Introduction

The World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) Academy is the research training advisory and coordination arm of the World Climate Research Program. Its mission is to equip current and future climate scientists with the knowledge, skills and attributes required to tackle the world’s most pressing and challenging climate research questions. The Academy’s activities will promote and advance lifelong learning opportunities and global equity in climate science training. It will measure its success by the scope and diversity of the global climate research community that engages with the Academy as well as its ability to improve global access to high-quality climate science training and professional development without prohibitive costs to the trainee. The Academy is seeking to complement and collaborate with existing training initiatives around the world.

Objective

The objective of the Academy is to determine the requirements for climate research education and build enabling mechanisms. One mechanism will be an online marketplace for climate science training, which connects training providers and climate scientists who are seeking training. The Academy will also identify training gaps and advocate for those needs to be met. This will be achieved through an annual climate training stocktake survey, aiming to keep track of and respond to the rapid changes we observe in the education and training space around climate variability and climate change.

Climate Training Stocktake Survey

The Academy launched a global Climate Training Stocktake Survey in July 2021 to identify existing climate science training and gaps to inform the WCRP Academy activity. The survey takes less than 30 minutes to complete and collects data about respondents, the climate science training opportunities in their country of work and their views on current and emerging training topics in climate science. Respondents can choose not to be identified and not to answer selected parts of the survey and can stop taking part at any time. This project has been reviewed by the University of Reading Research Ethics Committee and has been given a favourable ethical opinion for conduct.

We encourage you to take part. 10 respondents, from those who have entered their name, email address and completed the survey, will be randomly selected to win a complimentary registration for the WCRP Open Science Conference 2023. Registrations can be donated to an early career researcher. Please note that WCRP key contributors are not eligible for the draw.

The survey closes on: 19 December 2021.

Preliminary Results

Preliminary data from respondents indicate a good gender balance, a reasonable qualification and workplace diversity and a good uptake of the survey in Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Germany, India, Nigeria, the UK and the USA. Survey uptake is low elsewhere, including in countries where there is a known critical mass in climate science training and therefore an expectation of a higher response rate.

Highest Level of Education

Country of Origin