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UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize for the Use of ICT in Education Call for nominations

Deadline: 8 May 2026

2026 theme: Reimagining creativity and critical thinking with artificial intelligence

Funded by the Kingdom of Bahrain and established in 2005, the Prize recognizes two innovative projects each year with awards of US\$ 25,000 each for their use of digital technologies to enhance teaching, learning, and overall education performance.

UNESCO ICT in Education Prize: 2026 edition

Education plays a pivotal role in redefining what it means to know, think well, and imagine differently in the age of artificial intelligence (AI). As AI systems produce content and analysis with increasing fluency, they unsettle previous assumptions about creativity and knowledge. Yet AI systems cannot care, exercise judgment, or discern meaning. These capacities remain fundamentally human. Cultivating these abilities requires equipping learners to question algorithmic authority, identify bias and limitations, and combine imagination with ethical judgment. In doing so, education can ensure that AI is used as a tool for expanding human agency, rather than a substitute for human thought.

In this context, the 2026 edition of the Prize focuses on the theme **“Reimagining creativity and critical thinking with artificial intelligence”**. It aims to surface and amplify evidence-based practices across diverse contexts that demonstrate how teachers and learners are engaging with AI systems in ways that encourage critical thinking, imagination and creativity.

Who can apply?

Individuals, institutions, non-governmental organizations or other entities.

Eligibility criteria

- Be relevant to the theme
- Be ongoing for at least 1 year
- Not affiliated with UNESCO or received any funding from UNESCO

Selection criteria

- Learning context addressed
- Pedagogical innovation
- Evidence of learning improvements
- Promotion of inclusion and equity
- Fostering of learner agency and voice
- Potential for replicability



How to apply?

- Request your user account: www.unesco.org/ict-ed-prize/register
- Fill in the online application: www.unesco.org/ict-ed-prize
- All submissions should be in English or French and submitted by **8 May 2026** (23:59, CEST).

Who can nominate?

- **Governments of the Member States of UNESCO**, via their National Commissions, and **Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)** in official partnership with UNESCO can nominate up to three projects.
- Self-nominations are not accepted.

More information

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