

# Nuclear Energy Research

Open University nuclear energy research brings together considerations of policy and technology. The OU is famous for its work in energy policy and in its activities in materials engineering. These areas combine well in connection with civil nuclear energy. Our main interests relate to nuclear new build power stations and the life extension of existing assets.

## ICO CENTRE FOR DOCTORAL TRAINING



The Imperial, Cambridge and Open University (ICO) Centre for Doctoral Training (CDT) in Nuclear Energy provides a world class background in nuclear technology, funded by the EPSRC (£4M). The programme of study includes the MSc in Nuclear Engineering at Imperial College, followed by a PhD research project at one of the academic partners, often in partnership with industry.

## INDO-UK COLLABORATION

The OU has for several years been a major contributor to the Indo-UK Civil Nuclear Research Partnership. This research relates to a diverse set of issues including joining technologies, including laser hybrid welding for thin metallic sections, diffusion bonding for dissimilar material systems, narrow gap fusion welding for dissimilar metals, friction-stir welding of materials for structural applications, and electron beam welding for thick sections, offer significant benefits over traditional welding techniques; creating improved microstructures, lower residual stresses and benefits for inspection.

Research also considers important public policy issues such as policy responses to severe nuclear accidents. OU research in this area has formed part of the NREFS (Nuclear Risks: Environmental, Financial and Safety) led by City University, London. Such considerations have been given much impetus by the nuclear accident at the Fukushima-Daiichi plant in March 2011.



## COLLABORATING ORGANISATIONS

Areva  
BARC, India  
City University, London  
Diamond Light Source  
EDF Energy  
European Synchrotron Radiation Facility  
IGCAR, India  
Imperial College London  
National Skills Academy Nuclear, UK  
National University of Singapore  
Rutherford Appleton Laboratory  
Tokamak Energy  
University of Bristol  
University of Cambridge  
Worcester Polytechnic Institute USA

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