

National Survey of Doctoral Students in a nutshell

Why: to map the conditions of the third level of higher education from the **perspective of the doctoral students themselves**. An important part of the survey is the **compliance with the European standards** for quality assurance and the **qualification framework**.

How can the survey help?

Identifying weaknesses is the first step towards possible correction. On the other hand, it is also important to point out the positive aspects: identifying strengths. For institutions taking care on quality, the survey will also provide a nationwide benchmark. Together with selected questions, it can be used to evaluate the results of their own surveys.

The following is addressed to future respondents: current and graduated PhD students.

1. Is my personal data protected?

Yes, they are protected. We use email addresses from the central register of students to send links to the questionnaire. In addition, the email addresses being used are not stored with replies. Only a randomly assigned code for the respondent is stored, therefore the processing of answers is on an anonymous basis.

2. Can the supervisor see my answers?

No, neither the supervisor nor the faculty/school management. We take the protection of our respondents seriously. The obtained data are processed in bulk, and we pay attention to all published data in order to avoid identification with a specific PhD student or a small group of PhD students.

3. Who is implementing the survey?

The survey is implemented by the Slovak Accreditation Agency for Higher Education (SAAVŠ). Links to surveys are also sent by the SAAHE server. We use the Survio survey tool with additional features (advanced settings).

4. Where can I find information about SAAHE?

Information about the activities of the Slovak Accreditation Agency for Higher Education can be found on our website: www.saavs.sk

5. What if I did not receive an email with a link to the questionnaire and I am a doctoral student?

You just need to write to prieskum.doktorandi@saavs.sk and put "link request" as the subject of the email.

6. Who should I contact in case of technical issues with the survey?

In case of technical issues, you can contact us at same email: prieskum.doktorandi@saavs.sk

7. Can I fill out the survey more than once?

You can, but it's not necessary. Multiple filling is only possible for technical reasons. In reality, only the first filling in of the survey from the respondent is processed, duplicates are deleted.

8. How long does it take to fill out the survey?

When testing the survey, the filling time was about 12 minutes. However, it's individual, some got under 10, others took longer. Your time is precious, and we kept that in mind when creating the questions.

9. Will I also be given space for free (spontaneous) answers?

Yes, the survey contains three open questions. We know from other surveys that spontaneous statements of respondents can be very interesting. **Note for those who do not like to write:** all open questions are optional.

10. If I make a mistake, can I go back to the previous question?

Yes, setting up the survey allows it.

11. Where did you get my contact information?

We collected email addresses from the Central Register of Students. SAAHE has such an authorization according to the Act on Quality Assurance in Higher Education (269/2018 Coll.).