

NEA Global Forum on Nuclear Education, Science, Technology and Policy

Rising Stars Workshop, 25-26 November 2024

European Union Joint Research Centre, Karlsruhe, Germany

Context

Over the years, the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) has worked to increase direct engagement with academic institutions that are responsible for developing the next generation of nuclear science and technology experts. In 2021, the NEA established the [Global Forum on Nuclear Education, Science, Technology and Policy](#) in partnership with academia to provide a platform for sustained co-operation among academic institutions, policymakers and key stakeholders in the nuclear energy sector and civil society.

As part of the NEA Global Forum, the [Rising Stars Programme](#) puts the weight of the Agency and the Global Forum's academic institutions behind efforts to mentor and encourage female leaders in the nuclear field. Rising Stars does this by connecting participants with resources, people, and support that helps to welcome and integrate them into the global nuclear community.

Mission and objectives

The Global Forum Rising Stars Programme's mission is to reach within the nuclear field, adjacent disciplines, and beyond to [welcome female rising stars in science, technology, education and policy into the global nuclear community](#). The programme achieves these goals through an annual workshop and additional activities to:

- **Offer professional development** and resume-building opportunities for female undergraduate, graduate and postgraduates in the nuclear and nuclear-adjacent fields;
- **Introduce participants to mentors** and advocates who can discuss strategies and opportunities and help with navigating career paths in the nuclear field; and
- **Create cohort groups** that provide opportunities for peer-to-peer networking and support that can last an entire career.

Inaugural Rising Stars Workshop

The inaugural Rising Stars workshop was attended by 40 Rising Stars from around the world and was hosted by the Department of Nuclear Science and Engineering at the [Massachusetts Institute of Technology \(MIT\)](#), United States, on 20-21 September 2023.

Following on from the event, there are plans for a [special issue of the Nuclear Technology journal](#) to be published featuring papers from the Rising Stars workshop participants. This issue will be marked with a proposed launch webinar in June 2025.

The workshop featured:

- Keynote and plenary speakers;
- Invited talks by selected participants;
- Poster session for participants;
- Awards for the best posters;
- Career development panels;
- Networking opportunities; and
- Certificate of participation for attendees.

2024 Rising Stars Workshop

The 2024 edition will be hosted at the [European Union Joint Research Centre \(JRC\) in Karlsruhe, Germany](#) on 25-26 November 2024. The programme will also involve a half day tour of the research facilities for all participants.

Nominations

Each department head or academic programme head may nominate one female Rising Star from their department or programme for the workshop. Universities do not need to be Global Forum members to nominate a candidate. Nominees may be undergraduate students, graduate students, or early career postdoctoral scholars. The nomination package consists of four elements:

1. 1-page letter of support from the department or programme head;
2. 1-page statement of purpose from the nominee;
3. Nominee's CV or resume; and
4. Proposed title and abstract for the presentation (noting if a poster or talk is preferred).

The nomination package should be sent as a single PDF to the e-mail address risingstars@oecd-nea.org with the name of the file as: "*nominee's_family_name_Rising_Stars_2024.pdf*"

The nomination deadline is 3 September 2024.

Travel and accommodation for all selected participants must be self-funded by the individual, their institution, or other external funding source.

Daily local travel between Karlsruhe and the JRC site, as well as lunches and coffee breaks will be provided.