

# **IAEA RCA SPS Master's Degree**

## **Course Guideline**

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## **2022 IAEA RCA Master's Degree Programme**

### **1. Overview**

#### **1.1. Background**

The IAEA RCA SPS Master's Degree Program is established to improve highly qualified human resources at the level of Master's degree for the RCA Member States and aimed at cultivating professional of nuclear and radiation technology. The programme's graduates have been worked as well as possible in government-supported R&D institutions, government-funded enterprises, universities, etc.

The RCA aims to establish a long-term STEM education programme that acts as a solid platform and the backbone for the sustainable applications of nuclear and isotopic technologies in RCA GPs, especially for LDCs and SIDSs.

In Asia and the Pacific region, many countries have already established postgraduate scholarship programmes that provide scholarships on STEM subjects for international students, for example, the Australia AusAID Scholarships, Chinese Government Scholarships, MEXT Scholarships (Japan), Korean Government Scholarship Programme. These scholarship programmes cover a wide range of disciplines related to STEM. The scholarship numbers and fields of study for each country are notified annually by donor countries. There is therefore a strong opportunity for a potential partnership between the RCA and these scholarship funding bodies as well as other similar bodies to support postgraduate education in STEM for RCA State Parties that will be beneficial for the future generation and use of nuclear technology for socio-economic development.

## **1.2. Fund and resource**

Academic and aid institutions in Asia and the Pacific Region that regularly provide scholarship support will be approached for support. Usually, these institutions (for example, Australia Awards Scholarships, Chinese Government Scholarships, MEXT Scholarships (Japan), Korean Government Scholarship Program for International Students, as well as the national institutions, either academic institutions or government entities of the respective RCA State Parties etc.) offer scholarships on various scientific fields to deserving students. In partnership with the relevant institutions, the RCA aims to secure an agreement to allocate a certain number of slots for academically qualified students in supporting the RCA Scholarship Programme for Master's degrees.

In order to ensure smooth and sustainability starting of the RCA Scholarship Programme, the first five years should be envisaged to combine TCF, up to 80% and 20 % from the RCA GPs (during year 1) to fund the scholarships. This will gradually be apportioned in time with greater allocation from the RCA GPs.

To secure funding and resources to sustain the scholarship programme, the following options will be explored.

- a) Partnering with major scholarships (Fulbright, MEXT, AusAID, etc.)
- b) Establishing RCA Scholarship Fund and mobilizing financial contribution from RCA GPs
- c) In-kind contribution from partner universities/institutions/countries
- d) Cost-sharing between national institutions, host universities and the IAEA
- e) Private sector donors (Industry sponsorship)
- f) Technical Cooperation Fund (TCF)
- g) Peaceful Uses Initiative funds (PUI)

## **2. Qualification for Applicants**

Applicants should have a Bachelor's Degree or a degree equivalent to a

Bachelor's Degree (or above), those with academic background and or working experience in nuclear and radiation engineering, management, or other relevant fields are preferred and be under the age of 35.

Applicants should be a citizen of an eligible country (Asia Pacific region) in good health and character, be well behaved.

Applicants should have a certain level of English language proficiency and are able to complete full English program.

Applicants must be recommended by the National RCA Representative of his/her country by asking the Representative to notify the candidate name by email/official letter (*format is available*) to the Programme Coordinator of the RCA SPS at [iaea-rca-sps@vinatom.gov.vn](mailto:iaea-rca-sps@vinatom.gov.vn) (*to be created*) or by fax to +84-(024) 39422625.

### 3. How to apply for the RCA SPS Scholarship

The applicant must provide the Acceptance for Admission of Master and a Recommendation letter from the University or Academic Institution to the RCA SPS Committee. Then, the RCA SPS Committee will review the interested candidates for the Scholarship.

The timeline for application includes four (4) steps as below:



**- Step 1 - Online Application:** Applicants must complete the Online Application on the IAEA RCA admission website (<https://rcaro.org/rca-sps/admission>). Applicants need to fill in the application information online, upload the

application documents listed below to the online application system, and pay the application fee online at the time of submission.

After finishing the online application, the application ID and password must be informed to the Program Coordinator (: [iaea-rca-sps@vinatom.gov.vn](mailto:iaea-rca-sps@vinatom.gov.vn)) at least 2 days before the deadline so that admission fee can be paid by RCA programme.

- **Step 2 - Document Review:** Applicants should send their application package directly to IAEA RCA SPS office/team by the due date (Address is given below). The IAEA RCA SPS office/team shall not take any responsibility for a failure in delivery of application documents by the deadline. Submitted documents will NOT be returned in any case. Please keep a copy of all application materials in case the materials get lost in the mail.

- IAEA RCA SPS Coordination Information

Name: **Dr. Chi Thanh TRAN**

National RCA Representative of Vietnam

Chairperson of RCA SPS Committee

Occupation: President of VINATOM

Mailing Address: 59 Ly Thuong Kiet Street, Hoan Kiem District,  
Hanoi, Vietnam

Email: [iaea-rca-sps@vinatom.gov.vn](mailto:iaea-rca-sps@vinatom.gov.vn)

Tel.: +84-(024) 39422756 – Fax: +84-(024) 39422625

Application due date: <b><u>September 30, 2022</u></b>
<b>Postal Address</b> IAEA RCA SPS OFFICE, Nuclear Training Center Vietnam Atomic Energy Institute 140 Nguyen Tuan Street, Thanh Xuan District, Hanoi, Vietnam <a href="mailto:iaea-rca-sps@vinatom.gov.vn">iaea-rca-sps@vinatom.gov.vn</a> Tel.: +84-(024) 39422756 – Fax: +84-(024) 39422625

Applications shall be reviewed according to the following criteria and in coordination with the focal points from the academic institution (university):

- 50% - academic performance, based on the average grade for the previous two (2) semesters.
- 30% - leadership, based on quality and quantity of involvement in extracurricular activities; and
- 20% - written essay.

- **Step 3 - General and in-depth Interview:** based on the above evaluation results, a selected number of applicants will be interviewed by RCA SPS Committee.

- **Step 4 - Announcement of Final Decision:** to the applicants who pass the evaluation based on the following criteria:

- 80% - weighted score of the first pass evaluation (i.e., first pass score x 0.80)
- 20% - interview results

**NOTE:** In case a scholarship recipient withdraws from the scholarship during the term of the scholarship, the benefits will be terminated immediately, and the benefits are awarded to another candidate, starting from the succeeding semester. A withdrawal should be submitted in writing to the RCA SPS Committee. A notice of acceptance of the withdrawal and termination of benefits will be sent to the scholar within one week of receipt of the withdrawal advice.

## **4. IAEA RCA SPS Programme**

### **4.1. Scholarship Benefits**

In addition to the degree awarded by the host University or Academic institution, the candidate will be given a certification of achievement by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

#### **4.1.1. National training**

Admission free and 2-year Master tuition free will be covered by this scholarship based on the IAEA financial regulation in each country.

Allowance and living cost will be paid by RCA SPS based on the IAEA financial regulation in each country.

Monthly living and other allowances will be paid monthly to the scholar on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of each month through an appropriate mechanism established by RCA SPS.

#### **4.1.2. International training**

In order to implement the overseas training, the regional coordination shall be established as follows:

- Philippines supports postgraduate training for Palau
- Viet Nam, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand for Laos and Cambodia
- Australia and New Zealand for Fiji
- India for Nepal and Bangladesh

Countries with well-developed post-graduated programme in the area of application of nuclear science and technology and related nuclear application for socio-economic development will be recommended to support the selected applicant by RCA SPS Committee.

#### **4.1.3. Travelling expenses**

**Transportation to the Host University:** IAEA RCA SPS will stipulate the travel schedule and route, and provides an airline ticket to grantees who will arrive host universities/Academic institution. The airline ticket will be an economy-class ticket for the flight from the international airport closest to the grantee's residence (in principle, the country of nationality) to an international airport in the host country to the accepting university. The grantee shall bear at his/her own expense all costs related to domestic travel from the grantee's residence to the nearest international airport, airport taxes, airport usage fees, special taxes necessary for travel.

**Transportation from Domestic:** Based on the application by the grantee, IAEA RCA SPS will provide an airline ticket to grantees who shall graduate from the accepting university and return to the home country by the end of the final month of the period of scholarship designated by IAEA RCA SPS. IAEA RCA SPS shall provide an economy-class airline ticket from the international



airport in Host university or Academic Institution used for the normal route to the accepting university to the international airport (in principle, in the country of nationality) nearest to the returning grantee's residence. The grantee shall bear at his/her own expense all costs related to travel from the grantee's residence in the Host university or Academic Institution to the nearest international airport, airport taxes, airport usage fees, special taxes necessary for travel, travel expenses within the country of nationality (including airline transit costs), travel insurance expenses, carry-on luggage or unaccompanied baggage expenses, etc. If a grantee returns to the home country before the end of period of scholarship due to personal circumstances, or reasons stated in "7. SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP", IAEA RCA SPS will not pay for the returning travel expenses.

If a grantee continues to stay in Host university or Academic Institution after the scholarship period has ended (ex. proceeding to further education or being employed in the Host university or Academic Institution, continuing to register at the university), travel expenses for a temporary return will also not be paid.

#### **4.2 Duration of scholarship**

1,5-2 years.

### **5. Application Documents**

Please upload all the listed documents below to the application system and send application package directly to IAEA RCA SPS office:

**5.1. Application form.** The application form should be filled out in accordance with the requirements of IAEA template

**5.2. Degree certificate:** Applicants should submit their Bachelor's degree. Applicants who will not graduate before the application deadline shall provide the expected graduation certificate first, and the degree diploma must be submitted before registration

**5.3. Academic transcript:** Applicants with Bachelor's Degree should submit the academic transcript of graduate study. Applicants who will not graduate before the application deadline must provide their current academic transcript.

In this case, the completed academic is also advised to submit the transcript of either TOEFL (the Test of English as a foreign language) or IELTS (International English language testing system).

**5.4. Two recommendation letters.** Two academic recommendation letters from scholars who have the title BA, MS degree or higher in a related academic field and one of the recommendations from their supervisors is preferred. Please follow the IAEA RCA recommendation online system for submission of online recommendation letters or upload the recommendation letters signed by references (Please fill in the referee's phone number and email address on the letter)

**5.5. Motivation letter (one page).** Write your motivation to apply to this program and describe your objective and brief vision for this application

**5.6. Identification Photo.** An official document indicating the applicant's nationality. e.g. passport, national ID card, alien registration card, etc. (Include a copy of page showing the passport number, date of issue and expiration, photo, and name. Resolution higher than 400\*600, width/height must be 3/4. Photo size is smaller than 1 MB).

**5.7. English language proficiency requirements:** Regular TOEFL (or TOEIC, TEPS, IELTS) score record more than below score will be highly evaluated (for students only from non-English speaking countries).

**5.8. Other supporting documents**

- 1) List of Honors and Awards (downloadable)
- 2) Employment Certificate
- 3) School Profile/ Credit Rating System

**6. Application remarks**

The scholar must comply with the following scholarship requirements:

- Applicants must sign a scholarship agreement represented by the RCA SPS Chairperson, detailing all requirements and terms of the award.
- Applicants should not hold another scholarship grant simultaneously.

- Applicants must carry the full academic load each academic semester for the degree programme in which the scholar is enrolled and must maintain a general weighted average equal to or better than the equivalent of 2.0 (grading scale with 1.0 = highest and 3.0 = passing) according to the respective university grade rating system. In case marks for a subject are not issued in time to meet the deadline for the review of the scholarship, an extension shall be considered by the RCA SPS Committee until the final mark for the subject in question has been received. The student is responsible for advising the RCA SPS Committee of the final mark received for this subject within one week of receipt and failure to do so may result in a penalty, as determined by the Scholarship Committee.
- Applicants must submit at the start of each semester/trimester a proof of enrolment indicating the subjects enrolled in.
- In case the student decides to drop a subject, the RCA SPS Committee must be notified within one week of dropping the subject. Explanation for dropping the subject will not be required. Benefits and entitlements of the student will be recalculated accordingly. Breach of this requirement will result in termination of the scholarship grant.
- Applicants must report grades at the end of each semester for the continuation of the scholarship.
- Applicants must report academic or other difficulties to the RCA SPS as soon as possible.
- Applicants must not be gainfully employed while under the RCA SPS.
- Applicants must work full-time in the country of origin after graduation for a period of 1 year for every year of financial support received.
- Applicants must report any change in personal details to the RCA SPS Committee including a change in name, address, contact details, etc. within one week of the registered change.
- A scholarship recipient will be automatically stripped of all benefits if proven to have breached any condition of enrolment implemented by the University, due to plagiarism, threats to safety of the other students and academic community and its buildings and facilities, not met attendance requirements, etc.

- In case of prolonged illness or unavoidable conditions not as a fault of the student, a one (1) month grace period will be allowed and will not affect the status of the award. A review of the situation will be conducted by a representative of the RCA SPS Committee after the grace period. An extension of another two (2) weeks may be further allowed without the absence affecting the grant of the scholarship. At the end of the additional two (2) weeks extension, it is possible that the scholarship will be adjusted or terminated.
- In case the student is unable to graduate due to justifiable reasons, the student will be required to show proof of withdrawal from the programme. Justifiable reasons will be assessed by the RCA SPS Committee on a case-by-case basis.
- In case of termination of the scholarship, another candidate will be selected to benefit from the remaining provisions of the scholarship withdrawn from the incumbent, starting from the succeeding semester, excluding non-refundable fees already paid to the University.

## **7. Suspension of payment of scholarship**

Should any of the following reasons apply, the grantee may be ordered to return a part of, or all of, the scholarship paid up to that time. Payment of the scholarship may also be stopped during the period up to the decision on the disposition of the matter.

- 1) A grantee is determined to have made a false statement on his/her application;
- 2) A grantee violates any article of his/her pledge to the IAEA RCA SPS;

## **8. Further Information**

For any question about the program, scholarship and application procedure etc., please contact Dr. Tung Thanh DUONG, the program coordinator of IAEA RCA SPS, at [iaea-rca-sps@vinatom.gov.vn](mailto:iaea-rca-sps@vinatom.gov.vn) (tentative).

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