

## Survey of Doctoral Students' Opinion

What was your graduate experience at Berkeley like? Although I hope your experience has been a positive one, I realize that there may have been aspects that could have been better. Your answers on this short questionnaire will help us improve the quality of graduate education at Berkeley. Your response will, of course, be held strictly confidential.

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Graduate Division, UC Berkeley

### Personal Information

1. In which degree program were you enrolled? (e.g., Chemistry, History.) ESPM

In which subfield were you enrolled? Please be specific (e.g., Chemistry/Organic; History/Chinese).

Organisms and Environment/Ecosystem Science

2. When did you first enroll at Berkeley as a graduate student in this degree program?

Semester: ☐ Fall ☒ Spring Year: 2011

3. When will you receive your degree? Semester: ☐ Fall ☒ Spring Year: 2016

4. To which racial/ethnic group do you belong?

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| (1) <input type="checkbox"/> Asian/Asian American | (4) <input type="checkbox"/> Chicano         | (7) <input type="checkbox"/> Puerto Rican                |
| (2) <input type="checkbox"/> African American     | (5) <input type="checkbox"/> Native American | (8) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> White            |
| (3) <input type="checkbox"/> Filipino             | (6) <input type="checkbox"/> Latino          | (9) <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify _____ |

5. What is your sex? (1) ☒ Male (2) ☐ Female

6. What is your present citizenship status?

- (1) ☒ U.S. citizen (please skip to question 8)  
(2) ☐ Permanent resident of the U.S. (please skip to question 8)  
(3) ☐ Citizen of (specify country) \_\_\_\_\_

7. Do you intend to return to your country for professional employment within two years?

- (1) ☐ Yes (2) ☐ No (3) ☐ Not applicable

### Experience with Department

8. Was financial support for graduate students distributed fairly in your department?

- (1) ☒ Yes (2) ☐ No (3) ☐ Don't know

Please comment: Not enough was given the department, but available funds were fairly distributed

9. For how many years did you receive support in the categories below? Answer all instances that apply.

- |  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| (1) <u>1</u> G.S.I. (T.A.)               | (5) _____ Foreign government |
| (2) <u>1</u> G.S.R. (R.A. or equivalent) | (6) _____ Corporate funds    |
| (3) <u>0.5</u> U.C. Fellowships          | (7) _____ Other              |
| (4) <u>3</u> Outside Fellowship          | (8) _____ None               |

10. As you look back over your doctoral studies at UCB, how satisfied have you been with each of the following?

	1 = Very Satisfied	2 = Satisfied	3 = Somewhat Dissatisfied	4 = Dissatisfied	5 = Don't Know
A. Departmental advising /guidance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. Overall quality of graduate level teaching	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. Professional relationship with your dissertation supervisor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D. Faculty efforts in assisting you to find professional employment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E. Level of financial support	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

11. How satisfied were you with the AMOUNT of contact you had with your adviser?

	1 = Very Satisfied	2 = Satisfied	3 = Somewhat Dissatisfied	4 = Dissatisfied	5 = Don't Know
A. Oral preparation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. Selection of dissertation topic; preparation of prospectus	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. Dissertation research	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D. Dissertation writing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E. Job hunting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

12. Using the following scale, please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements as they apply to your dissertation chair.

1= agree      2= somewhat agree      3= somewhat disagree      4= disagree      5= not applicable

- A. 1 Was willing to spend the time necessary to advise me on academic matters
- B. 1 Insisted that we discuss my research on a regular basis
- C. 1 Was easy to approach
- D. 3 Was knowledgeable about formal degree requirements
- E. 1 Was available for informal consultation
- F. 2 Was interested in my goals and projects
- G. 3 Could be relied upon to give me constructive criticism on my work
- H. 1 Returned my work promptly
- I. 1 Made an effort to secure financial support for me
- J. 3 Was willing to explain the strategies of survival in graduate school
- K. 2 Encouraged and supported my research idea
- L. 2 Was supportive in my search for professional employment
- M.     Other, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

13. What was the best course (lecture, seminar, etc.) that you took at Berkeley? Please name the department, instructor, and course title. Statistics 160, Cari Kaufman

14. What was the worst course (lecture, seminar, etc.) that you took at Berkeley? Please name the department, instructor, and course title. Statistics 160, Yun Song
- 
15. Was your qualifying/Ph.D. candidacy exam and preparation a beneficial educational experience?  
(1) ☐ Yes (2) ☒ No
- Please comment: My committee was not very available and encouraged me to invest little in m
- 
16. Does your department have any organized seminars, colloquia, or sponsored conferences at which graduate students can present their research? (1) ☒ Yes (2) ☐ No
17. Did you ever present any of your research at such a seminar, colloquium, or conference?  
(1) ☒ Yes (2) ☐ No (3) How many times during your graduate career? 0
18. Did you attend any national scholarly meetings?  
(1) ☒ Yes (2) ☐ No (3) How many times during your graduate career? 0
19. Did you deliver any papers at national scholarly meetings?  
(1) ☒ Yes (2) ☐ No (3) How many times during your graduate career? 0
20. Were you encouraged by faculty in your department to publish?  
(1) ☒ Yes (2) ☐ No
21. Do you have any other comments concerning your department (e.g., quality of administrative staff, opportunities to participate in departmental governance, affirmative action efforts, adequacy of space, facilities)? Please indicate approximately the years to which your comments refer.  
The department staff in ESPM are excellent. The space is highly inadequate. Hilgard Hall is literally falling apart: there was mold in my office, mold on the first floor and the shared lab spaces have old equipment and not enough funds to employ shared lab managers. This absolutely retards progress of research in the department.

### **General University Experience**

22. What was your best academic experience at UC Berkeley?  
Collaborating with my excellent peers.
23. What was your worst academic experience at UC Berkeley?  
The faculty are insensitive and naive to new challenges of being a graduate student (e.g. lack of funding, explosively fast progress of computational methods that must be learned, lack of career opportunities in academia)
24. If you could change one thing at Berkeley, what would it be?  
Remove bureaucratic oversight on research and education--there are too many committees composed of different people and the SPO is completely useless and saps huge amounts of research funds away from research.

25. If you were to start your graduate program again, would you select:

- |                                      |   |                                 |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. The same university?              | (1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | (2) <input type="checkbox"/> No | (3) <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |
| 2. The same field of specialization? | (1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | (2) <input type="checkbox"/> No | (3) <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |
| 3. The same dissertation supervisor? | (1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | (2) <input type="checkbox"/> No | (3) <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |

## **Employment**

26. What are your immediate professional plans?

1. ☐ I am returning to, or continuing in, my predoctoral employment.
2. ☒ I have found a position.
3. ☐ I am negotiating with one or more organizations.
4. ☐ I am seeking a position but have no specific prospects.
5. ☐ Other, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

27. Which best describes your immediate professional employment? (Please check only one answer.)

1. ☒ Postdoctoral fellowship/traineeship
2. ☐ Research, academic setting
3. ☐ Tenure track faculty position
4. ☐ Non-tenure track faculty position
5. ☐ Research, non-academic setting (e.g., national lab, industry, medical center)
6. ☐ Other non-academic position, describe: \_\_\_\_\_

28. Will this employment be in the field of your academic training? (1) ☒ Yes (2) ☐ No

29. How would you categorize your employer?

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 0. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Research university (doctoral granting) |  |
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> 5-year university (master's granting)              | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Industry or business               |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> 4-year college                                     | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Non-profit organization/foundation |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Junior/community college                           | 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Self-employed                      |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Federal government                            | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify: _____       |
| 5. <input type="checkbox"/> State/local government                             |  |

30. Where will your position be located?

1. ☐ In California
2. ☒ Other U.S. state Name of the state: Tennessee
3. ☐ Outside of the U.S. Name of the country: \_\_\_\_\_

31. What is the name of your employer? University of Tennessee

Thank you!