The IAEA Training Course Program brings scientists, engineers and researchers from developing countries to the United States for in depth training on a range of nuclear topics. In 1976, Argonne National Laboratory (Argonne) was designated by the U.S. Department of State (DOS) as the official U.S. host institution for participation in the IAEA Nuclear Power Training Program, which is now administered by the IAEA Program Office within Argonne’s Nuclear Engineering Division. To date, over 200 joint IAEA-Argonne training courses have been organized for over 5000 participants from over 140 countries.

### Training Course Topics
In recent years, the majority of courses have focused on nuclear safety, nuclear energy and applications, most often addressing the topics of research reactor safety, decommissioning and environmental remediation, management systems for nuclear activities and facilities, nuclear security, safety assessment and infrastructure and radiotherapy.

### Participation by Region
Each year, the IAEA Program Office hosts 8 to 17 courses between 1 and 3 weeks in length, each for about 15 to 30 participants. In 2016, 236 individuals participated, representing 75 countries. Participants were widely geographically dispersed, with 33% from Africa, 23% from Latin America and the Caribbean, 23% from Europe, and 21% from Asia and the Pacific.

### Lecturers
During a typical two-week training course, 10-15 lecturers present and share their expertise. Experts are affiliated with a wide range of institutions, including international and governmental agencies, hospitals, power plants and private organizations. The IAEA provides all international lecturers for training courses, while the IAEA Program Office is responsible for obtaining all domestic lecturers through DOS funding. DOS also provides funding for course directors and support staff.

### Course Activities
Aside from lectures, participants also learn through group exercises, interactive discussions and hands-on activities. Additionally, some course participants have had the opportunity to tour Argonne’s site, including the Advanced Photon Source, Nuclear Energy Exhibit and CP-5 Demolition Site, as well as other locations such as Exelon Corporation, DC Cook Nuclear Power Plant, MD Anderson Cancer Center and the University of Chicago’s radiotherapy facilities. Through DOS funding, the IAEA Program Office also organizes and hosts various social activities during the course. These include an evening reception, welcome dinner and – for courses two weeks or longer – a closing lunch.

### Participation Requirements
Participants must be nominated by their government authorities through the IAEA. Priority is given to requests associated with projects of direct benefit to Member States. Typically, the IAEA covers the cost of participants’ round-trip air tickets and lodging. It provides participants stipends for meals and incidentals as well as contingency allowances for miscellaneous expenses. Some participants, however, may be sponsored by the United States. Since 2012, the U.S. has sponsored over 400 participants through the IAEA Program Office.