



**The 2020 IAEA International Essay Competition on Nuclear Security for Students and Early Career Professionals in cooperation with the International Nuclear Security Educational Network (INSEN)**

To be presented at the  
**International Conference on Nuclear Security: Sustaining and Strengthening Efforts**  
IAEA Headquarters (Vienna, Austria)  
10-14 February 2020

Students and early career professionals up to 35 years of age are invited to submit innovative and original essays on the topic “Future of Nuclear Security: Sustaining and Strengthening Efforts”. Finalists in the essay competition will be invited to travel to Vienna, Austria, to present at a side event to the IAEA’s third [International Conference on Nuclear Security: Sustaining and Strengthening Efforts \(ICONS 2020\)](#), to be held in Vienna, Austria, from 10 to 14 February 2020.

The essay competition aims to promote creative thinking and wider awareness about nuclear security challenges and opportunities, including those highlighted by the Conference. A similar [competition was held in conjunction with the 2016 International Conference on Nuclear Security: Commitments and Actions](#).

The IAEA especially encourages women and nationals from developing countries to participate in the essay competition. Students and professionals involved in the multiple disciplines supporting nuclear security, including natural and social sciences, engineering, law, international relations and other legal, policy and technical disciplines are encouraged to take part. The IAEA also welcomes entries by early career professionals from governments, competent authorities, including regulatory bodies, intelligence agencies, security agencies, response and law enforcement agencies, industry, academia and the non-governmental sector.

ICONS 2020 will provide a global forum for reviewing progress made in strengthening nuclear security worldwide and discussing future developments. The Conference’s results will inform the preparation of the IAEA’s next [Nuclear Security Plan](#), which will cover the period 2022-2025.

**Competition Rules**

Submission deadline: **Friday, 6 September 2019**, at 11:59 p.m., Vienna Time (CET)

- Length: Up to 1,000 words
- Format: Word document, submission by email to [ICONS2020@iaea.org](mailto:ICONS2020@iaea.org). Please refer to the Terms and Conditions for details.
- Limit: One entry per person
- Language: Any official language of the IAEA (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish). Please refer to the Terms and Conditions for details.

### **Prizes**

Three finalists will receive cash prizes of €2000 and a certificate signed by the IAEA Director General. In addition, the finalists will receive flight tickets, accommodation and daily living expenses to attend and present their essays at ICONS 2020 side event in Vienna, Austria (10-14 February 2020). The essays will be posted on the IAEA Conference Website with a link on the IAEA Conference App for the duration of the Conference and included in the conference proceedings. *Please see the Terms and Conditions for more information.*

### **Timelines and Selection Process**

- Submission Deadline: **Friday, 6 September, 2019**, at 11:59 p.m., Vienna Time (CET)
- The Selection Committee will include the Director of the Division of Nuclear Security and Technical Officers from the Division of Nuclear Security.
- Submitted abstracts will be evaluated anonymously and without regard to nationality, gender, or occupation of the applicant.
- Announcement of finalists: No later than **Thursday, 31 October 2019**.

For any additional queries, please contact [ICONS2020@iaea.org](mailto:ICONS2020@iaea.org).

### **Terms and Conditions**

1. The competition is only open to nationals of IAEA Member States.
2. Applicants must be 35 years of age and under (born after 1st March 1985). Finalists will be requested to send their identification documents (E.g. copy of passport) to facilitate administrative arrangements and travel to Austria.
3. Essay maximum word count: 1,000.
4. Entries in any official language of the IAEA (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish) will be accepted. However, applicants should note that for an impartial and fair judging process, best essays will be translated into English if needed and be subject to a blind evaluation at the final selection stage. Therefore, applicants who wish to ensure the quality of the translation may choose to submit their essays in English.

5. Only one essay is allowed per entrant. Once an essay has been submitted, applicant will not have the opportunity to revise it. Please carefully check before submitting the final copy and ensure that all supplementary information is correct.

6. All essays must be an original work by the applicant in their own words, except for quotations from published and unpublished sources, which are clearly indicated and acknowledged as such. Citations must follow internationally recognized styles (Chicago, MLA, ACS, IEEE, NLM, Vancouver, AAA, APA, APSA, etc.), and applicants can at any time be requested to provide clarification of the source. Any content that can be identified as plagiarism will immediately be disqualified.

7. The overall themes for ICONS 2020 are as follows:

- International legally and non-legally binding instruments for nuclear security;
- Role of the IAEA in nuclear security;
- National nuclear security regimes;
- Emerging technologies and the digital age;
- International cooperation in information exchange, sharing of good practices and broader experience to enhance nuclear security.

More information and expected technical topics can be found on the [Conference Webpage](#).

8. The submission e-mail should:

- Be sent to [ICONS2020@iaea.org](mailto:ICONS2020@iaea.org)
- Contain “Essay Competition 2020”\_”applicant’s family name” in the subject line - E.g. Essay Competition 2020\_Smith
- Have the essay as an attachment in MS Word format
- Contain the following information in the body of the e-mail:
  1. Applicant’s first and last name as in the passport:
  2. Title (Mr/Ms):
  3. School/organization/affiliation:
  4. If a student, enrolled programme (bachelors, Masters, PhD)
  5. Country of passport:

9. Only entries submitted before midnight on **Friday, 6 September 2019**, at 11:59 p.m., Vienna Time (CET) will be considered for the competition.