

IAEA Collaborating Centres

Sharing Knowledge and Resources in the Safe, Secure and Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Science and Technology



What should I know?

The Collaborating Centre scheme assists the IAEA in achieving its objective to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear technology worldwide and helps Member States strive towards achieving the targets identified in the United Nations' [Sustainable Development Goals](#).

An [IAEA Collaborating Centre](#) is an IAEA Member State institution, department or laboratory, which focuses on research, development and training and which has been designated by the IAEA to support the IAEA's programmatic activities by implementing an agreed work plan. The designation of such a Centre is done through an IAEA Collaborating Centre Agreement. This Agreement is a legally binding document signed by both parties, which contains the undertakings of the parties and the duration of designation as well as the objectives, activities and expected results and outcomes.

As of August 2019, there are [37 active IAEA Collaborating Centres across the world](#), operating in various areas related to the safe, secure and peaceful

application of nuclear science and technology. The IAEA is continuing to discuss the possibility of several Member State institutions becoming IAEA Collaborating Centres.

Functions

An IAEA Collaborating Centre assists the IAEA in implementing selected programmatic activities in at least one of the following aspects:

- developing and applying technology related to any of the IAEA's Programmes;
- providing analytical services, such as evaluating and documenting reference materials from Member States;
- conducting research, including planning, monitoring and evaluation, as well as promoting the implementation of the research results;
- standardizing terminology, nomenclature of technology, procedures and protocols, and promoting relevant quality control and quality assurance standards;

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- supporting, organizing and/or implementing conferences and training activities, including research training courses, and developing training or other educational materials, such as web-based tools and e-learning modules;
- collecting, collating and disseminating information on nuclear-related applications for peaceful purposes;
- supporting activities carried out by several institutions where the IAEA is involved as a coordinator.

Eligibility

In order to be eligible for consideration as an IAEA Collaborating Centre, an institution must be located in an IAEA Member State, have a minimum of two years of successful collaboration with the IAEA (for example, participation in IAEA-supported coordinated research activities or in hosting fellows and training courses, or providing expertise under the IAEA technical cooperation programme), and adhere to nuclear safety and security guidelines and principles, as applicable.

Selection criteria

The IAEA evaluates an interested Member State institution's ability, capacity and readiness to directly contribute to specific IAEA projects and activities as outlined in the IAEA's Programme and Budget.

Selection criteria include:

- the scientific and technical standing of the institution;
- the prospective stability in terms of personnel, activities and funding;
- the technical relevance of its activities to the IAEA's programmatic priorities;
- its status and role in the Member State's nuclear scientific structure and its relations with the national authorities concerned;
- the working relationship developed with other institutions within a Member State, as well as at bilateral, regional and international levels; and,
- the compatibility of the institution's mandate to the IAEA's mandate.

Benefits

Through the Collaborating Centres, Member States can assist the IAEA and the wider research community with their own original research, development and training events in nuclear technology. The Collaborating Centre scheme is an efficient cooperative mechanism that encourages centres across Member States to share resources, knowledge and expertise.

Main website: www.iaea.org/about/partnerships/collaborating-centres

Reference Guide: www.iaea.org/sites/default/files/18/05/collaborating-centres-reference-guide.pdf

Contact point: collaborating-centres@iaea.org

Designation Process

Formal written expression of interest sent by a Member State institution

Upon positive assessment, Collaborating Centre Proposal including Work Plan prepared

If Proposal approved by the IAEA, endorsement of the designation by the Permanent Mission

Upon endorsement by the Permanent Mission, an IAEA Collaborating Centre Agreement sent to a Member State institution

Upon signature by both parties, provision of an IAEA Collaborating Centre plaque