



Yidan Prize
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Making a nomination for the 2027 Yidan Prize

The Yidan Prize is the world's highest accolade in education. Tell us about the individuals and teams with the greatest potential, and we could support them on their way.

This guide is for anyone who'd like to understand our nomination process better, whether you're a nominee, a nominator, or a supporter — someone supporting a nomination.

Who's changing the world through education?

We established the Yidan Prize Foundation in 2016 to create a better world through education. Where learning flourishes, so does society, and we're here to champion the people making that possible.

Each year, we award the Yidan Prize to individuals and teams in two areas:



Education Research

Recognizing researchers whose work strengthens teaching and learning through a deeper understanding of learning sciences or effective education policy.



Education Development

Recognizing leaders who are advancing practice through innovative ideas and interventions that make quality education more accessible to all.

Our prizes are open to teams of up to three members. That could be a research group working on a project together, or even several people contributing to the same idea from different organizations or locations.

Each prize is HK\$30 million (~US\$3.8 million), including three years of project funding

Half of the prize is a cash award to recognize laureates' contributions to the sector; the other half is a project fund to support laureates' work. As part of the nomination, we'll want to learn how nominees plan to use the project fund to amplify their work.

The prizes — and the events and networks surrounding them — bring together bright minds who're as strong in research as they are in practical application, across the world. They form a community of changemakers who learn from each other, champion shared standards of excellence, help shape global agendas, and accelerate change at scale.

About the Yidan Prize judging process

Our judges look for people who are transforming education

We're looking for big ideas that can travel, scale up, and change millions of lives. We welcome nominations in all fields of education. So if you know people already making education better, fairer, or more accessible, tell us about them.

The [Judging Committee](#) is made up of a diverse group of independent experts. It's their role to review nominations and decide on each year's laureates, and as they do, they hold themselves (and we hold them) to the highest standards of fairness, openness, and non-bias.

There are two panels: one for research and one for development.

But the final decisions for both awards are made collectively by the whole Committee, led by the Chair.

Out of respect for this meticulous process, we ask that you don't contact any judge directly about your nomination.

Our judges assess work across four [criteria](#)

They look for work that is:

- future-oriented
- innovative
- transformative
- sustainable



There is no particular theme, region, or type of project in mind — our judges review every submission on its own merits. Judges also consider the future plan for their work.

Who can make nominations for the Yidan Prize?

We welcome all nominations; our process is open to everyone. You don't need to be invited to nominate a team or individual for either category.

Can you speak to what impact the team or person has had?

Officially, you need to be a 'credible witness' to their impact: you need to have a thorough understanding of the work. As such, most of our nominators tend to be members of government bodies, NGOs, professional associations or the education sector. But you don't have to tick one of those boxes: we welcome nominations from all.

To give our judges a holistic view, we also ask that you include a mix of different external supporters with a unique perspective on your nominee(s) work.

How do I make a nomination?

You may submit nominations online, using our nomination platform. If you've never used it before, please check our [FAQ](#) for more guidelines.

We keep nominations on our system for up to six years from submission. We'll prompt you when the next round opens so you may log back in and make updates.

You can also opt to keep your nomination valid for three more years from the year of your submission. Once you have indicated your preference, we'll automatically keep your nomination valid for three more years.

Begin by registering for a nominator account at nomination.yidanprize.org.



Tips for your nomination

- **Individual contributions are important — including in teams:** Share with us how they work together in achieving their goals, their unique roles, and how their expertise complements one another
- **Provide as much evidence as possible:** We're looking for evidence that demonstrates the impact of the nominee's (or nominees') work. Insert web links or upload any documents (independent evaluation reports, peer-reviewed articles, etc) that can help judges understand the scale and depth of their impact
- **Making the most of the video upload:** Record a two-minute video speaking straight to the judges. If they are a team, we'd like to see all members on screen. Add English subtitles or provide a transcript if recorded in another language
- **Writing a letter of support:** You should address the letter to the Yidan Prize Judging Committee. Add a human touch on how the nominee (or nominees) has changed lives
- **Make your response easy to read:** Avoid jargon and technical terms and break up longer paragraphs with subheadings to make them easier to read. Signposting changes in your updated nomination can also make it easier for the Judging Committee to know what has changed since your last nomination
- **When you're ready, have everything to hand:** It's much quicker to upload your nomination if you've already got all the materials and details you need. Our checklist at the end of this guide will help
- **Draft offline if needed:** You can download our nomination form templates and draft your responses offline, then copy and paste your responses to the nomination platform. You can fill in your nomination form in any order, but don't forget you can save as you go.

Sometimes, we won't consider a nomination if:

- **It includes false information:** such as a fake supporter letter, inaccurate bio, or any results or claims that aren't backed up by evidence
- **The form was not filled out in English:** our judges can only review submissions in English at the moment. That includes the video: it must have an English transcript or subtitles
- **We can't be sure the nominee led the work:** for example, if the work is for an organization, the organization's leader would usually be one of the nominees; if not, they must show they endorse the submission by being the nominator or a supporter
- **There aren't any external recommendations:** we want to hear from supporters outside of the nominee's (or nominees') organization about the impact of their work. You can include at most one supporter from the nominee's (or nominees') organization
- **The nominee(s) are nominated or supported by direct family members:** to avoid any conflict of interest, we don't consider nominations from direct family members, and we disregard letters of support from family
- **You've nominated someone who's on our Board of Directors, Advisory Committee, or Judging Committee:** to make sure we maintain our rigorous, independent judging process, direct members of our organization aren't eligible for our prizes
- **The nominee has sadly passed away since submitting:** we don't award posthumous prizes because our prizes include a project fund towards a laureate's future work. But if they were part of a team, we'll continue considering the rest of the nominees
- **The nomination was withdrawn by the nominator/nominee:** the nominator or nominee(s) may choose to withdraw their nomination at any stage of the prize process.

What should be ready when you submit a nomination?

Don't forget to check that:

- Everything, including the two-minute video, is in English. If it isn't, please include an English translation or subtitles
- All together, the files you upload to support your nomination are less than 40MB in file size; that doesn't include the two-minute video, which can be up to 200MB on its own
- All web links you provided are accessible until September 2027.

From the nominee(s), we need:

- ☐ Their personal details: full name, date of birth, position, and organization; home address; cell phone number; and email
- ☐ Their CV(s)
- ☐ A biography for each nominee (up to 200 words)
- ☐ A two-minute video (file size under 200MB, in one of these file formats: MP4, MOV, AVI, or M4V). Whether they are a team or a person, we only need to see one video.

☐ For the Education Research prize, we also need:

At least two and up to five most relevant publications. While we accept books, book chapters, articles, teaching materials, presentations, and videos, you should include at least two peer-reviewed research articles. Ideally, they are in PDF format (though we also accept links)

If you submit a link, please make sure the publication isn't behind a paywall and that it goes directly to the piece.

☐ For the Education Development prize, we also need:

External independent or internal evaluation reports on their work. These are optional, but we encourage you to include any if available.

From supporters, we need:

- ☐ Separate recommendation letters from supporters (up to 5,000 words for each). You need to include at least two. If you're nominating yourself or your team, you'll need three. You can include at most one supporter from the nominee's organization
- ☐ All supporters' personal details: full name, position, and organization; postal address; cell phone number; and email.

From the nominator, we need:

- ☐ A personal statement on why the nominee(s) should be a Yidan Prize laureate
- ☐ A response on each of the judging criteria, explaining how the nominee(s) and their achievements are future-oriented, innovative, transformative, and sustainable, and a description of the nominee's (or nominees') future plans
- ☐ Any other supporting documents for this nomination. These are optional, but we strongly recommend that you share any other relevant information that will help our judges see why the nominee(s) should be a Yidan Prize laureate.

If you have any other questions, reach out to our Secretariat via nomination@yidanprize.org.

Note: if you're nominating a person or team for their work with an organization, the organization's leader should be among the nominees, the nominator, or a supporter (to show they endorse the nomination)

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