CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN NONPROLIFERATION

Description of the Field
Nonproliferation professionals work to reduce or end the development of nuclear weapons and respond to potential conflict. Those in the field promote the safe use of nuclear science and work to insure it is not being used for military purposes.

Career Paths and Entry Salaries
A career in nonproliferation may begin by getting an internship or fellowship with a governmental agency, nongovernmental organization, or multinational organization that works in nonproliferation. A typical career path includes working in an entry level position in one of these organizations and working your way up over time. See current GS pay levels for the federal government for an idea of expected salary; other hiring organizations will vary depending on sector.

Demand
There is a demand for professionals well-educated in nuclear science and engineering, as many people in the field will be retiring by 2013. Nuclear nonproliferation experts in general will also continue to be needed, as new challenges such as the emergence of new proliferating states and the added threat of terrorists acquiring nuclear weapons will require new and revised strategies.

Qualifications Necessary to Enter the Field
Public policy makers and researchers need to have an understanding of political conflict, nuclear history, strong communications skills, and an ability to understand different approaches to problem solving and cultural differences.

Sample Group of Employers
➤ International Atomic Energy Agency - www.iaea.org
➤ Brazilian–Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials - www.abacc.org
➤ European Nuclear Society - www.euronuclear.org
➤ Nuclear Energy Institute - www.nei.org
➤ US Department of Energy - www.energy.gov
➤ US Nuclear Regulatory Commission - www.nrc.gov

Associations
➤ Arms Control Association - www.armscontrol.org
➤ International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms - http://en.ialana.de/
➤ Women in International Security - http://maps.georgetown.edu/mortarabuilding/266/
➤ World Nuclear Association - www.world-nuclear.org
Future Challenges of the Profession
The nonproliferation profession faces a time of new challenges as those states that signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) push the boundaries of peaceful nuclear technology and research closer to weapons related capabilities. Moreover, the threat of non-state actors and terrorists obtaining nuclear weapons is also something that nonproliferation professionals will need to address.

Resources for Additional Information

Internet Resources
- Council on Foreign Relations, Nuclear Nonproliferation/Arms Control - www.cfr.org/proliferation/nuclear-nonproliferation/p21999
- Friends Committee on National Legislation, Quaker Lobby, job posts- www.fcnl.org/about/jobs/
- James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies, Student Internships- http://cns.miis.edu/cns/
- National Nuclear Security Administration careers- www.nnsa.energy.gov/federalemployment
- Nuclear Threat Initiative- www.nti.org/index.php
- Job posts in arms control- www.armscontrol.org/employment

Publications
Arms Control Today, Arms Control Association, 2010