

Information letter

Careers of PhD prepared nurses

Introduction

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for considering participation in this study about the careers of PhD prepared nurses. In this study we would like to gain insight in the careers of PhD prepared nurses and therefore you, as PhD prepared nurse, will be asked to share your experiences by responding to an online survey. Before deciding on participation, we would like to invite you to read the information about this study thoroughly and consider what participation means for you, and what the benefits and risks are involved with taking part in this study. The study has been evaluated by the Ethics Committee for Human Sciences at the University of Turku – Health Care Division, Finland (Europe).

General information on the study

To this day there is limited information about the careers of PhD prepared nurses due to a lack of research on this topic. It is unknown where PhD prepared nurses find their careers, what their experiences with career development are, how well they are prepared for postdoctoral roles, how they are supported in developing their leadership competences and how they experience their working environment. Outcomes of this study can contribute to optimization of strategic planning for future doctoral education, development of careers pathways and opportunities for career advancement and policies to improve the working conditions of PhD prepared nurses and thereby to advance the nursing (science) discipline and health care across countries. Potential participants in this study are identified through (inter)national organization nursing (science) organizations, national databases as well as universities, medical centers and nursing science alumni organizations. Also, social media and networks of the research team will be used to identify potential participants. The research team aims to include approximately 1000 PhD prepared nurses in this study.

This study is part of a PhD dissertation called “Future Nurse Leaders – Advancing careers of doctorally prepared nurses”. This dissertation aims to describe the career development of PhD prepared nurses and to evaluate leadership and mentoring programmes for career development of PhD prepared nurses.

Objective of the study

The primary aim of this study is to describe careers of PhD prepared nurses and their experiences with factors like preparedness for postdoctoral roles, leadership development and the working environment. Secondary objectives of this study are to describe differences and similarities regarding careers of PhD prepared nurses within and outside European countries and to identify best practices regarding career development of PhD prepared nurses.

Participation in this study

You are eligible to participate in this study if you have a PhD degree in the field of Nursing / Nursing Science. Data will be collected through an one-time online survey. The deadline for participation in this study is 31-03-2022. If you have carefully considered participation, we

would like to invite you to complete the survey through the following link:
<https://redcap.utu.fi/surveys/?s=DTYAW9X7M39A8H7R>.

Processing of information and informed consent

Throughout all study phases your privacy will be carefully protected. Your data will be handled confidentially and in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which applies to European Union member states. No direct identifiable information such as names, addresses or phone numbers will be collected. Only the doctoral researcher and the supervisors will have access to the original data. Data will be stored at the secured online environment at the university of Turku. The research data will be kept for 10 years after the end of the study and will not be shared with third parties. Results of this study will be published in a peer-reviewed scientific journal. Informed consent will be obtained at the beginning of the survey, where you will be asked to confirm your willingness to participate in this study. A privacy notice with detailed information on data processing is provided separately.

Voluntary participation

Participation in this study is voluntary. You can refuse participation or disrupt participation. You do not have to explain why you withdraw from the study. After you have submitted the survey you will not be able to withdraw from the study because individual responses cannot be identified since no directly identifiable information will be collected.

Advantages and disadvantages

By participating in this study you will provide valuable input on scientific research on the careers of PhD prepared nurses. Risks involved in the study will be minimized. A time investment of approximately 30 minutes is needed to complete the survey. There will be no compensation for participation.

Research team and contact information

This research is carried out by a doctoral researcher, Lisa van Dongen. The supervisors of this research are Prof. Helena Leino-Kilpi, Prof. Riitta Suhonen and Dr. Thóra B. Hafsteinsdóttir. There is no funding organization involved in the design and execution of this study.

Please contact one of the following team members if you have questions about this study:

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