

In *Fusion Minds: A Nuclear & Neuro Podcast*, we investigated the connection between nuclear technology and human health to combine our individual academic strengths. Throughout two fascinating episodes, we challenge the myths surrounding the use of nuclear energy and uncover how radiation alters an important building block of life, our DNA. Our team is comprised of a neuroscience student at George Mason University and a nuclear engineering student at Texas A&M University. We were able to learn a lot from each other through the podcast process and hope you can too after listening!

Yahayra: This was my first time working on a podcast and it is an experience that I would recommend to anyone because of the challenges I faced and the skills I strengthened as a result of it. Breaking down complex concepts was the main challenge, especially since we were accustomed to discussing topics within our peer groups. Pursuing different majors allowed us to delve into the core of the subject and convey it in a digestible way. I was able to strengthen my communication, collaboration, and research skills as a result of this project, but I was also able to develop video editing skills using CapCut since I learned how to edit the podcast episodes. All in all, this scientific communication project allowed me to share a glimpse of my passion with the world and I am more excited than ever for my next project with Nvolve!

Sadia: I have written and recorded podcasts for some courses including biotechnology, ancient mythological literature, and comparative government. I was able to reflect on my past experiences to work with my partner and coach to develop an inclusive structure for our podcast. In our discussions with our coach, we wanted to ensure language would not be a barrier for listeners of all education levels to understand our topic, so we tried to avoid using science jargon. I found not the simplification of scientific concepts to be hard but the interpersonal communication with my partner from another field. There were many nuclear terminologies and principles that I was not familiar with. However, it was a fruitful challenge to learn how to ask the team's subject matter-expert specific questions in order to understand how my knowledge in neuroscience relates to her discipline in a short amount of time. Working on this project has allowed me to build confidence in my knowledge of my academic field and empowered me to explore its applications beyond the classroom. Being an Nvolve Scholar has afforded me the unique opportunity for professional development through building a relationship with a project coach and teammate. I can not wait to see what is in store in my next semester with Nvolve!