



Atoms for Peace and Development

الوكالة الدولية للطاقة الذرية

国际原子能机构

International Atomic Energy Agency

Agence internationale de l'énergie atomique

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IAEA submission to the report “Women in Development” ([A/RES/74/235](#)), specifically “Promoting and protecting women’s and girls’ right to education and ensuring their safe and equal access to and participation in education throughout the life cycle and at all levels, given the prolonged suspension of educational activities during the COVID-19 pandemic and redressing the attrition of women and girl students (paragraph 24)”:

In 2020, the International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA, launched the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme (MSCFP). Its objective is to encourage and support young women to pursue a career in nuclear related field and to contribute to the emergence of a new generation of women leaders in nuclear science and technology. Through MSCFP initiative, the IAEA is encouraging women to enter and remain in the nuclear industry sector. Raising the overall participation of women in the nuclear fields worldwide will contribute to gender equality in national programmes and at the IAEA.

Acknowledging the vital role of education in developing a vigorous pipeline of young professionals, in March 2020 the IAEA has initiated a scholarship programme for female students who wish to pursue a career in the nuclear field in thus helping to close a persistent gender gap. The programme provides, besides being recognized as the IAEA MSCFP fellow, a monetary scholarship for students enrolled in Master’s programmes in a nuclear related field. In addition, the programme provides internship opportunities facilitated by IAEA as well encourages students to participate in various relevant events related to their specialization.

The MSCFP supports young women studying in nuclear related fields relevant to the IAEA’s mission to advance the safe, secure, and peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology such as nuclear engineering, advanced reactor designs, nuclear physics and chemistry, nuclear medicine, isotopic techniques, radiation biology, nuclear safety, nuclear security and non-proliferation, nuclear law, to mention just a few.

IAEA MSCFP provides annually scholarships and internships to 100+ female students (subject to available funds) to enter nuclear related fields in the nuclear industry sector, thus contributing to gender balance and to technological and economic advancement. Internship opportunities facilitated by IAEA allow for tangible application of knowledge, and ability to effectively address and respond to technological and scientific needs in the nuclear field, following participation in MSCFP.

Since its launch and over the last two years MSCFP received 1042 applications. 210 students have been selected representing 93 Member States, studying in 53 countries around the globe. 24 students have completed their master's studies with support from MSCFP, and over 20 have started internships facilitated by the IAEA. The internships take place across IAEA Technical Departments and at IAEA Collaborating Centres, as well as at partner organizations and in industry.

The MSCFP is envisaged as a long-term initiative, approximately 10 years in duration, funded by extra budgetary contributions, including in-kind contributions. As such, there is a reoccurring need to raise sufficient funds for the duration of the programme, for targeted number of scholarships and internships as well as for direct project management costs on annual basis.

As of December 2021, the MSCFP has received pledges amounting to €7.8 million as well as contributions in-kind sponsoring 33 students. Donors include the European Union, 19 Member States, 2 Member State Institutions, Industry (2 private sector partners and 1 Academic Institution).

The IAEA MSCFP supports the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and empowering women in nuclear, through targeted activities, including education and training and MSCFP. MSCFP is aligned with the United Nations system-wide policy on gender equality and the empowerment of women.