Executive Summary (150 words):

The Alva Myrdal Centre for Nuclear Disarmament (AMC) was established in 2021 at Uppsala University to provide teaching, research, and policy support on nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. Since 2022, the AMC has launched four clear education and training initiatives: 1) the undergraduate course Nuclear Weapons and Disarmament, offered twice a year; 2) the PhD course Verification of nuclear test explosions, offered biennially; 3) the yearly Armament and Disarmament Summer School; and 4) a one-off teaching workshop, with a special focus on cross-disciplinary education on issues related to nuclear weapons and disarmament. In addition, the AMC’s Annual Conference continues to encourage and be a platform for showcasing and discussing education initiatives. In 2023, the AMC also took part in a theme day for upper secondary school students, organised by The Swedish Institute of International Affairs (UI). The theme was “Peace and security, with a special focus on nuclear weapons”.

Full submission

The Alva Myrdal Centre for Nuclear Disarmament (AMC) was established in 2021 at Uppsala University, Sweden, to provide teaching, research, and policy support on nuclear disarmament. The AMC views nuclear disarmament in a broad sense, including non-proliferation and arms control. The centre studies the whole process in which nuclear disarmament occurs; i.e. preconditions and hurdles, negotiations and decision-making, and implementation and verification.

Since 2022, the AMC has launched four clear education and training initiatives: 1) the undergraduate course Nuclear Weapons and Disarmament, offered twice a year; 2) the PhD course Verification of nuclear test explosions, offered biennially; 3) the yearly Armament and Disarmament Summer School; and 4) a one-off teaching workshop, with a special focus on cross-disciplinary education on issues related to nuclear weapons and disarmament.

The undergraduate course Nuclear Weapons and Disarmament was first piloted in the autumn 2022. Following an evaluation of the course, it is now offered twice a year as a free-standing course at the Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University. The syllabus has been designed to be multidisciplinary with lecturers from both the social and natural sciences as well as practitioner backgrounds. The course gives 7.5 ECTS.

The PhD course Verification of nuclear test explosions was first run in the autumn 2022. The course is provided by the Department of Physics and Astronomy, Uppsala University, in collaboration with the Swedish Defence Research Agency (FOI) and is aimed at PhD candidates with a knowledge of nuclear physics and with basic programming skills. The course
format consists of a combination of lectures and a laboratory exercise. Following an evaluation, the course will be run again in the autumn 2024. The course gives 7.5 ECTS.

The Armament and Disarmament Summer School is hosted by the AMC and Stockholm Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) in cooperation with the Odesa Center for Nonproliferation (OdCNP). The Summer School is held yearly during one week in the late summer and is aimed at young and emerging professionals in the fields of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. The Summer School is structured as both a course and a networking opportunity.

In connection to the AMC Annual Conference 2023, the centre hosted a one-day workshop focused on cross-disciplinary teaching of nuclear disarmament at university level. The workshop consisted of four sessions with presentations by educators from both natural and social sciences, with group discussions following each block of presentations. The four themes explored during the day were:

- How to teach cross-disciplinary courses on nuclear disarmament
- Ethics and diversity
- What to teach in cross-disciplinary courses on nuclear disarmament
- Challenges to cross-disciplinary education on nuclear disarmament

In 2023, the AMC also took part in a theme day for upper secondary school students, organised by The Swedish Institute of International Affairs (UI). The theme was “Peace and security, with a special focus on nuclear weapons”. AMC will be part of a similar theme day in the autumn 2024.

Furthermore, AMC’s Annual Conference continues to encourage and be a platform for showcasing and discussing education initiatives. Apart from welcoming presentations and sessions on the theme of education and training, the conference itself gathers many educators and course coordinators in the field and is thereby a natural space to network and foster learning and collaborations on the topic.