

PUBLIC LECTURE

American Excellence in Nuclear Science Education:

From the Manhattan Project to the Modern Research Reactor

The Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST), in collaboration with the United States Embassy in Windhoek, is pleased to host the US Speaker Programme on Civil Nuclear Energy in Windhoek, Namibia, from 28 September 2026. The America250-themed lecture is open to NUST and sister institutions' faculties, researchers, and students. The session will include an extended Q&A and discussion, allowing participants from earlier sessions to raise topics with the broader audience, with encouragement for student participation.

About the Speaker: Dr Derek Haas is an Associate Professor, the Area Coordinator for Nuclear and Radiation Engineering, and holds the Chevron Centennial Fellowship No. 2 in the Walker Department of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Texas at Austin [UT Austin]

His research interests focus on radiation detection for nuclear arms control, non-proliferation, and advanced reactor design and licensing. Dr Haas's research is primarily experimental and uses the 1.1 MW TRIGA Mark II reactor at UT Austin. He is the lead of the team at UT Austin collaborating on the Natura Resources Molten Salt Research Reactor at Abilene Christian University and is the co-principal investigator on the Molten Salt Reactor Digital Twin Project at UT Austin.

In addition to his research, Dr Haas is involved in nuclear energy policy and workforce development. He was appointed by Governor Greg Abbott to the Texas Advanced Nuclear Reactor Working Group to develop a plan to grow the nuclear industry in Texas. He currently serves as the UT Austin representative to the Nuclear Engineering Department Heads Organisation and Board of Directors of the Texas Nuclear Alliance.



Dr Derek Haas

He previously served as a surrogate inspector from the United States for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and a technical advisor for US nuclear arms control and non-proliferation policy development. He also contributed to the analysis of the Fukushima nuclear reactor accident and nuclear tests in the Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea.

Dr Haas joined the faculty of UT Austin after eight years at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, where he worked as a Senior Research Engineer in the National Security Directorate. He earned his Bachelor of Science, Master of Science, and PhD from UT Austin.

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Monday, 28 September 2026



16:00–17:00



Auditorium, Health and Applied Sciences Building, NUST Lower Campus, Windhoek



NAMIBIA UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY