Request for Approval under the "Generic Clearance for the Collection of Routine Customer Feedback" (OMB Control Number: 3145-0215)

TITLE OF INFORMATION COLLECTION:

Feedback on Survey of Earned Doctorates (SED) Restricted Data Analysis System (RDAS)

PURPOSE:

To collect feedback from SED users on the data elements and useability of the RDAS (https://ncsesdata.nsf.gov/rdas/#/). The Restricted Data Analysis System (RDAS) is an online tool designed to expand public access to the Survey of Earned Doctorates (SED) data. The The RDAS data tool is a customization of a mature and widely used data tool, the DataLab, that has been used by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) for more than 20 years. The DataLab meets all the statistical and reporting standards of NCES.

The SED RDAS data is based on a sample subjected to statistical procedures to produce estimates that reflect the entire population of doctorate recipients while protecting the confidentiality of individual level data. The RDAS provides a secure platform to access a comprehensive set of SED variables and empowers users to create complex data tables at the click of a button.

The SED RDAS was launched as a "soft release" in June 2021 and was not publicized or linked through the NCSES website. The link to the RDAS was only provided in the Data Tool section of the main SED web page. The goal of the soft release was to allow the SED data users to test the utility of the RDAS and to identify problems with the usability and functionality of the data tool before the official release planned for later this year. The purpose of this clearance is to recruit a more diverse group of SED data users to provide feedback on the data tool.

DESCRIPTION OF RESPONDENTS:

SED data users who have submitted custom table requests or requests for institutional data files in the past two years.

TYPE OF COLLECTION: (Check one)

[ ] Customer Comment Card/Complaint Form   [ ] Customer Satisfaction Survey
[X] Usability Testing (e.g., Website or Software)   [ ] Small Discussion Group
[ ] Focus Group   [ ] Other:_____

CERTIFICATION:

I certify the following to be true:

1. The collection is voluntary.
2. The collection is low-burden for respondents and low-cost for the Federal Government.
3. The collection is non-controversial and does <u>not</u> raise issues of concern to other federal agencies.
4. The results are <u>not</u> intended to be disseminated to the public.
5. Information gathered will not be used for the purpose of <u>substantially</u> informing <u>influential</u> policy decisions.
6. The collection is targeted to the solicitation of opinions from users who have experience with the SED data.

Name: <u>Suzanne H. Plimpton, NSF Reports Clearance Officer</u>

To assist review, please provide answers to the following question:

Personally Identifiable Information:
1. Is personally identifiable information (PII) collected? [ ] Yes [X] No

2. If Yes, is the information that will be collected included in records that are subject to the Privacy Act of 1974?   [ ] Yes [ ] No

3. If Applicable, has a System or Records Notice been published? [ ] Yes [ ] No N/A

Gifts or Payments:
Is an incentive (e.g., money or reimbursement of expenses, token of appreciation) provided to participants? [ ] Yes [X] No

BURDEN HOURS

Category of Respondent	No. of Respondents	Participation Time	Burden
Individuals	30	1 hour	30 hours
Totals	**30**		**30 hours**

FEDERAL COST: The estimated cost to the Federal government is $14,000

<u>If you are conducting a focus group, survey, or plan to employ statistical methods, please provide answers to the following questions:</u>

The selection of your targeted respondents

1. Do you have a customer list or something similar that defines the universe of potential respondents and do you have a sampling plan for selecting from this universe?

    [X] Yes   [ ] No

    If the answer is yes, please provide a description of both below (or attach the sampling plan)?

    If the answer is no, please provide a description of how you plan to identify your potential group of respondents and how you will select them?

    We will contact all individuals who have, in the last two years, requested institutional data files or custom requests for data tables similar to those available in the RDAS. Respondents are not required to provide feedback and will self-select to provide feedback by visiting the RDAS website and completing the online user feedback form.

Administration of the Instrument

1. How will you collect the information? (Check all that apply)

    [X] Web-based or other forms of Social Media
    [ ] Telephone
    [ ] In-person
    [ ] Mail
    [ ] Other, Explain

2. Will interviewers or facilitators be used? [ ] Yes [X] No

Please make sure that all instruments, instructions, and scripts are submitted with the request.

Appendix A – RDAS User Initial Contact Email
Appendix B – RDAS User feedback Form