



## YIDAN PRIZE NOMINATION WEBINAR 2021

### Consolidated questions and answers

Thank you for joining our nomination webinars on 9 February 2021. We are pleased to share answers to all of the questions raised during the sessions in the summary below. These questions and answers will also be included on our website's [FAQ page](#):

- [The Prize](#)
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#### THE PRIZE

**1. Is there any public data on the number of nominations last year?**

We treat all data regarding nominations as strictly confidential and cannot share any specific numbers.

You may [subscribe to our newsletter](#) for any tips and news we share with our community regarding nominations and other Yidan Prize Foundation activities.

**2. How many winners are selected each year?**

Each year we award two prizes: Yidan Prize for Education Research, and Yidan Prize for Education Development. Each prize can be awarded to either an individual or a team of up to three people.

If a team is awarded a prize, each team member receives a certificate and a gold medal, while the cash prize and project fund is shared equally among the team members.

#### NOMINATOR

**3. Can the nominator be an employee in the organization where the nominee(s) work?**

Yes, as long as they are not family members of the nominee(s).

Also, Yidan Prize Foundation's board directors, judging committee members and advisory committee members are not eligible to make nominations.

**4. Can the nominee(s) be nominated by more than one nominator?**

Yes, the Judging Committee will review all nominations submitted for the same nominee(s) as a whole. Nominators can also submit more than one nomination and/ or at the same time, be a supporter for different nominee(s).

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## SELF -NOMINATIONS

### 5. Will self-nomination be a disadvantage?

It is one of our most important tasks to ensure that judging is fair, open, and unbiased. All nominations are evaluated the same way and self-nominations are not disadvantaged. The Judging Committee evaluates each nomination according to the [judging criteria](#).

The only difference for self-nominations is that three supporters are needed, while only two supporters are needed for third-party nominations.

## TEAM NOMINATIONS

### 6. Can members of the nominating team work in different organizations?

Yes. The nominating team (up to three people) do not need to work in the same organization. We encourage nominations on collaborative projects between different organizations.

Examples of possible team compositions:

- Colleagues working together in the same organization
- Researchers working on a research project together
- Representatives from different organizations working collaboratively on an idea/ project

### 7. What if there are more than three people in the team?

If your team consists of more than three people, the team would need to select three representatives that represent/ have played a critical role and made a unique contribution in the team's achievement.

## WHO TO NOMINATE

### 8. If the potential nominee's project is in its initial stages, should I still nominate them?

We'd encourage you to submit a nomination that recognizes the source of insight for projects in their initial stages of development. New research and development projects are often built on and/ or inspired by existing research or projects; we encourage nominations that recognize the individuals of teams (up to three people) whose research and/or practices are acting as the basis of new research or development projects.

### 9. Can I nominate individuals or teams working in for-profit organizations?

Yes. Nominees from non-profit or for-profit organizations are eligible, and either option is considered equally, as long as the social impact of the nominee(s)' work is demonstrated in the nomination.

It is good to take note that, in addition to the [judging criteria](#), the judges will be looking at the nominee(s) future project plans (through the [two minute video](#) submission). Judges are also interested to see how the Yidan Prize project fund can potentially be used for wider social impact.

### 10. Would nominations for nominee(s) from smaller organizations be disadvantaged? For the education research prize, do nominee(s) need to be affiliated with an institution of higher education such as a university?

We trust that future-oriented, innovative, transformative, and sustainable education initiatives exist not only in big or high-profile organizations.

For the education research prize, we hope to see young researchers being nominated, whether or not they are based at a large organization. They do not need to be affiliated with a university.



For the education development prize, we look forward to receiving any nominations for nominee(s) with projects that are transforming lives and making an impact on any area of education, regardless of the size of their organization.

**11. Can a nominee(s) who does not have a leadership role in the organization be nominated?**

Yes, it is not a requirement to nominate the top leader of an organization; however, the nominee(s) should be the leader or co-leaders of the work/project they are being nominated for.

We trust that in many organizations, there are many different innovations initiated by its members through collaborative efforts. We are happy to receive nominations that recognizes individuals or teams (up to three people) making a unique contribution to any specific education research/ project at any organization.

**12. Some of the best work is exactly at the interface between research and practice - falling between both the research and development categories. Any guidance on how to decide which category to nominate for.**

If you have a difficult time deciding which category to nominate for, we'd encourage you to submit a nomination for both. We believe that education research and education development informs one another; the best education research have practical implications, and the best education development work are evidence based.

Below is how we define education research and education development, and their different submission requirements:

- Education Research  
The theory of learning – science, psychology, statistics – that can help educators understand different approaches with a methodical lens. For the education research prize, you will need to submit the five most relevant publications/ papers.
- Education Development  
The practice of learning – new methods, ways to make education more widespread – so we can champion techniques that work. For the education development prize, judges are looking forward to seeing independent external evaluation reports, although it is not a requirement.

If you are not sure, please contact the Secretariat for further information.

## JUDGING CRITERIA

**13. To what extent does global reach of the nominee's work matter? Are future plans that purport to have a wider geographic impact more competitive than those who propose more regional/ local impacts?**

Judges are interested to know the impact of a research/development project; both the project's existing impact and future implications. Depending on the work, it is possible that a project with deep impact in one region is more powerful than one with light impact in multiple regions.

While we do not have a specific requirement on reach, “future-oriented” and “sustainability” are two of our four main [judging criteria](#) that points towards the importance of scalability. We understand a lot of projects may not have a global reach yet; it would be important to show in the nomination, whether the nominee(s)' work has the potential to be scaled and replicated in other regions, therefore creating a greater impact.

Nominee(s) are also encouraged to make best use of the [two minute video](#) submission to address their future plans and explain to judges how the Yidan Prize funds and the Yidan Prize network may support them to spread and scale-up their work.

**14. Is there a particular level of education, theme or focus region for this year's prize?**

No, Yidan Prize does not focus on particular themes or regions, we value all subjects equally.



**15. Would the judging panel be focusing on the response to COVID-19? If the project is created in response to COVID-19 only, will it be considered?**

We welcome nominators and nominee(s) to share through their nominations, how COVID-19 impacted their work and their response to it.

While this will not be the focus of this year's prize, we nevertheless welcome nominations on innovative education ideas that stemmed from the pandemic.

**16. Will there be a session where the judges will interview the nominees directly?**

No, judges evaluate nominations through the nomination form and the [two minute video](#) submission. We encourage nominee(s) to make the best use of the two minute video and let judges know how they would use the project funding of HK\$15 million (about US\$1.9 million) if selected as the laureate.

## RESUBMITTING

**17. Does the chance of being selected diminish if I re-enter the same nomination a second time without making any changes?**

Starting this year, all nominations made from the previous year will be stored in our system (whether submitted or not) for easy re-submission. We encourage nominators to re-submit their nominations and it is not a must to edit the form, if you feel it is not necessary. It is important to ensure that all contact information is updated.

**18. If I am re-submitting, but for a different area of our work, should I submit a new nomination, or edit the existing nomination?**

Nominee(s) can be nominated by more than one nomination, and judges will assess all nominations on the same nominee(s) as one; if you find appropriate, you may submit both nominations (resubmitting the existing one and submitting a newly created one). It is up to you to make the most appropriate decision.

## WHAT TO SUBMIT

**19. Is there any guidance on the amount of additional material that you would welcome? What other supporting documents can I submit? Can supporting documentation include videos?**

You may submit additional documents to support your nomination in part 4 section 2 of the online nomination form (template forms for [education research](#) and [education development](#)). This section provides additional information should the judging committee wish to learn more about the nominee(s) and their work.

For the Education Development category, we encourage you to provide all external independent evaluation reports on nominee work in this section.

Other supporting materials could be articles, publications, papers, videos, or any form of documentation that supports the nomination. The total file size of all uploaded files should not exceed 20MB.

**20. What if my documents aren't in English?**

Judges will only be able to assess documents submitted in English. If the original document is not in English, you must provide a translation for your documents to be reviewed.

**21. In which section do I specify the nominee(s)' expertise? What type of expertise should be emphasized?**

In part 3 section 4 of the nomination form (template forms for [education research](#) and [education development](#)), we ask you to indicate the nominee(s)' expertise. You may input up to ten areas of expertise for each nominee (maximum 10 words for each expertise).



We are most interested in knowing the nominee(s)' specialized area of focus within the field of education, and in particular, areas in which the nominee(s) take a pioneering role.

## **22. Are there any guidelines on the two-minute video submission?**

### Content

Nominee(s) should prepare a two-minute video on how they would use the project funding of HK\$15 million (about US\$1.9 million) if selected as the laureate. For team nominations (up to three people), the team only needs to prepare one video with each team member taking a part.

The video allows judges to better understand the nominees' commitment and plans for their projects' future. The judges would like to see how the project funding can be applied for maximum impact. Judges focus more on the content than the production qualities of the video.

The submitted video will be viewed by judges for the sole purpose of judging and will not be circulated or published in any channels without consent from the nominee(s).

### Technical

We only accept mp4, mov, avi, and m4v video formats. Video dimensions should be 1920 x 1080 (1080p). Please upload your video if it is under 84MB. If you have difficulty compressing your video, upload it to a third party video platform and submit a hyperlink. Please ensure that the link is accessible during the entire judging period, which is to the end of September.

## **SUPPORTER**

## **23. Who should be a supporter?**

Supporters are people who have a good understanding of the nominee(s)' work and endorse the nominee(s)' achievements. They may have a unique perspective on the nominee(s)' work and can speak from their own experience about how the nominee(s)' work makes an impact. Supporters should be able to make a credible recommendation on the nominee(s)' achievements.

For self-nominations, three supporters are needed while only two supporters are needed for third-party nominations.

The nominator and fellow nominees (if team nomination) cannot be supporters.

## **24. For team nominations, can the recommendation letter mention only one of the nominees?**

When the nomination is for a team (up to three people) and their collaborative work, we hope to see supporters sharing their views and recommendation on this team effort and collaboration. While each nominee's individual achievements and contributions should be mentioned, it is also important to illustrate how the nominees work as a team and they – together – deserve the merit.

## **25. What should the supporter write about in their recommendation letters? Is there a word limit?**

Each recommendation letter should not exceed the word limit of 5,000.

The supporter should write about the reasons behind their recommendation. They can share their perspectives on the nominee(s) work, the impact they observed, and the potential they foresee. They may also write about how they came to know about the nominee(s) and/or their work and where their knowledge of the nominee(s)' work stem from.

## **26. Can a recommendation letter come from a group of people, instead of an individual?**



It is required that you submit the name and contact details of a single individual behind each recommendation letter. Your recommendation letter may be written on behalf of a group, with the official “supporter” being a representative.

In cases where you do not wish to identify an individual as the representative, you may submit a recommendation letter from the supporting group in the “other supporting documents” section of the form (part 4 section 2). However, recommendation letters submitted in this section will not be counted as an “official” recommendation letter – you will still need to find a minimum of two or three (for self-nominations) supporters in addition to it.

## PROJECT FUNDING

### **27. Are there any restrictions on the project fund use?**

Laureates may use the project fund to expand their scope of work, replicate their existing work in a different region, or create new projects. Laureates have flexibility on how they distribute the funding among their projects.

The foundation hopes to facilitate positive change in education by supporting laureates through the project funding. Therefore, we will monitor and evaluate the project’s progress, during, and after the three years to assess its impact.

### **28. What is the schedule of payments (cash and project funds part)? When do they start?**

The HK\$15 million (about US\$1.9million) project fund is distributed over three years to support a project agreed by the laureate(s) and the Yidan Prize Foundation. The exact schedule of payments is to be discussed between the laureates(s) and the Foundation.

The cash portion of the prize will be arranged by the time the laureate(s) receives their prize at the Awards Presentation Ceremony, usually held at the end of December.