 42.8%
  - Female: 57.2%

- Section D (N=285):
  - Male: 60.0%
  - Female: 40.0%

- Section E (N=112):
  - Male: 43.8%
  - Female: 56.3%
Chapter B: Situation at the Leibniz Institute or Research Museum

![Pie chart and bar chart showing satisfaction levels across different years of employment.](image-url)
Funding

- **Section A** (N=112):
  - 79.4%: 100%
  - 10.7%: 66-75%
  - 1.6%: 51-65%
  - 1.6%: 76-99%
  - 1.6%: I prefer not to answer

- **Section B** (N=157):
  - 34.8%: 100%
  - 12.7%: 66-75%
  - 21.6%: 51-65%
  - 5.9%: 76-99%
  - 5.9%: I prefer not to answer

- **Section C** (N=222):
  - 45.0%: 100%
  - 37.5%: 66-75%
  - 8.1%: 51-65%
  - 7.1%: 76-99%
  - 1.7%: I prefer not to answer

- **Section D** (N=226):
  - 22.0%: 100%
  - 43.4%: 66-75%
  - 17.0%: 51-65%
  - 10.8%: 76-99%
  - 4.4%: I prefer not to answer

- **Section E** (N=83):
  - 42.8%: 100%
  - 23.0%: 66-75%
  - 21.5%: 51-65%
  - 5.4%: 76-99%
  - 5.4%: I prefer not to answer
Chapter C: Career Development
Career development: good support, but unequal access

Conferences with active participation: almost *twice* as much support for candidates with a *contract* as for those with *scholarships*

More training needed for preparing *grant applications*

50% of the doctoral candidates not sufficiently informed about their *career options*

Interest in pursuing an academic career:

- Proportionally *less women*
  - Main *difficulties*: limited working contracts, changes of residence, low income, competition
Support for conferences with active participation by contractual situation

- **Stipend or other (N=178)**
  - Yes and all expenses covered: 44.1%
  - Yes but non-monetary support: 28.8%
  - Yes and expenses partly covered: 6.2%
  - Prefer not to answer: 13.5%

- **Working contract (N=778)**
  - Yes and all expenses covered: 77.6%
  - Yes but non-monetary support: 12.8%
  - Yes and expenses partly covered: 5.2%
  - Prefer not to answer: 5.2%
  - Do not know: 5.2%
Chapter D: Internationals
Lack of formal support for internationals

Internationality of Leibniz doctoral researchers

→ Every third is from a foreign country.

Language

- 40% face language barriers at work and 45% do not receive all relevant information in a language understandable for them

Support by institutes

- 49% of respondents wish to have more support
- Formal contact person available for 40% of respondents
- Very heterogeneous portfolios of support offers by institutes
  → potential to exchange experiences and best-practices between sections and institutes
Support for international doctoral researchers
Chapter E: Work-life balance
Lack of compatibility of work and private life associated with thoughts of quitting

35% (strongly) do not agree that working in academia is compatible with childcare responsibilities

→ is positively associated with thinking about not continuing the doctorate!

76% think that working in academia creates too much financial uncertainty, 55% think it requires them to move too often, 35% think that it does not allow making private life plans

→ Parents have a noticeably more negative perception

36% think an active social life and 26% think that hobbies are not compatible with work in academia
Working in academia is compatible with care responsibilities for children

![Bar chart showing responses to the compatibility of working in academia with care responsibilities for children among women and men, and those with children. The responses are categorized into strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree, and strongly disagree.]
To access the full report:
https://www.ssoar.info/ssoar/handle/document/61363
https://leibniz-phd.net/survey

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Editorial note

- This presentation was designed for doctoral researchers representatives in order to communicate key results of the Leibniz PhD Network Survey 2017
- For feedback on this presentation contact the WG Communication
- For feedback on the survey contact the WG Survey
- For further information contact the Spokespersons Katharina Willenbücher or Jonathan Stefanowski
- Visit https://leibniz-phd.net/ for more information

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