

PONI Conference Series Application and Research Agenda

PONI is accepting presentation proposals for our Conference Series. The PONI conference series brings together a diverse community of professionals from across the nuclear enterprise to discuss a wide range of nuclear issues. PONI conferences are unique in the high value they place on highlighting new faces and emerging experts in the field, as panels feature the best and brightest young professionals.

Application Materials:

1. **Resume or CV** listing complete educational and professional information and relevant extracurricular and research activities.
2. **Research Proposal Form** outlining your proposed research and methodology, and description of why you are interested in participating in the program.
3. **Letter of Recommendation** from your current employer or professor that references your writing and presentation ability, engagement, and interest in nuclear issues.

Do's and Don'ts of Presenting

1. **Do** have a specific presentation in mind—all presenters are required to complete a presentation review with their draft slides.
2. **Do** research your moderator—they will frequently ask questions during our question and answer sections.
3. **Do** be communicative with the PONI team—make sure to respond to all emails about the conference.
4. **Do** meet deadlines—the PONI team will need final slides and bios of all presenters in advance of the conference.
5. **Do** register yourself for the conference—especially for regional conferences that require
6. **Do** know that presenters are required to attend the conference in full.
7. **Don't** go over time—all presenters have 10-15 minutes for their presentations
8. **Don't** just reuse a previous presentation—we ask that you modify slides and the presentation to fit the parameters of our conference.

Online application materials available at: <https://nuclearnetwork.csis.org/apply/conference-series/>.

Presentation proposals are accepted on a rolling basis for the Conference Series. Please email applications to the PONI Team at poni@csis.org to be considered.

Possible Research Topics

Emerging Technologies and Nuclear Risk

Rapidly developing technologies are transforming how both the United States and its adversaries understand and compete within the strategic operating environment. What technological advances might reshape the nuclear deterrence landscape or increase the possibility of nuclear crisis? How would new technologies change timelines in a crisis?

Crisis Management and Escalation

Traditional formations of escalation dynamics appear inadequate for analyzing the multitude of potential nuclear escalation scenarios. What are different conceptualizations for understanding escalation dynamics particularly in regional crisis scenarios? How does thinking on escalation differ between nuclear armed states?

Deterring Regional Nuclear Risks

Growing nuclear arsenals and expanding delivery capabilities are dramatically raising the stakes for nuclear crisis management across the globe. Presentations can examine alternative pathways and timelines to regional instability, analyze implications for nuclear security or identify technical, operational and policy options for risk reduction and management.

Future of Arms Control

What are the prospects for future bilateral and multilateral arms control agreements and what role should the United States and other nuclear weapon states play in reaching those accords? Presentations can include verification and technical approaches to nonproliferation and disarmament or alternative approaches to arms control in the current security environment.

The Ethics, Legality and Morality of Nuclear Weapons

What international and domestic laws constrain nuclear weapons? If the Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty comes into force, what are next steps for the nonproliferation regime? How does the nonproliferation regime address the growing divide between NWS and NNWS? What are next steps for pursuing to prepare for the 2020 NPT RevCon? How should the nuclear community engage a wider audience on deterrence, arms control and disarmament?

The Evolving Nuclear Security Environment

How can the United States and international community prevent nuclear proliferation, ensure the security of nuclear material, and maintain the integrity of the global nonproliferation regime? Presentations can explore issues such as maintaining and strengthening nonproliferation regimes and norms, combating trafficking of illicit nuclear materials, countering radiological, biological, chemical and nuclear terrorism, the policy implications of new developments in the field of nuclear forensics and detection, etc.

FAQs About Presenting at a PONI Conference

Who should submit to present at a PONI Conference? We are looking for undergrads, masters, PhD students, post-Docs, and fellows to present their research at our conferences.

What is a PONI Conference? PONI Conferences are a two-day conference hosted at various locations across the nuclear enterprise. Each conference features twelve (12) next-gen presentations on the spectrum of nuclear weapons and security issues, as well as a breakout exercise, and facility tours. These conferences offer terrific opportunities for presenters to share their research with audiences of senior military and government officials, academics, and other next-gen researchers. Presenters also have the chance to network across the nuclear community, engage different technical and operational communities across our nuclear enterprise, participate in interactive activities and simulations designed to deepen their understanding on nuclear issues, and explore locations and facilities generally not otherwise accessible. All PONI conferences are unclassified and presentations should be unclassified.

Why should I present? The conference series is a great opportunity for rising professionals to present and get feedback on their research from a diverse field of experts in the nuclear community. It is also a great opportunity to build connections with academics, national lab representatives, military, operators, policy, and several others across the nuclear enterprise.

Is there a cost? There is no cost to attend the conference or present. If you are a presenter, the PONI team will cover and coordinate all travel accommodations.

When are applications due? We accept and review proposals on a rolling basis. To apply submit a [proposal](#), a letter of recommendation, and a resume to the PONI Team at poni@csis.org. All application materials and more information is available on our [website](#).

What is the process? Upon acceptance to the conference, presenters review their presentation with the PONI team. The PONI staff works with presenters to hone their research into a sharp and focused 10-minute presentation.

Where are the conferences located? We host four conferences a year. Our summer conference is at one of our partner nuclear weapons national laboratories, our fall conference is typically at a nuclear related facility, our winter conference is hosted at CSIS in Washington, DC, and our Capstone conference is hosted at STRATCOM.