

### Criteria and conditions for the selection of Award winners

#### **The Awards basics**

The MAB Young Scientists Awards targets young researchers carrying out interdisciplinary research in line with UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme. Priority is given to projects carried out in biosphere reserves.

***Until 2025, implementation of the UNESCO MAB Programme is guided by the MAB Strategy and Lima Action Plan for UNESCO's MAB Programme and its World Network of Biosphere Reserves (LAP), which contributes to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).***

***MAB Young Scientists Award applicants are strongly encouraged to take into account the priorities of the LAP, and to identify in their applications how their research contributes to the research-related actions of the LAP and to the SDGs.***

#### **Objectives**

The objectives of the MAB Young Scientists Award Scheme are to:

- encourage young scientists, in particular those from developing countries, to use MAB research, project sites and biosphere reserves in their research;
- encourage young scientists who already use such sites to undertake comparative studies in other sites in or outside their own country;
- promote and encourage the exchange of information and experience among a new generation of scientists;
- ***strengthen communication of the LAP within the young scientists and strengthen its visibility;***
- ***involve young scientist in the implementation of the LAP;***
- ***enhance awareness among young scientists of the role of research in the implementation of the SDGs – in particular when conducted in biosphere reserves;***
- ***through the granting of dedicated fellowships for studies on marine, island and coastal issues in biosphere reserves, encourage young scientists to apply for MAB YSA within this thematic area and thereby mobilizing young scientists to engage actively in the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.***

#### **Criteria**

The following criteria are used in the selection of MAB Young Scientists Awards:

- To be eligible, award applications must be made on the MAB Young Scientists Award application form (in English or French) ***and follow-up technical requirements stated there.*** The application must be endorsed by the applicant's MAB National Committee\*, which may endorse only two applications per year from applicants who are not older than **35** years of age (at the closing date of the application).

- ***Applications must contain concise information on past and existing research in areas concerned in order to present linkages and avoid duplications and financing of projects already carried-out.***
- Priority is given to interdisciplinary projects carried out in biosphere reserves designated under the Man and the Biosphere Programme or potential biosphere reserves ***and which contribute to the implementation of the LAP and the SDGs. In this regard, applicants shall identify in their applications if and how their research contributes to the research-related actions of the LAP and to the SDGs.***
- Applicants from developed countries are eligible for Awards only in exceptional cases ***or if working in joint partnership with developing countries.***
- Awards are set at a maximum of US\$5,000 each.
- Research supported by an Award should be completed within two years.
- Candidates must accept to submit reports of Award-funded research to the MAB Secretariat in Paris and to their MAB National Committees\*, and agree to the possibility of UNESCO publishing the results of their research.
- International travel expenses are usually not covered under these Awards.

In 2022, UNESCO and the Principality of Monaco reached an agreement to award five (5) additional prizes per annum to studies focusing on marine, island and coastal issues in biosphere reserves under the name “MAB Young Scientists Award – Prince Albert I of Monaco”.

As a result hereof, a total of eleven (11) awards will be granted in 2025, six (6) under the general criteria and conditions as “MAB Young Scientists Awards” and an additional five (5) studies focusing on marine, island and coastal issues, awarded as “MAB Young Scientists Awards – Prince Albert I of Monaco”

\* For the countries in which a MAB National Committee does not exist or is not fully operational, the National Commission for UNESCO will ensure the selection of candidates according to the above criteria.



APPLICATION FOR THE YEAR 2025  
MAB YOUNG SCIENTISTS AWARDS

unesco

Man and the Biosphere  
Programme

Please fill in and sign your application and mail it to your MAB National Committee in your home country for endorsement before it is sent to: *MAB Secretariat, Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences, UNESCO, 7, place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris 07 SP, France*. Applications must be received by UNESCO **no later than 15 May 2025 to be eligible. ONLY APPLICATIONS IN ENGLISH AND FRENCH ARE ACCEPTED.**

1. LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ 2. First name: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Sex: Male ☐ / Female ☐
5. Nationality: \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Profession: \_\_\_\_\_

7. Complete address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

8. Educational qualifications:		
Institution	Date	Degree/Diploma
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

9. Previous research experience: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. Country where research is to be undertaken (in case the study is planned in countries other than the applicants' home country, please attach written evidence to indicate the support of the MAB National Committee concerned):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

11. Title of study: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

12. Summary description of the proposed research study. Highlight main purposes, methods and expected results of the research to be undertaken. If necessary, you may add up to two more pages (**no additional material**, e.g. certificates, articles, CV, etc. should be annexed to the application):

13. a) Indicate if and how the proposed study will relate/contribute to your country’s MAB Programme and the UNESCO MAB Youth Network.

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b) Is the research site in a UNESCO designated biosphere reserve? Yes ☐ / No ☐

If so, in which biosphere reserve? \_\_\_\_\_

14. Indicate if and how the proposed study will relate or contribute to the implementation of the Lima Action Plan (LAP) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

- a) Identify action(s) of the LAP addressed specifically by the research.  
b) List SDGs and target(s) towards which the research makes a direct contribution.

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15. Provide concise information on past and existing research in areas concerned to present linkages and avoid duplications and financing of projects already carried-out

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16. Expected starting date and duration of the study\_\_\_\_\_

17. Expected date for submission of final report to MAB National Committee, or UNESCO National Commission

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18. Name(s) of institution(s) associated with the study and support provided by the institution(s)

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19. Estimated cost of the proposed study and amount requested from UNESCO-MAB. (Individual research grants will be made available up to an amount of US \$5,000. Smaller requests have greater chances of approval. Please clearly indicate the total amount requested, and a breakdown of expenditures, in US \$.)

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(Date)

(Signature of Applicant)

**NB: Your application must be signed on page 4 by your MAB National Committee\***

APPLICATION ENDORSED BY PRESIDENT / SECRETARY OF MAB NATIONAL COMMITTEE* FOR SUBMISSION TO UNESCO	
(DATE)	(SIGNATURE of President / Secretary of the MAB National Committee)
(NAME of President / Secretary of the MAB National Committee)	
MAB National Committee address:	
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Tel.: <hr/>	
E-mail: <hr/>	

#### NOTE TO MAB NATIONAL COMMITTEES\* AND APPLICANTS

##### Criteria for endorsement and selection of MAB Young Scientists Awards

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- Applications must contain concise information of past and existing research in areas concerned in order to present linkages and avoid duplications and financing of projects already carried-out.
- Priority is given to interdisciplinary projects carried out in biosphere reserves designated under the Man and the Biosphere Programme or potential biosphere reserves, and which contribute to the implementation of the Lima Action Plan (LAP) for Biosphere Reserves and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In this regard, applicants shall identify in their applications if and how their research contributes to the research-related actions of the LAP and to the SDGs.
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##### Payment Procedure for MAB Awards

Award payments are split into two instalments:

- 1<sup>st</sup> payment: Upon receipt and approval by UNESCO of two signed copies of the Letter of Agreement accompanied by a calendar of activities for the research study.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> payment: Upon receipt and approval by UNESCO of a final report (duly signed by the MAB National Committee) as well as a letter authorizing UNESCO to use the information from the report in UNESCO publications and on the UNESCO-MABnet.

**Application forms for MAB Young Scientists Awards are available from:**

MAB Secretariat, Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences,  
UNESCO

7, place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris 07 SP, France.

E-mail: [m.prchalova@unesco.org](mailto:m.prchalova@unesco.org); [mab.awards@unesco.org](mailto:mab.awards@unesco.org); [mab@unesco.org](mailto:mab@unesco.org)

MAB Young Scientists Awards on the Web: <https://www.unesco.org/en/man-and-biosphere/young-scientists>