



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Ref: CL/4281

Subject: **Call for nominations – 2019 UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize for the Use of Information and Communication Technologies in Education**

Sir/Madam,

It is my pleasure hereby to launch the call for nominations for the 2019 edition of the UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize, under the theme **“The use of Artificial Intelligence to innovate education, learning and teaching”**.

Established in 2005, with the financial support of the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Prize rewards projects that use information and communication technologies to enhance teaching, learning and overall education performance.

This year's Prize focuses on leveraging Artificial Intelligence, Artificial Intelligence-powered solutions as well as applications of neuroscience in Artificial Intelligence to improve learning outcomes and teaching methodologies, to empower teachers and to enhance the delivery and management of education and education services. It also aims to ensure that the deployment of Artificial Intelligence in education does not exacerbate digital divides, and everybody can reap the benefits of new technological developments.

Two prizewinners will be chosen based on the recommendations of an international jury. Each will receive a monetary award (US \$25,000) and a diploma.

The nomination process takes place via a dedicated online platform. Applicants can access the application form by requesting the creation of a user account through this link: www.unesco.org/ict-ed-prize/register.

I therefore wish to invite your Government, via the National Commission for UNESCO, to submit up to three nominations for this year's Prize.

UNESCO should receive the online submission form, in English or French, by **31 October 2019** at the latest (UTC+1, Paris time).

UNESCO encourages Member States both to set up a national selection process and to publicly announce the selected nominees.

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To Ministers responsible for relations with UNESCO

www.unesco.org

Ct/4281 – page 2

The Statutes of the Prize are attached for your reference. More information on the UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize for the Use of Information and Communication Technologies can be found at: <https://on.unesco.org/aboutictprize>

The Secretariat of the Prize (Unit for Information and Communication Technologies in Education, Education Sector, tel: +33 1 45 68 05 44; e-mail: ictprize@unesco.org) remains at your disposal for any clarification regarding the nomination process.

Accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Audrey Azoulay

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

cc: National Commissions for UNESCO
Permanent Delegations to UNESCO
Field Offices of UNESCO
UNESCO Category 1 Institutes for Education

**STATUTES OF THE UNESCO KING HAMAD BIN ISA AL-KHALIFA PRIZE
FOR THE USE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION
TECHNOLOGIES IN EDUCATION**

(195 EX/Decision 11, Part III, October 2014)

Article 1 – Purpose

The purpose of the UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize for the Use of Information and Communication Technologies in Education is to reward projects and activities of individuals, institutions, other entities or non-governmental organizations for excellent models, best practice, and creative use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) to enhance learning, teaching and overall educational performance. The objective of the Prize is in conformity with UNESCO's policies and is in line with the Organization's Strategic Objectives 1, 2, and 9, as laid out in the Medium-Term Strategy for 2014-2021, namely: "supporting Member States to develop education systems to foster high quality and inclusive lifelong opportunities for all"; "empowering learners to be creative and responsible global citizens"; and "promoting freedom of expression, media development and access to information and knowledge".

Article 2 – Designation, amount and periodicity of the Prize

2.1 The Prize shall be entitled "UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize for the Use of Information and Communication Technologies in Education".

2.2 The Prize shall be funded by the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain and shall consist of a one-time contribution sum of US \$758,600, which shall cover both the monetary value of the Prize and the costs of administering the Prize. Any interest that may accrue will be added to the overall contribution. As determined by the Director-General and in consultation with the Donor, the Prize shall consist of a sum of US\$ 50,000 to be equally divided between two prize-winners.

2.3 All funds received and the interest accrued thereon shall be kept in a special interest-bearing account for the Prize (see Financial Regulations in Annex II).

2.4 The full staff support and operating/management costs of the Prize, including all costs related to the award ceremony and public information activities, estimated at a maximum of US \$458,600, shall be fully covered by the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain. To this end, the Director-General shall determine a mandatory overhead cost amount to be applied and charged against the funds in the Special Account, which is to be established under the Financial Regulations of the Prize.

2.5 The Prize shall be awarded every year for a six-year period, starting from the 2015 edition of the Prize, it being understood that this period may be adjusted to take into consideration fluctuations in administration costs.

Article 3 – Conditions/Qualifications of candidates

Candidates shall have made a significant contribution to the creative use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) to enhance learning, teaching and overall educational performance. Prizes may be conferred upon individuals, institutions, other entities or non-governmental organizations.

Article 4 – Designation/Selection of the prize-winners

The two prize-winners shall be selected by the Director-General of UNESCO on the basis of the assessments and recommendations made to her by a jury.

Article 5 – Jury

5.1 The Jury shall consist of five independent members, being personalities with a recognized reputation in the field covered while also taking into consideration the need for equitable geographical distribution, gender equality and the principle of non-payment of honoraria. They shall be appointed by the Director-General for a period of two-years, eligible for re-election for a maximum term of three consecutive two-year periods. Representatives and alternates of Members of the Executive Board cannot be appointed as jurors. Jurors involved in a real or potential conflict of interest shall recuse themselves from further deliberations or be asked by the Director-General to do so. The Director-General may replace members of the Jury for reason.

5.2 The Jury shall elect its own Chair and Deputy Chair. Members shall receive no remuneration for their work, but will receive allowances for travel and accommodation, where required. A quorum of three jurors present will be required for Jury deliberations to proceed. The working languages for deliberations by the Jury shall be English and French.

5.3 The Jury shall conduct its business and deliberations in conformity with these Statutes, and shall be assisted in the performance of its task by a member of the UNESCO Secretariat designated by the Director-General. Decisions shall be taken by consensus to the extent possible, and otherwise by secret ballot until a simple majority is obtained. A member shall not take part in a vote concerning a nomination from his or her country.

5.4 The Jury shall meet once every year.

5.5 The Jury shall send an assessment of nominations and accompanying recommendations to the Director-General of UNESCO no later than 20 November of the year of the Jury's meeting.

Article 6 – Nomination of candidates

6.1 When UNESCO has received the funding of the Prize, as indicated in Article 2 above, the Director-General of UNESCO shall officially invite the submission of nominations to the Secretariat of the Prize by 30 September every year from the governments of Member States, in consultation with their National Commissions, as well as from the non-governmental organizations maintaining official partnerships with the Organization and active in the field covered by the Prize.

6.2 Nominations shall be submitted to the Director-General by the governments of Member States, in consultation with their National Commissions, and by non-governmental organizations maintaining official partnerships with UNESCO. A self-nomination cannot be considered.

6.3 Each nomination shall be accompanied by a written recommendation, which shall include, in English or French, *inter alia*:

- (a) a description of the candidate's background and achievements;
- (b) a summary of the work or the results of the work, publications and other supporting documents of major importance, submitted for consideration;

- (c) a definition of the candidate's contribution to the Prize's objectives.

Article 7 – Procedure for the awarding of the Prize

7.1 The Prize shall be awarded by the Director-General at an official ceremony held for that purpose at UNESCO Headquarters in January, the date to be mutually agreed upon. UNESCO shall present to the prize-winners a cheque for the amount of the Prize as well as a diploma. UNESCO shall officially announce the names of the prize-winners.

7.2 If a work being rewarded has been produced by two or more persons, the Prize shall be awarded to them jointly. In no case may a prize amount be divided between more than three persons.

7.3 The prize winners, if possible, shall give a lecture on a subject relevant to the work for which the Prize has been awarded. Such a lecture shall be organized during or in connection with the Prize ceremony.

7.4 The work produced by a person since deceased shall not be considered for the Prize. If, however, a prize winner dies before he or she has received the Prize, then the Prize may be presented posthumously.

7.5 Should a prize winner decline the Prize, the jury shall submit a new proposal to the Director-General.

Article 8 – Sunset clause – mandatory renewal of the Prize

8.1 Six months prior to the agreed end of the term of the Prize, the Director-General of UNESCO together with the donor will undertake a review of all aspects of the Prize and decide about its continuation or termination. The Director-General will inform the Executive Board of UNESCO about the results of this review.

8.2 In case of termination of the Prize, the use of any unspent balance of funds shall be determined by the Director-General, in accordance with the Financial Regulations of the Prize.

Article 9 – Appeals

No appeals shall be allowed against the decision of UNESCO with regard to the award of the Prize. Proposals received for the award of the Prize may not be divulged.

Article 10 – Amendments to the Statutes of the Prize

Any amendment to the present Statutes shall be submitted to the Executive Board for approval.

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

2019 Guidelines

Theme: The Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to innovate education, learning and teaching

The deadline for nominations: 31 October 2019

Contents

2019 theme	1
Who can apply?	2
Criteria	2
For Candidates: How to submit an application and ask for a nomination?	2
For Nominating Entities - National Commissions for UNESCO and NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO: How to nominate?	4

2019 theme

In 2019, the Prize will award AI-powered education, teaching and learning solutions and advocate for inclusive and equitable use of these technologies in education.

The projects and programmes should use AI-powered solutions to:

1. Enhance education: AI-enhanced education management information systems (EMIS); AI-powered delivery modes for large-scale education, trainings, and lifelong learning systems; (big)data-boosted education planning systems.
2. Improve learning outcomes: use of AI, including in neuroscience, to enable personalized learning, support creation of collaborative environments, lifelong learning and new forms of learning; AI applications or solutions for subject-specific areas or interdisciplinary activities; or development of creativity, learning management systems (LMS) or other AI in education applications to analyze learning patterns in order to automate the optimization of learning processes, use of data, machine learning and other AI techniques to inform the understanding of human learning, AI for learning assessments;
3. Empower teachers: application of teacher-facing AI to release teachers' non-teaching workload, augment teachers' capabilities in teaching and coaching learning, and enable more creative teaching methodologies.

Who can apply?

Individuals, institutions, non-governmental organizations or other entities that use AI-powered solutions to provide quality and inclusive education, learning and teaching.

Criteria

The projects/programmes should be ongoing at least for 6 months and meet the following criteria:

Relevance to the Thematic Focus: The project/programme is in line with the objectives of the Prize and is relevant to the specific theme of the year. Please see above the details of the 2019 theme.

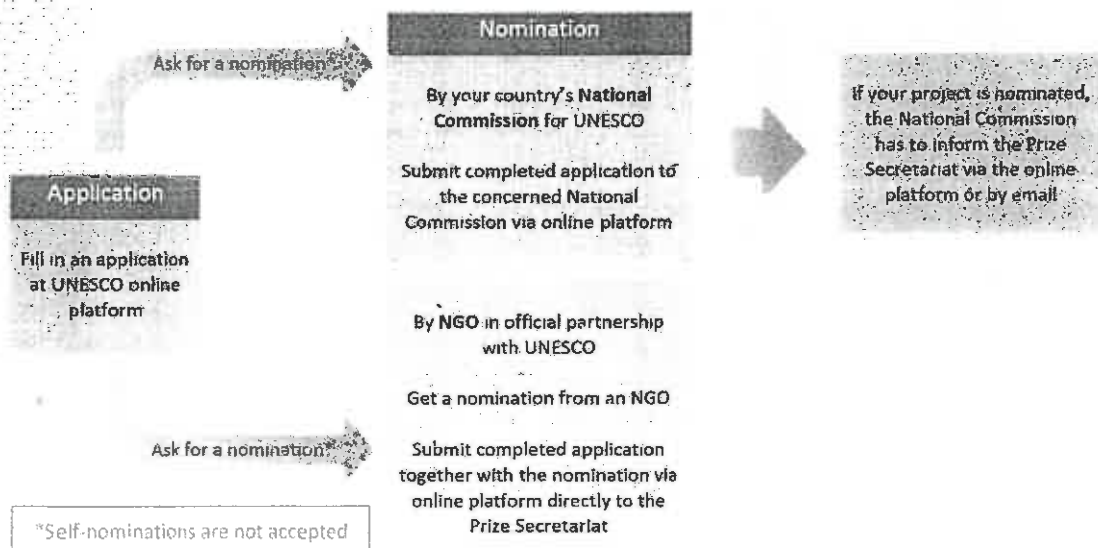
Innovation: The project/programme applies AI-enhanced solutions or blends AI and conventional technologies in a new innovative way;

Impact: The project/programme ensures from the very beginning that it will have a lasting impact beyond the project lifecycle and generates measurable positive and sustainable impact in the lives of the targeted beneficiaries;

Potential for Replicability and Scalability: The project/programme should show evidence that it can be replicated in other contexts or have the potential to further optimize and scale its impact.

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

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



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.

Check out: List of National Commissions for UNESCO;

List of NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO

2. **Create your account:** Create a user account and indicate through which entity you will apply at : www.unesco.org/ict-ed-prize/register User accounts created for previous editions of this or other UNESCO Prizes remain valid.
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/programme** 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ 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 <p>We strongly recommend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ 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 a 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.

The deadline for nominations: 31 October 2019

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 2019 edition theme. You are encouraged to work with the candidates to prepare their submission forms.

National Commission for UNESCO	NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ National Commissions can access the platform with their generic account (dmznatcom_countrycode). ➤ Every time an application is submitted for nomination, the National Commission will receive a notification. The notification will contain a link to the online form. ➤ 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). <p>* 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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 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.

The deadline for nominations: 31 October 2019

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!