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.

Andrew J. Szeri, Dean
Graduate Division, UC Berkeley

Personal Information

1. In which degree program were you enrolled? (e.g., Chemistry, History.) <u>Nuclear Engineering</u>

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

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

   Semester: [**✗**] Fall   [ ] Spring   Year: <u>2014</u>

3. When will you receive your degree? Semester: [ ] Fall   [**✗**] Spring   Year: **20**<u>18</u>

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

   (1) [ ] Asian/Asian American   (4) [ ] Chicano   (7) [ ] Puerto Rican
   (2) [ ] African American   (5) [ ] Native American   (8) [✔] White
   (3) [ ] Filipino   (6) [ ] Latino   (9) [ ] 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: _____

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>4</u>   G.S.R. (R.A. or equivalent)   (6) _____ Corporate funds
   (3) _____ U.C. Fellowships   (7) _____ Other
   (4) <u>4</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			✔		
B. Overall quality of graduate level teaching		✔			
C. Professional relationship with your dissertation supervisor	✔				
D. Faculty efforts in assisting you to find professional employment	✔				
E. Level of financial support	✔				

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	✔				
B. Selection of dissertation topic; preparation of prospectus	✔				
C. Dissertation research	✔				
D. Dissertation writing	✔				
E. Job hunting	✔				

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. 2 Was knowledgeable about formal degree requirements
E. 1 Was available for informal consultation
F. 1 Was interested in my goals and projects
G. 1 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. 1 Was willing to explain the strategies of survival in graduate school
K. 1 Encouraged and supported my research idea
L. 1 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. NE290A, Walid Younes, Special Topics in Applied Nuclear Ph

14. What was the worst course (lecture, seminar, etc.) that you took at Berkeley? Please name the department, instructor, and course title. NE 107, Introduction to Imaging , Kai Vetter

15. Was your qualifying/Ph.D. candidacy exam and preparation a beneficial educational experience?
    (1) ✔ Yes   (2) ☐ No

    Please comment: It really made me take an objective look at my own preparation and backgro

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? 2

18. Did you attend any national scholarly meetings?
    (1) ✔ Yes   (2) ☐ No   (3) How many times during your graduate career? 8

19. Did you deliver any papers at national scholarly meetings?
    (1) ✔ Yes   (2) ☐ No   (3) How many times during your graduate career? 2

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.
Overall, my department was excellent. Very supportive and helpful people who went out of there way to create a supportive environment for the grad students, help with their problems, and act as a foster family. We had several changes in our department's grad student advisor during my tenure here, and they all somewhat struggled to be helpful and prompt, but did an overall mostly decent job.

General University Experience

22. What was your best academic experience at UC Berkeley?

Excellent access to world-class research options and facilities, and being able to connect to Lawrence Berkeley National Lab for my own PhD research.

23. What was your worst academic experience at UC Berkeley?

Constantly fighting against mistakes made by UC in my residency applications, which placed a massive financial burden upon me and my department, and nearly had me removed from the University's registration.

24. If you could change one thing at Berkeley, what would it be?
Better communication between the departments and the university administration / central offices. Often times, simple tasks take weeks of work to get people from different branches talking on the same page.

25. If you were to start your graduate program again, would you select:
    1. The same university?   (1) ✔ Yes   (2) ___No   (3) ___Don't know
    2. The same field of specialization?   (1) ✔ Yes   (2) ___No   (3) ___Don't know
    3. The same dissertation supervisor?   (1) ✔ Yes   (2) ___No   (3) ___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. ✔ Research university (doctoral granting)
    1. ___ 5-year university (master's granting)   6. ___ Industry or business
    2. ___ 4-year college   7. ___ Non-profit organization/foundation
    3. ___ Junior/community college   8. ___ Self-employed
    4. ___ U.S. Federal government   9. ___ Other, please specify:
    5. ___ State/local government   _____

30. Where will your position be located?
    1. ✔ In California
    2. ___ Other U.S. state   Name of the state: _____
    3. ___ Outside of the U.S.   Name of the country: _____

31. What is the name of your employer? UC Berkeley _____

Thank you!