

Nextgen Nuclear Leaders Summer School

13-17 July 2026 | Karlsruhe, Germany

Co-organised by the NEA Nuclear Education, Skills and Technology (NEST) Framework, the NEA High-level Group on Stakeholder Engagement, Trust, Transparency and Social Sciences (HLG-SET), and the European Commission's Joint Research Center (JRC).

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Apply by 9 February 2026

ELIGIBILITY

The week-long Summer School is open to former NEST Fellows as well as current students and young professionals from NEST member countries. Prior knowledge of nuclear energy is required, but with preferably no more than 2 years working in the sector.

The interdisciplinary event aims to bring together young talent in the nuclear field who demonstrate a strong interest in leadership, communication and stakeholder engagement.

Funding for travel and accommodation will be provided for NEST Fellows. Participants who are not NEST Fellows will be responsible for covering their own travel and accommodation expenses.

*All sessions will be conducted in **English**.*

THE PROGRAMME

A panel of experts will review written applications and select up to 50 participants to travel to Karlsruhe for five days to participate in the Summer School. Topics covered include nuclear policy, law, social sciences, ethics and leadership. Participants will develop a holistic understanding of nuclear energy through expert lectures, interactive panel discussions and a multinational group case study, complemented by a laboratory site visit in Karlsruhe organised by JRC.

HOW TO APPLY

Please prepare a written application pack in English including the following:

- A copy of their CV;
- A short statement of motivation for participation in the Summer School (1-2 pages maximum);
- For NEST Fellows: NEST Fellowship information (NEST Fellowship completed, including when);
- A completed and signed consent form for publication of multimedia materials (see attached)

Send your application pack to nest@oecd-nea.org with the name of the file as: "familyname_NEST_SummerSchool_2026.pdf"

Day 1 – Monday 13 July Introductions & Nuclear Law, Regulation and Policy	
09:00–09:15	Welcome and opening keynote remarks
09:15–09:30	Overview of Summer School objectives and schedule
09:30–10:15	Session 1 - International Frameworks for Nuclear Energy and the Role of International Organisations
10:15–10:30	Coffee break
10:30–11:45	Session 2 - Introduction to nuclear law
11:45–13:00	Session 3 - Environmental protection for nuclear activities
13:00–14:00	Lunch Break
14:00–14:15	Group photo
14:15–15:15	Session 4 - Nuclear safeguards & non-proliferation: History and evolution
15:15–16:15	Session 5 – Nuclear safety, security and radioprotection
16:15–16:30	Coffee break
16:30–17:30	Introduction to group case studies
17:30–17:45	End of Day 1
17:45–18:45	Cocktail reception & networking
Day 2 – Tuesday 14 July Ethical and Societal Aspects of Nuclear	
09:00–10:30	Session 1 – Ethical Aspects of Nuclear Energy Governance
10:30–10:45	Coffee break
10:45–12:15	Session 2 – Nuclear and society

12:15–13:30	Lunch break
13:30–14:30	Session 3 – Historical assessment of public opinion and nuclear choices
14:30–15:30	Session 4 – Why social license matters for advanced nuclear technologies
15:30–15:45	Coffee break
15:45–16:45	Group case studies <i>Free time for students to work on their case studies, with guidance from mentors</i>
16:45–17:00	End of Day 3

Day 3 – Wednesday 15 July Communication & Stakeholder Engagement	
09:00–10:00	Session 1 – Identification of key stakeholders and stakeholder mapping
10:00–10:15	Coffee break
10:15–11:15	Session 2 – Development of communication and engagement strategies and plans
11:15–12:15	Session 3 – Routine vs emergency and crisis communication
12:15–13:45	Lunch break
13:45–14:45	Session 4 – Discerning and addressing misinformation
14:45–16:45	Group case studies <i>Free time for students to work on their case studies, with guidance from mentors</i>
16:45–17:00	End of Day 3

Day 4 – Thursday 16 July Leadership in Nuclear	
09:30–10:30	Session 1 – Complex project management
10:30–11:00	Coffee break
11:00–12:00	Session 2 – Leading with purpose: Insights from nuclear managers (panel session)
	Lunch break

13:30–15:00	Group case studies <i>Free time for students to work on their case studies and prepare presentation, with guidance from mentors</i>
15:00-15:15	Coffee break
15:15-17:00	Presentations by students
17:00-17:30	Programme Summary and Awards Ceremony

Day 5 – Friday 17 July Site visit	
09:00–13:00	JRC Laboratory visits

Consent form for NEST Framework publication on multimedia materials and social media

Dear participant,

With this consent form, we are requesting your authorisation to use photographs / video and/or audio recordings taken of you as well as, if applicable, your statements (written or oral), and your identity / biographical information provided as a participant to the OECD Nuclear Energy Agency (OECD/NEA) Nuclear Education, Skills and Technology (NEST) Framework, the High-level Group on Stakeholder Engagement, Trust, Transparency and Social Sciences (HLG-SET), and the European Commission's Joint Research Center (JRC) NextGen Nuclear Leaders Summer School from 13-17 July 2026.

The NEA may publish and use these photographs/video and/or audio recordings, statements (written or oral), and identity / biographical information on multimedia materials (which include webpages, brochures, articles, etc.) such as the NEA website www.oecd-nea.org, its publications, as well as on its social media platforms (Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn).

There are no commercial purposes associated with these ventures and they will appear free of charge.

If you do not wish for your photographs / video and/or audio recordings, statements (written or oral), and your identity / biographical information, to appear in the multimedia materials or on social media, you are free to not fill out the attached form.

The OECD is committed to protecting the personal data it processes, in accordance with its Personal Data Protection Rules. Under the Rules you have rights to access and rectify your personal data, as well as to object to its processing, request erasure and obtain data portability in some circumstances. To exercise these rights please contact [nea@oecd-nea.org]. If you have further queries or complaints related to the processing of your personal data, please contact the Data Protection Officer [dpo@oecd.org]. If you need further assistance in resolving claims related to personal data protection you can contact the Data Protection Commissioner [dpc@oecd.org].

Sincerely,

NEA Secretariat

CONSENT FORM FOR PUBLICATION OF MULTIMEDIA MATERIALS

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First Name: _____

DATE: _____

Signature: _____