

Doctoral Survey Results

1. Are you currently enrolled in a PhD program at a U.S. institution? **(110 Responses)**
 - a. Yes **(86.4%)**
 - b. No **(13.6%)**If no, please specify country: **Canada, Australia, UK, Hong Kong, China**
2. What factor influenced you the most to pursue a PhD in Accounting? **(126 Responses)**
 - a. PhD Project **(11.1%)**
 - b. Family influence **(6.3%)**
 - c. Lifestyle **(31.7%)**
 - d. Professor influence **(32.5%)**
 - e. Other: (please specify) **(18.3%)** **Interest in research; intellectual satisfaction; long-term career aspirations; always wanted to be an accountant; PT program (eve); interested in teaching; desire to contribute to field.**
3. How long did you consider entering a PhD program before applying? **(110 Responses)**
 - a. Under 1 year **(25.5%)**
 - b. 1-2 years **(29.1%)**
 - c. 3-4 years **(26.4%)**
 - d. 5-6 years **(10%)**
 - e. 7+ years **(9.1%)**
4. What were the factors that contributed to your selection of a particular university? **(149 Responses)**
 - a. Significant number of active research faculty to work with and be committee members and/or chair? **(37.6%)**
 - b. Access to databases **(3.4%)**
 - c. Stipend package **(13.4%)**
 - d. Ranking **(19.5%)**
 - e. Other **(26.2%)** **Although most respondents did provided details here, of the 14 that did – 11 indicated location/proximity was key. The other responses were reputation/quality of school, PT program.**
5. Prior to entering the PhD program, did you have any professional (accounting/auditing) work experience? **(93 Responses)**
 - a. Yes, 0-5 years **(46.4%)**
 - b. Yes, 6-10 years **(11.8%)**
 - c. Yes, 10+ years **(15.5%)**
 - d. No **(26.4%)**

6. What was the expectation of the number of years it would take to complete the PhD program at the time you entered the program? **(110 Responses)**
- a. 3-4 years **(12.7%)**
 - b. 4-5 years **(81.8%)**
 - c. 5-6 years **(4.5%)**
 - d. 6+ **(.9 %)**
7. What is the actual number of years it will take you to complete the program? **(102 Responses)**
- a. 3-4 years **(2%)**
 - b. 4-5 years **(35.3%)**
 - c. 5-6 years **(57.8%)**
 - d. 7+ years **(4.9%)**
8. What is the approximate % of PhD students that complete your program?
(104 Responses) Avg. 79.8%
9. Do you believe the length of your program is (circle one): **(110 Responses)**
- a. Too short **(2.7%)**
 - b. Just right **(75.5%)**
 - c. Too long **(21.8%)**
10. Do you believe there are enough active research professors to mentor/guide you through your studies? **(110 Responses)**
- a. Yes **(60%)**
 - b. No **(24.5%)**
 - c. Maybe **(15.5%)**
11. Do you believe there are obstacles to access data for your research in the following categories?
- | | <u>No Obstacles</u> | <u>Slight Obstacle</u> | <u>Severe Obstacles</u> | <u>N/A</u> |
|---|---------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| a. Public accounting firm data (106) | (17%) | (27.4%) | (52.8%) | (2.8%) |
| b. Public accounting client data (107) | (14%) | (32.7%) | (48.6%) | (4.7%) |
| c. Getting subjects for experiments (100) | (16%) | (32%) | (38%) | (14%) |
12. Do you believe there are an adequate amount of journals, etc. for you to get your research published in the field you would want to pursue? **(110 Responses)**
- a. Yes **(35.5%)**
 - b. No **(41.8%)**
 - c. Maybe **(22.7%)**
13. Do you believe the answer to #11 above will influence the field of research you will actually pursue? **(109 Responses)**
- a. Yes **(55%)**
 - b. No **(27.5%)**
 - c. Maybe **(17.4%)**

14. If you receive an annual stipend to teach during your studies, how much do you receive? **(108 Responses)**
- a. Under \$10,000 **(7.4%)**
 - b. \$10,000 - \$15,000 **(20.4%)**
 - c. \$15,001 - \$20,000 **(39.8%)**
 - d. \$20,001 - \$25,000 **(15.7%)**
 - e. \$25,001 - \$30,000 **(7.4%)**
 - f. \$30,001 - \$35,000 **(1.9%)**
 - g. \$35,001 - \$40,000 **(0%)**
 - h. \$40,001 - \$45,000 **(0%)**
 - i. \$45,001 - \$50,000 **(0%)**
 - j. Over \$50,000 **(.9%)**
 - k. Did not receive a stipend (Skip to Question #20) **(6.5%)**

15. Does your stipend include tuition waiver? **(104 Responses)**

- a. Yes **(83.7%)**
- b. No **(16.3%)**

If yes, how much: \$ **See Below (76 Responses)**

36 Monetary Responses

Up to \$9,000 (41.7%)

\$10,000 - \$19,000 (27.8%)

\$20,000 – 29,000 (19.4%)

\$30,000 – 39,000 (11.1%)

38 Non-Monetary Responses

Full Tuition (42.2%)

Full Tuition minus some fees (10.6%)

Unknown/no details given (36.8%)

2/9 of Salary (2.6%)

9 Credit hrs/Semester (2.6%)

18K over/above stipend (2.6%)

80% * (2.6%)

**(unclear whether this indicates 80% of tuition)*

16. How many years is the stipend package available to you? **(104 Responses)**

- a. 1-2 years **(1%)**
- b. 3-4 years **(59.6%)**
- c. 5-6 years **(36.5%)**
- d. Over 6 years **(1.9%)**
- e. No time limit **(1%)**

17. Do you incur out-of-pocket expenses annually that are not covered by the stipend and/or tuition remission? **(104 Responses)**
- a. Yes **(70.2%)**
 - b. No (Skip to Question #20) **(29.8%)**
18. If yes, how much? **(73 Responses)**
- a. Up to \$10,000 **(58.9%)**
 - b. \$10,001 - \$15,000 **(12.3%)**
 - c. \$15,001 – \$20,000 **(13.7%)**
 - d. \$20,001 - \$30,000 **(6.8%)**
 - e. Above \$30,000 **(8.2%)**
 - f. No additional expenses **(0%)**
19. If you answered yes to question #17, how do you cover these out-of-pocket expenses?
(107 Responses)
- a. Loans **(22.4%)**
 - b. Financial support from spouse/family **(29.9%)**
 - c. Savings **(31.8%)**
 - d. Other: (please specify) **(15.9%) Scholarships; Fellowships; Adjunct teaching; grants; employer funding; projects; consulting.**
20. How many semesters (non-summer) are you required to teach during your PhD program?
(110 Responses)
- a. 0 **(17.3%)**
 - b. 1-3 **(41.8%)**
 - c. 4-6 **(25.5%)**
 - d. More than 6 **(15.5%)**
21. How many classes (non-summer) have you taught during your Ph.D. program? **(109 Responses)**
Avg. # of courses was 3.1
22. Are you allowed to teach in the summer to earn extra cash? **(104 Responses)**
- a. Yes **(67.3%)**
 - b. No **(32.7%)**
23. Is your preference to teach or do research? **(110 Responses)**
- a. More teaching **(7.3%)**
 - b. More research **(60.9%)**
 - c. Both equal **(31.8%)**
24. Are you planning to teach in the U.S. after you graduate? **(107 Responses)**
- a. Yes **(91.6%)**
 - b. No **(6.5%) UNK (1.9%)**
25. If you answered yes to # 24 above, do you believe you will be able to secure a faculty position in the U.S. after you graduate? **(101 Responses)**
- a. Yes **(85.1%)**
 - b. No **(1.0%)**
 - c. Maybe **(13.9%)**

26. Do you anticipate that your starting salary as a professor will equal your expectations of that salary when you started your PhD program? **(108 Responses)**
- a. Yes – Same **(56.5%)** b. No – Higher **(38.9%)** c. No – Lower **(4.6%)**
27. Today, what base salary range do you expect to earn when you graduate? **(113 Responses)**
- a. Under \$50,000 **(.9%)**
- b. \$50,000 - \$75,000 **(2.7%)**
- c. \$76,000 - \$100,000 **(7.1%)**
- d. \$101,000 - \$125,000 **(31.9%)**
- e. \$126,000 - \$150,000 **(37.2%)**
- f. \$151,000 - \$175,000 **(14.2%)**
- g. Over \$175,000 **(6.2%)**
28. What amount of annual summer research support do you expect to receive and for how many summers? **(84 Responses)** Amount \$ **See below** # of Summers : **Avg. 2.7**
- a. \$ 0 **(11.9%)**
- b. Less than \$10,000 **(15.5%)**
- c. \$10,000-\$19,000 **(11.9%)**
- d. \$20,000-\$29,000 **(19%)**
- e. \$30,000-\$39,000 **(16.7%)**
- f. \$40,000-\$49,000 **(4.8%)**
- g. Other: 2/9 of salary **(10.7%)**
- UNK/unlisted **(9.5%)**
29. Will your salary expectations influence the focus of your research? **(110 Responses)**
- a. Yes **(24.5%)** b. No **(53.6%)** c. Maybe **(21.8%)**
30. What is your area of concentration (e.g., financial, tax, etc.)? **(107 Responses)**
- a. Financial **(61.7%)**
- b. Audit **(15.9%)**
- c. Managerial **(8.4%)**
- d. Tax **(2.8%)**
- e. Info Systems **(2.8%)**
- f. Governmental **(.9%)**
- g. Air Transport **(.9%)**
- h. Experiments **(.9%)**
- i. Regulation **(1.9%)**
- j. Sociological **(.9%)**
- k. International **(.9%)**
- l. Corporate Governance **(1.9%)**

31. Do you believe there is currently a shortage of accounting PhD students (to meet market demand)?
(110 Responses)
- a. Yes – Severe **(37.3%)** b. Yes – Slight **(34.5%)** c. Not Sure **(22.7%)** d. No – Adequate **(5.5%)**
32. Please rank (1 being the highest) the following categories (not all-inclusive), which are possible areas of focus to help address the PhD shortage issue:

#5 Improved access to research data

#2 Building pipeline (to attract more students to PhD programs)

#3 Creating additional slots in accounting PhD programs for new students

#1 Financial scholarships/support for PhD students

#6 Length of PhD programs

#4 More focus by Deans/school leadership on issue.

#7 Public accounting internships for professors.

#8 Accreditation policies.

Other:

Advertising the lifestyle more:

Don't think many accountants know about the opportunities (lifestyle, salary, etc). I don't think it ever really crosses their mind.

More advertisement.

Most PhD students choose this because of lifestyle (family). Maybe this should be more advertised.

Some people I worked with in public accounting expressed interest in the idea, but I think needed more info. Building a good network between auditors & faculty/PhD students will help the shortage as more info is exchanged.

More than any of the above, I think it is a mindset. Check out BYU's pipeline...

Research:

Reduce # of schools seeking to be research schools.

Focus on industry & interdisciplinary research motivates young academia.

Lack of student exposure to accounting research.

People outside PhD programs don't understand what accounting research is.

Making accounting research more relevant to the accounting profession. It is my fear that much of the research currently being conducted is too math intensive and often loses sight of the accounting question at hand. Moreover, it is my observation that professionally trained accountants are shying away from the academic profession as it is being over-run by those who have undergraduate degrees in math who then apply those skills to an issue that has little relevance or application to the classroom of business for that matter

Pre-Requisite Coursework:

Reduce pre-requisite coursework. (i.e., even though I have a MAcc, I had to retake 5 foundation courses in Accounting, Marketing, Information Systems and Economics, which adds at least 1+ semester to program.)

Schedule:

Flexible (PT) programs from accredited institutions.

Comments (Cont.)

Salary:

Improve prospects for tenured accountants to make good \$\$\$. Hard to leave (career) to make less, especially with family to support.

Outside options to strong candidates make \$\$ of a PhD/academic career very significant.

Recognize that obtaining a PhD is a VERY tough decision for many qualified candidates to make. Giving up an excellent job/salary to live as a poor student.

Optional Information: **(104 Responses)**

How old were you when you entered your PhD program?

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| a. Under 25 years | (15.4%) |
| b. 25 – 30 years | (46.2%) |
| c. 31 – 35 years | (22.1%) |
| d. Over 35 years | (16.3%) |

NOTE: This survey was administered on 6/15/07 to 81 Doctoral Consortium participants (representing 81 different institutions, including a few foreign schools). This summary also includes responses from 29 PhD students to whom KPMG distributed the survey.

For those questions with greater than 110 responses, please note that some respondents selected more than one answer.