UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize for the Use of Information and Communication Technologies in Education

2025 Guidelines

Theme: Preparing learners and teachers for the ethical and responsible use of artificial intelligence

The deadline for nominations: 28 March 2025

Contents

2025 theme 1

Who can apply? 1

Eligibility criteria 1

Selection criteria 2

For Candidates: How to submit an application and ask for a nomination? 3

For Nominating Entities - National Commissions for UNESCO and NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO: How to nominate? 5

2025 theme

The 2025 edition marks the 20th anniversary of the Prize and focuses on the theme **"Preparing learners and teachers for the ethical and responsible use of artificial intelligence"**. It will recognize projects that enable young generations and education stakeholders to acquire key skills in artificial intelligence, helping them to develop critical thinking and to make the best possible use of this already ubiquitous technology. The Prize seeks to surface and spotlight best practices that provide training programmes, competency frameworks, curricula, as well as professional development models for teachers and learners on AI, across all education levels and in both formal and non-formal learning environments. The project could also include institutional guidance, policy documents, and practices, alongside capacity-building initiatives that support the ethical and responsible use of AI for teachers and learners.

Who can apply?

Individuals, institutions, non-governmental organizations or other entities

Eligibility criteria

- ✓ The project is relevant to the theme of the year

- ✓ The project should have been implemented for at least 1 year with evidence of concrete activities
- ✓ The project and its organization should not be affiliated with, or receive any funding from UNESCO

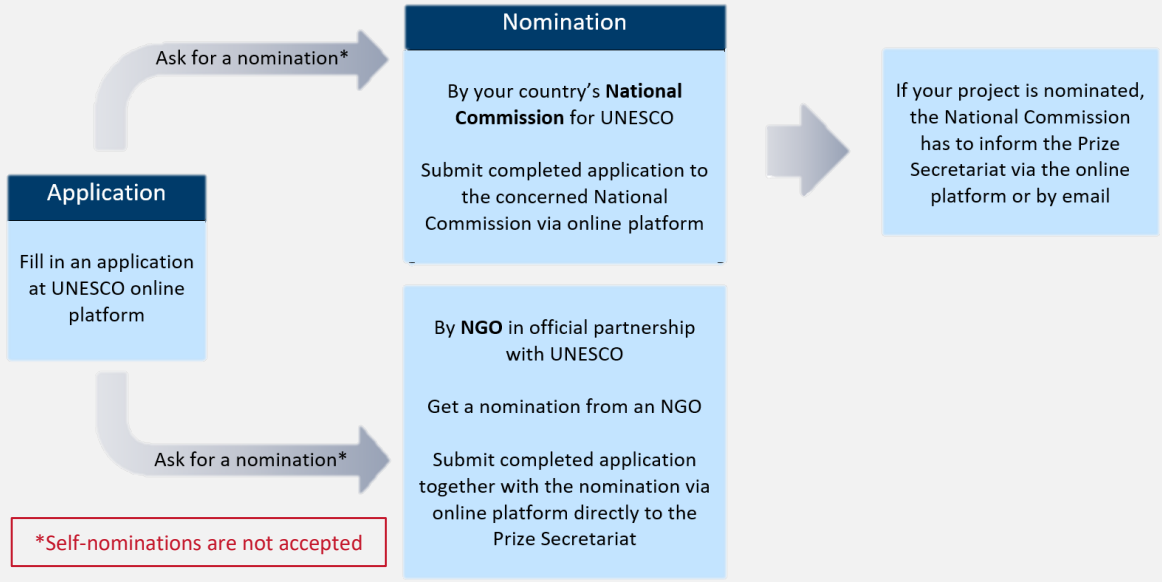
Selection criteria

- ✓ **Integrated approach to the use of AI:** The project should demonstrate an integrated approach that addresses technical understanding of AI with critical reflection on its implications on society and environment at large, ensuring that learners and educators not only develop practical AI skills but also cultivate the ability to evaluate, responsibly use, and co-create AI technologies in the project context.
- ✓ **Pedagogical relevance:** The project should demonstrate an alignment with sound pedagogical principles, with an intent to ensure that the design, content, and delivery methods are appropriate for the target groups.
- ✓ **Promotion of inclusive learning opportunities:** The project should consider inclusion in the design and implementation, so that they are equally accessible to all members in the target groups. The project can also be designed specifically for underserved communities such as refugees, learners with special educational needs, speakers of minority languages, etc.
- ✓ **Evidence of progress:** The project should provide proof of its results, including the number of individuals reached, impact on target groups, and other achievement of pre-set project targets. The project may consider building evidence base to inform scale-up or future adaptation.
- ✓ **Potential for replicability and scalability:** The project demonstrates the potential to be replicated in other contexts and shows promise for further optimization and scaling to expand its impact.

**If digital tools are used for the delivery of the project activities, the Prize prioritizes projects that deploy tools offering unrestricted access to their core features without imposing any fees for target users.*

**The Prize is not a grant scheme to support new projects or organizations. The Prize is aimed at recognizing already implemented projects and activities or individuals/institutions/ organizations for the use of technologies in education, teaching, and learning.*

For Candidates: How to submit an application and ask for a nomination?



1. **Contact nominating entity:** If your project/programme meets the criteria, please get in contact as soon as possible with an appropriate nominating entity to inform about your interest in applying for the Prize.
    - **List of National Commissions for UNESCO**
    - **List of NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO**
2. **Create your account:** Request a user account and indicate through which entity you will apply at: www.unesco.org/ict-ed-prize/register
3. **Go to the online platform** accessible at www.unesco.org/ict-ed-prize and start filling in the online application form in **English** or **French**.
4. **Present your project** in a clear and structured way, following the instructions given in the form and respecting the indicated word limit. All supporting materials (e.g. publications, photos, videos) must be transmitted electronically through the online system.
5. **Ensure that your project is nominated**

If you want to be nominated by your country's National Commission	If you want to be nominated by an NGO in official partnership with UNESCO

➢ Fill in the application and submit it via UNESCO online platform for review and possible nomination of the concerned National Commission ➢ If selected, the National Commission will provide the nomination via UNESCO online platform and submit it to the Prize Secretariat ➢ Please note that a National Commission can nominate only up to 3 submissions We strongly recommend: * Contact your country's National Commission already while filling in the application * Some countries may have the national selection process and internal deadlines for submission. This is why it is essential to get in contact with the relevant National Commission from the very beginning of the application process in order to submit your application in line with the National Commission deadline and guidelines.	➢ Identify an NGO in official partnership with UNESCO ➢ Provide this NGO with information about your project and ask for a nomination ➢ Receive a nomination (in form of a letter) and attach it to your online application ➢ Submit the application to the Prize Secretariat via UNESCO online platform

Please note that **self-nominations cannot be considered**. Any submission form **not nominated** by the National Commission or an NGO in official partnership with UNESCO will not be accepted by the Secretariat.

Difficulties in reaching an appropriate nominating entity: please contact the Prize Secretariat.

For Nominating Entities - National Commissions for UNESCO and NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO: How to nominate?

1. **Screen your candidates:** Inform all involved stakeholders and set up a selection committee or panel to screen the candidates.
2. **Nominate up to three candidates:** Select the three best candidates, whose projects are in line with the theme. You are encouraged to work with the candidates to prepare their submission forms.

National Commission for UNESCO	NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO
➢ National Commissions can access the platform with their generic UNESCO accounts. To access the nomination form, the National Commission should: • Follow the link provided to the application or access the online platform here: www.unesco.org/ict-ed-prize • On the login page, enter the username (natcom.yourcountryname@natcom.unesco.org) • Enter the password associated with the UNESCO account of the National Commission. ➢ A National Commission can also initiate the process of nomination and submit an application on behalf of a candidate ➢ To nominate a candidate, the National Commission should edit the online form by entering a written recommendation in the appropriate fields, in English or French, and explain why the project of the candidate deserves the Prize (max 350 words). * If due to technical problems, the National Commission cannot access the online platform to provide the nomination, it can issue a nomination letter or inform the Prize Secretariat by email.	➢ If solicited by a candidate and wishing to submit the nomination, you should provide a nomination letter to be attached by the candidate to the online form ➢ An NGO can also submit an application on behalf of a candidate. To create and fill in the application, please see the guidelines for candidates.

Should you require any clarification regarding the application or nomination process, please directly contact the Secretariat of the UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize for the Use of ICT in education at UNESCO: ictprize@unesco.org

We look forward to receiving your nominations!