



NATIONAL RESEARCH UNIVERSITY

# THAT'S SO HSE

HSE Center for Institutional Research Newsletter №5 (27), 2016

Thirst for knowledge usually follows natural laws. The noticeable revival in academic and research life starting with the onset of autumn seems just as indisputable as leaves turning yellow. With this in mind, we have decided to dedicate the latest issue of That's So HSE to people, whose academic and research life takes on new colours in September. This time round, we speak about doctoral students.

In 2015, That's So HSE discussed the daily lives of young scholars – HSE doctoral students. In this new issue, we go beyond the HSE experience and present information about doctoral students from other universities in Russia. Readers will have a chance to learn interesting facts about these young scholars, based on data accumulated from a pilot sociological survey of doctoral students at Russian universities and research centres (10 universities and one research centre took part in the survey). We will show why university alumni often opt to apply to doctoral schools, how doctoral students get engaged in research work, and whether there is any interrelation between writing a thesis and finding a job, etc.

The issue provides several comparisons for your consideration. You will be able to see the similarities and differences between doctoral students in various areas of study and compare the answers given by doctoral students at HSE and other universities in response to questions about their activities at doctoral school and beyond.

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**Contents:**

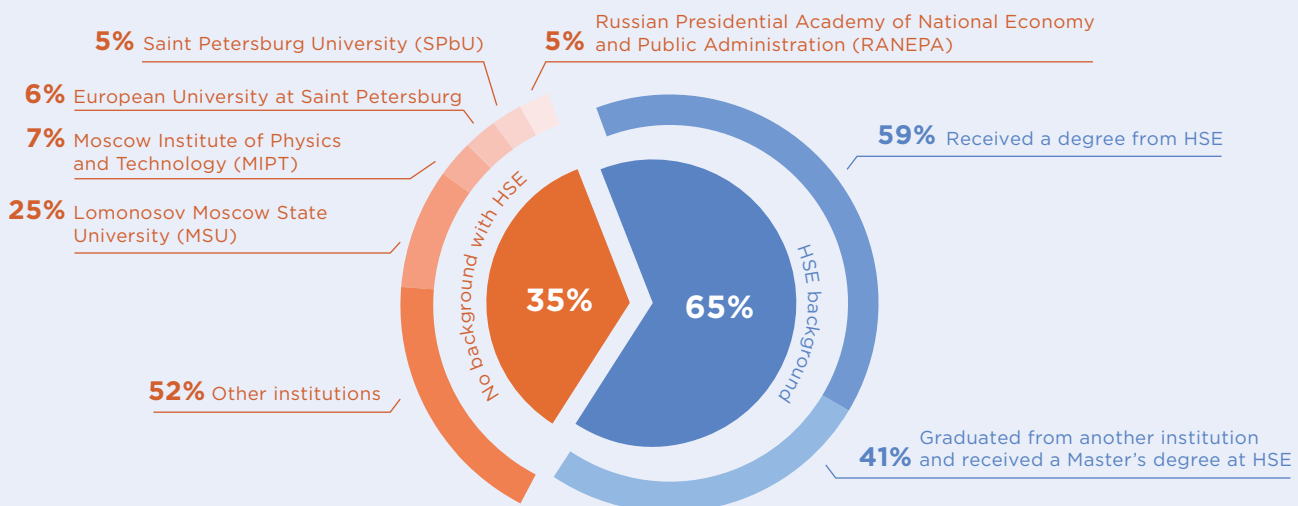
Backgrounds of HSE Doctoral Students

Science: Doctoral Students of Russian Universities as Compared by Fields of Study

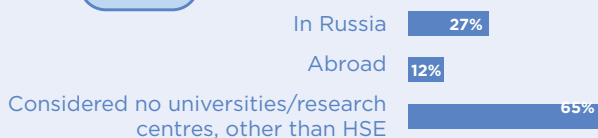
HSE Doctoral Students as Compared with Their Peers at Other Russian Universities

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## BACKGROUNDS OF HSE DOCTORAL STUDENTS



### CONTEMPLATED STUDIES AT DOCTORAL SCHOOLS AT UNIVERSITIES/RESEARCH CENTRES



### THE PREVIOUS LEVEL OF EDUCATION WAS...

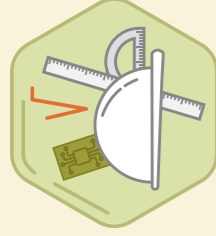


1. This question was only intended for first-year doctoral students. 2. The total is not equal to 100%, as doctoral students could choose all suitable options. Source: Survey of HSE Doctoral Students, 2016, N=299.

**SCIENCE: DOCTORAL STUDENTS OF RUSSIAN UNIVERSITIES COMPARED BY FIELDS OF STUDY**



**MATHEMATICS AND NATURAL SCIENCES**



**ENGINEERING, TECHNOLOGIES AND TECHNICAL SCIENCES**



**SOCIAL SCIENCES**



**EDUCATION AND PEDAGOGICAL SCIENCES**



**HUMANITIES**

**DECIDED TO APPLY FOR ADMISSION TO A DOCTORAL SCHOOL, BECAUSE...**

Wanted to continue professional education



Wanted to stay in an academic environment



**BELIEVE THAT STUDIES AT A DOCTORAL SCHOOL WILL HELP THEM TO PURSUE A CAREER...**

At a university or research centre as a researcher



As a teacher



Beyond an academic environment



In a commercial organization as a researcher or analyst



**IN THE COURSE OF STUDIES, PARTICIPATED/NOW PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH PROJECTS...**

At home university



At other organizations



Took / take no part



**IN THE COURSE OF STUDIES, WORKED/NOW WORK...**

As a full-time teacher or under an independent contractor agreement



As a teaching assistant



As a teacher during teaching internship



Did / do not work as a teacher



**WORK FULL-TIME...**

At their university



With other employers



**WORK PART-TIME...**

At their university



With other employers



**IN REGARDS TO WORK, THINK THAT...**

Studies at a doctoral school are more important than obtaining a job



A job does not leave enough time and energy for studies at a doctoral school



Experience gained at work has proved to be useful for studies at a doctoral school



Experience gained at a doctoral school has proved to be useful for work



1. All data is given in percentages. 2. In addition to writing a thesis. 3. A doctoral student could specify several options for employment. Source: Pilot sociological survey of doctoral students at universities and research centres in Russia, 2016, N=2402. Sixteen universities and one research centre took part in the survey.

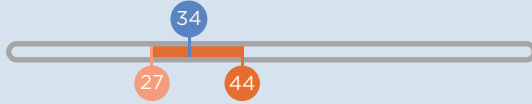
## HSE DOCTORAL STUDENTS AS COMPARED WITH DOCTORAL STUDENTS OF OTHER RUSSIAN UNIVERSITIES

● The range of indicators from minimum to maximum values by universities taking part in the survey (%)

● % of HSE doctoral students taking part in the survey

### DECIDED TO APPLY FOR ADMISSION TO A DOCTORAL SCHOOL, BECAUSE ...

*Wanted to continue their professional education*

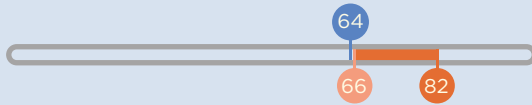


*Wanted to stay in an academic environment*

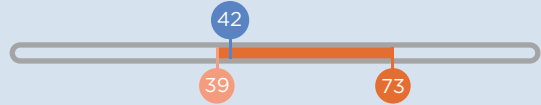


### BELIEVE THAT A DOCTORAL SCHOOL PROVIDES...<sup>1</sup>

*Opportunities for grasping the scope and nature of an academic career*

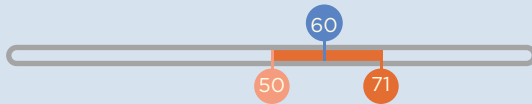


*Information for career development*

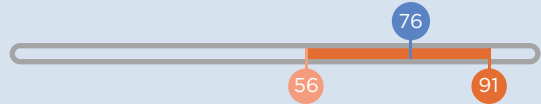


### DURING STUDIES...

*Participated in research projects<sup>2</sup>*

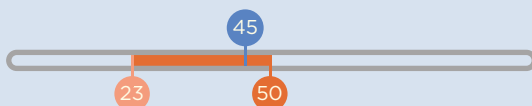


*Taught students*

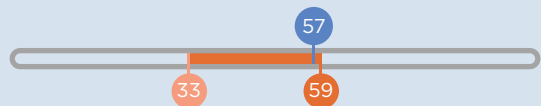


### IN REGARDS TO WORK, THINK THAT...

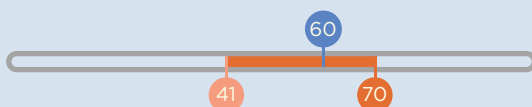
*Studies at a doctoral school are more important than obtaining a job*



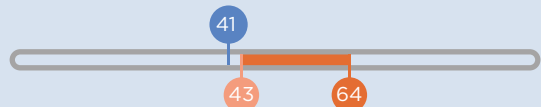
*A job does not leave enough time and energy for studies at a doctoral school*



*Experience gained at work has proved to be useful for studies at a doctoral school*

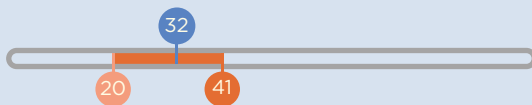


*Experience gained at a doctoral school has proved to be useful for work*

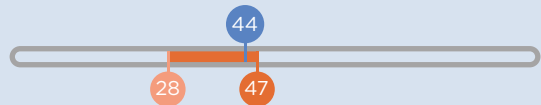


### PLAN TO APPLY FOR A DOCTORAL SCHOOL ABROAD

*Before completion of studies at their current doctoral school*



*After completion of studies at their current doctoral school*



### FIGURE OF THE MONTH

**61%** of doctoral students at Russian universities would prefer to work at their university after their thesis defense



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1. % of doctoral students who partially or fully agree with these statements. 2. In addition to writing a thesis.

Source: Pilot sociological online survey of doctoral students at universities and research centres in Russia, 2016, N=2402.