



Nuclear Safety Essay Competition for Students and Early Career Professionals

Associated with the

International Conference on a decade of progress after Fukushima-Daiichi: *Building on the lessons learned to further strengthen nuclear safety (EVT2001726)*

IAEA Headquarters (Vienna, Austria)

8-12 November 2021

Overview

Students and early career professionals up to 30 years of age are invited to submit essays on selected topics for consideration by the IAEA. Winners will receive financial support to attend the Conference and participate in a special youth panel. This essay competition aims to promote creative and innovative thinking and highlight the critical role that the next generation will play in sustaining and ensuring a safe future for the peaceful uses of nuclear technology in areas such as nuclear power, food and agriculture, water management, and human health.

The themes from winning essays, as well as the discussion during the special youth panel, will be considered during the development of the Call for Action and other products from the Conference. Winners will be formally acknowledged in the President's Report. Students and professionals pursuing a degree in a related field, or with a personal or professional interest in nuclear safety, are encouraged to participate. The IAEA especially encourages women and nationals from developing countries to participate in the essay competition.

Competition Rules

- Submission Deadline: No later than **Saturday, 31 July 2021**, at 11:59 p.m. (CET).
- Format: Submissions must be sent in Microsoft Word or PDF format.
- Email: Submissions must be sent to Conference.Essay-Contest@iaea.org.
- Length: Between 1000 and 2000 words.
- Limit: One submission per person.
- Language: Submissions must be written in English and participants should note that the special youth panel will be conducted entirely in English.

Essay Topics

To be considered for selection, essays must focus on one or more of the following questions:

- What does the future of power generation look like and what is the role of nuclear power in the years ahead?
- How can the industry, regulatory bodies, and international organizations build trust and demonstrate to the world that nuclear facilities are safer now than ever before?
- How will non-technical matters such as public trust, climate change, and a changing workforce impact the development of nuclear power over the next twenty years?
- What technical advancements or changes in the nuclear power and non-power industries (e.g., medical and industrial uses) have had a significant impact to safety over the past decade?
- What impact(s) will the anticipated advancement and spread of technology over the next decade have on the nuclear industry, government and regulatory agencies and processes, and stakeholder engagement?
- What are the greatest impediments to increasing awareness and interest among the youth about opportunities in the nuclear industry, and what can be done to support the development of the next generation of nuclear experts?

Timeline and Selection Process

- Submissions received by the deadline will be collected and reviewed for conformance to the competition rules, terms, and conditions.
- Valid submissions will be reviewed and scored by a selection committee comprised of IAEA staff.
- Submitted papers will be reviewed anonymously and without regard to nationality, gender, or occupation of the applicant.
- The essays will be scored using a wide range of technical and non-technical criteria, however special attention should be paid by applicants to ensure essays adhere to one or more of the identified topics, include creative and innovative thinking, and avoid using industry jargon.
- The applicants who submitted a winning essay will be notified in **August 2021**.
- Winning applicants will be provided financial support to travel to and participate in the Conference. The amount provided will be determined based on individual circumstances and consistent with IAEA rules and regulations.

Additional Terms and Conditions

- The competition is only open to nationals of IAEA Member States.
- Applicants must be between 18 and 30 years of age at the time of their submission. Winners will be requested to send their identification documents (e.g., copy of passport) to facilitate administrative arrangements and travel to Austria.
- Only one submission is permitted per applicant. Once an essay has been submitted, the applicant will not have an opportunity to revise it.
- The submission email should include the following details:
 - Applicant's full name as it appears in their passport.
 - Gender
 - Date of Birth
 - If a student, the type of programme (e.g., bachelors, masters, PhD) and the name of institution.
 - Country of passport.

- Essays must be submitted by an applicant acting in their own personal capacity and not on behalf of an organization, company, or government. Winning applicants may note their affiliation, if applicable, while attending the Conference but must participate in the special youth panel in the role of an independent expert.
- All essays must be the original work by the applicant in their own words, except for quotations from published and unpublished source, which are clearly indicated and acknowledged as such. Citations must follow internationally recognized styles 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.