

awardees from four postsecondary community/technical colleges or systems. The NTEWS sample design will meet the needs of both NCSES and NCES by providing coverage of the workforce-eligible adult population and including an oversample of adults who are in skilled technical occupations.

Estimate of Burden: The expected response rate for the overall NTEWS sample is 62 percent, or 30,565 respondents. The amount of time to complete the survey may vary depending on an individual's circumstances and the collection mode (web, paper, or telephone). NCSES estimates an average completion time of 15 minutes. NCSES estimates that the average annual burden for the initial NTEWS for the three-year OMB clearance period will be no more than 2,547 hours [(30,565 completed cases × 15 minutes)/3 years].

Updates: A few changes occurred between the publication of the first FRN and this second FRN. The first FRN did not include the estimated burden of the non-production seeded sample and bridge panel studies, which are reflected in this FRN. The estimated burden for the production sample in the first FRN approximated the average annual burden for the initial NTEWS throughout the three-year OMB clearance period to be 2,084 hours [(25,000 completed cases × 15 minutes)/3 years]. NCSES increased the production sample size from 42,000 to 43,200 to meet precision requirements for NTEWS estimates. This FRN contains revised burden information.

Comments: Comments are invited on (a) aspects of the data collection effort (including, but not limited to, the following: the availability of administrative and supplemental sources of data on the skilled technical workforce, survey content, contact strategy, and statistical methods); (b) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of NCSES, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (c) the accuracy of the NCSES's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (d) ways to enhance the quality, use, and clarity of the information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (e) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Dated: September 27, 2021.

Suzanne H. Plimpton,
Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation.

[FR Doc. 2021-21254 Filed 9-29-21; 8:45 am]

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NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Notice of Permit Applications Received Under the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978

AGENCY: National Science Foundation.
ACTION: Notice of permit applications received.

SUMMARY: The National Science Foundation (NSF) is required to publish a notice of permit applications received to conduct activities regulated under the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978. NSF has published regulations under the Antarctic Conservation Act in the Code of Federal Regulations. This is the required notice of permit applications received.

DATES: Interested parties are invited to submit written data, comments, or views with respect to this permit application by November 1, 2021. This application may be inspected by interested parties at the Permit Office, address below.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to Permit Office, Office of Polar Programs, National Science Foundation, 2415 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, Virginia 22314 or ACApermits@nsf.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Polly Penhale, ACA Permit Officer, at the above address, 703-292-8030.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Science Foundation, as directed by the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978 (Publ. L. 95-541, 45 CFR 671), as amended by the Antarctic Science, Tourism and Conservation Act of 1996, has developed regulations for the establishment of a permit system for various activities in Antarctica and designation of certain animals and certain geographic areas as requiring special protection. The regulations establish such a permit system to designate Antarctic Specially Protected Areas.

Application Details

Permit Application: 2022-010

1. *Applicant:* Dr. John Durban, 446 Harbor Vista Drive Friday Harbor, WA 98250.

Activity for Which Permit Is Requested: Take, Import into the U.S.A. The Applicant seeks an Antarctic

Conservation Act permit for continued research activities studying the health of whale populations in the Southern Ocean and impacts of environmental changes on Antarctic marine ecosystems. The applicant will use aerial photogrammetry to collect data on whale morphometrics and health. The applicant proposes to use unoccupied aerial systems (UAS), particularly small, radio-controlled hexacopters, for aerial photogrammetry, and to use handheld cameras for photo-identification. The hexacopters will be flown greater than 100 ft above the whales for identification and assessment purposes. The applicant also proposes use of the UAS to collect respiratory (blow) samples of commonly encountered whales to aid in understanding of cetacean microbiomes and respiratory health. This data will be supplemented by the collection of remote biopsy samples of whale skin and blubber, which will provide more detailed information on cetacean diet and contribute to genetic understanding of whale populations in the Southern Ocean. Additionally, opportunistic samples of dead marine mammals may be salvaged by the applicant to further understanding of killer whale diet and ecology. Samples will be imported into the United States for analysis and ultimate disposition at the Southwest Fisheries Science Center.

Location: Antarctic Peninsula Region, Southern Ross Sea region.

Dates of Permitted Activities: December 1, 2021–April 30, 2026.

Erika N. Davis,

Program Specialist, Office of Polar Programs.

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NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Agency Information Collection Activities: Comment Request; Grantee Reporting Requirements for NSF NRT Program

AGENCY: National Science Foundation.
ACTION: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request.

SUMMARY: The National Science Foundation (NSF) has submitted the following information collection requirement to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. This is the second notice for public comment; the first was published in the **Federal Register** and no comments were received. NSF is forwarding the proposed new submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for

clearance simultaneously with the publication of this second notice.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Find this particular information collection by selecting “Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments” or by using the search function.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Suzanne H. Plimpton, Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation, 2415 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22314, or send email to splimpto@nsf.gov. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339, which is accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year (including federal holidays). Comments regarding this information collection are best assured of having their full effect if received within 30 days of this notification. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling 703-292-7556.

NSF may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number, and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: *Title of Collection:* NSF Research Traineeship (NRT) Monitoring Program.

OMB Number: 3145-NEW.

Type of Request: Intent to seek approval to establish an information collection.

Abstract: The National Science Foundation’s (NSF’s) Division of Graduate Education (DGE) in the Directorate for Education and Human Resources (EHR) administers the NSF Research Traineeship (NRT) program. The NRT program is designed to encourage the development and implementation of bold, new, and potentially transformative models for STEM graduate education training. The NRT program seeks to ensure that graduate students in research-based master’s and doctoral degree programs develop the skills, knowledge, and competencies needed to pursue a range of STEM careers. NRT is dedicated to effective training of STEM graduate students in high priority interdisciplinary or convergent research

areas, through the use of a comprehensive traineeship model that is innovative, evidence-based, and aligned with changing workforce and research needs.

Currently NRT awardees provide NSF with information on their activities through periodic research performance progress reports. The NRT program will now replace these reports with a tailored program monitoring system that will use internet-based information and communication technologies to collect, review, and validate specific data on NRT awards. EHR is committed to ensuring the efficiency and effectiveness with which respondents provide and NSF staff can access and analyze data on funded projects within the NRT program.

The NRT monitoring system will include subsets of questions aimed at the different project participants (*i.e.*, Principal Investigators (PIs) and trainees), and will allow for data analysis and data report generation by authorized NSF staff. The collections will generally include three categories of descriptive data: (1) Staff and project participants (data that are necessary to determine individual-level treatment and control groups for future third-party study or for internal evaluation); (2) project implementation characteristics (also necessary for future use to identify well-matched comparison groups); and (3) project outputs (necessary to measure baseline for pre- and post-NSF-funding-level impacts). NRT awardees will be required to report data on an annual basis for the life of their award.

Use of the Information: NSF will primarily use the data from this collection for program planning, management, and audit purposes to respond to queries from the Congress, the public, NSF’s external merit reviewers who serve as advisors, including Committees of Visitors (COVs), the NSF’s Office of the Inspector General, and as a basis for either internal or third-party evaluations of individual programs. This information is required for effective administration, communication, program and project monitoring and evaluation, and for measuring attainment of NSF’s program, project, and strategic goals, and as identified by the President’s Accountability in Government Initiative; GPRA, and the NSF’s Strategic Plan. The Foundation’s FY 2018–2022 Strategic Plan may be found at: https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf18045.

Since this collection will primarily be used for accountability and evaluation

purposes, including responding to queries from COVs and other scientific experts, a census rather than a sampling design typically is necessary. At the individual project level, funding can be adjusted based on individual project’s responses to some of the surveys. Some data collected under this collection will serve as baseline data for separate research and evaluation studies.

NSF-funded contract or grantee researchers and internal or external evaluators in part may identify control, comparison, or treatment groups for NSF’s education and training portfolio using some of the descriptive data gathered through this collection to conduct well-designed and rigorous research and portfolio evaluation studies.

Use of the Information: The information collected is primarily for the purposes of program monitoring and accountability purposes. The information may also be used to respond to queries from Congress, NSF’s external merit reviewers, and as the basis for program evaluations.

Respondents: NRT PIs, coPIs, Faculty, and Trainees.

Estimated number of respondents: 2,346.

Average Burden per Reporting: The average hours per year works out to 4,207.5 hours. This reflects a range of 10–15 minutes for the PI/coPI/Faculty surveys, 1.5 hours for the trainee survey, and 24 hours for the project survey.

Frequency: Once annually

Comments: Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Agency’s estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Dated: September 27, 2021.

Suzanne H. Plimpton,

Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation.

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