Awards application guide



REIMAGINE EDUCATION
AWARDS & CONFERENCE

QS Reimagine Education inspires a **community of groundbreaking innovators** who are transforming the educational landscape, enhancing learning outcomes, and supporting the employability of future generations.

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$25,000 USD
for the Global Education Award winner

$25,000 USD
in Cloud credits for the Global EdTech Award winner

QS Reimagine Education Awards:
Showcasing global education innovation

The QS Reimagine Education Awards celebrate the innovators reshaping global education and preparing learners for the challenges of tomorrow. These awards bring together a community of educators, institutions, and edtech startups committed to transforming how we learn and work.

For 2026, we've introduced a series of considered refinements to our categories and questions. These updates ensure the awards remain relevant as education continues to evolve, while helping applicants clearly showcase the impact and distinctiveness of their work.

With 15 diverse categories, we recognise and reward pioneering programmes, cutting-edge technologies, and forward-thinking teaching methods that are changing the face of education. Each year, more than 1,600 entries are reviewed through a rigorous process by a panel of over 1,300 international experts, ensuring the highest standards of excellence.

These awards honour the efforts of those driving progress in education, celebrating innovative solutions that inspire collaboration and improve learning outcomes worldwide.

Prize highlights

The Global Education Award winner receives a $25,000 USD prize to support the expansion and impact of their groundbreaking work.

The Global EdTech Award winner is granted $25,000 USD in Cloud credits, offering access to advanced digital tools to enhance and scale their solutions.

By recognising and supporting these trailblazers, the awards aim to spark new ideas, foster partnerships, and encourage excellence in education.

Join us in celebrating the visionaries shaping the future of learning. Together, we can embrace innovation, share knowledge, and create opportunities for learners everywhere.

Submissions are open until **31 July 2026, 23:59 BST.**

How to apply & key dates

The call for submissions is now open, with the application window running until **Friday 31 July 2026.**

Our application form allows you to start your submission, save your progress, and return later to complete it.

Before beginning your application, identify the category that best suits your project. You can find the full list of categories on the next pages and at **www.reimagine-education/apply.**

Once you've chosen a category, you'll need to select one of four pathways:

Academic (Early-stage)
Academic (Mature)
Enterprise (Early-stage)
Enterprise (Mature)

These pathways apply to all categories except **'AI Innovation in Education'** which has two pathways Academic or Enterprise, while **'Innovation in Business Education'**, **'The Power of Partnerships'** and **'Sustainability Education' have only one pathway.** You can learn more about the pathways in the following pages.

The application process is free for all participants, reflecting our commitment to making the awards accessible to those advancing meaningful innovation across education.

Winners will be announced live at the in-person conference taking place at the InterContinental London – The O2, **7-8 December 2026.** Attendance at the conference is not required to qualify, but we strongly encourage it as a valuable opportunity to connect, collaborate, and celebrate innovation in education.

Click here to view the 2025 photo gallery.

Key dates

- **1 March**
  Reimagine Education Awards competition opens
- **31 July**
  Competition submission closes
- **Mid-September**
  Shortlisted applicants announced
- **7-8 December**
  Regional and Category Awards Announced
- **8 December**
  Global Education Award & Global EdTech Award winner announced at the Overall Awards Ceremony and Dinner

*Please note all dates are provisional and subject to change

The judging process

When you apply for the Reimagine Education Awards, you'll need to complete sections explaining your project. These will be reviewed by our panel of judges and evaluated against specific criteria.

The exact sections and their importance will depend on:

1. The stage of development your project has reached.
2. Whether your project is classified as **'Academic'** or **'Enterprise'** (explained below).
3. Whether your application is for one of the four award categories with a single pathway: **Innovation in Business Education, The Power of Partnerships, Sustainability Education Action,** or **Literacy Awards.**

Our judging process ensures early-stage projects are assessed fairly, without being compared to mature academic programmes or global tech companies.

Academic Pathway

For projects led by: Higher Education Institutions, Research Institutes, Primary/ Secondary Schools, or Education Authorities.

Enterprise Pathway

For projects led by EdTech companies, corporations, associations/foundations, or NGOs/NPOs.

Early stage

Choose this option if your project is in pilot, early rollout, or initial implementation phases.

Typically:

- The project has been in development or operation for less than 3 years.
- It may be operating within a limited cohort, institution, or context.
- Evidence of impact is emerging or still being gathered.
- Future outcomes and growth are supported by a clear plan for measurement and evaluation.

Mature

Choose this option if your project has progressed beyond initial pilots and demonstrated sustained outcomes.

Typically:

- The project has been in development or operation for more than 3 years.
- It has been implemented across multiple cohorts, contexts, or settings.
- There is clear evidence of impact over time.
- The approach has been shown to be repeatable or sustainable.

There is no advantage to selecting one stage over the other. Projects are assessed relative to their chosen stage.

Timeframes are indicative only. Please select the stage that most accurately reflects the current maturity of your initiative.



It's important to note that the four pathways are not award categories. For example, you won't apply for an 'Academic (Early-stage) Award'. Instead, the pathways define the criteria judges will use to evaluate your project, ensuring fair comparisons.

The QS Reimagine Education Awards focus on three key areas:

1. Innovation: What makes your project stand out, and how does it compare to others?

2. Impact or potential impact: How does your project solve a problem, who benefits from it, and how does it improve learning outcomes and employability?

3. Depth or scalability: Choose depth if the goal is to deepen impact or enhance quality, or scalability if the aim is to grow and expand.

Note: Some categories might have variations, you can see the overview below or full set of questions here.

You can upload or link to supporting evidence after completing each relevant section of the form.

You'll also need to submit a **two-minute video pitch or demonstration** of your project. While the video isn't scored, it can strengthen your application.

Keep the video under **two minutes.**

Upload it to YouTube and add the link in the application form.

Judging criteria: explained

The tables below outline the weighted sections for each of the eight pathways. You can view the full set of questions by **starting your application here** or **downloading them here**.

Early-Stage

Criteria	Weight assigned
Innovation 2 questions	40%
Impact or potential impact 3 questions	30%
Depth or scalability 3 questions	30%

Mature

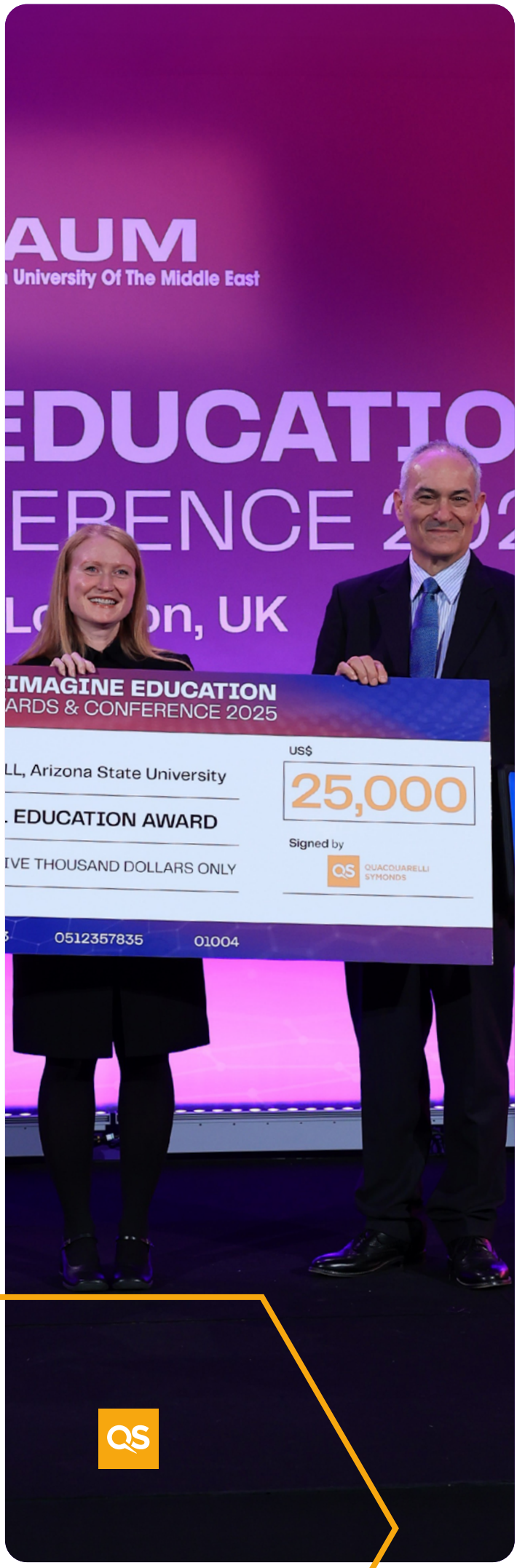
Criteria	Weight assigned
Innovation 2 questions	40%
Impact 3 questions	30%
Depth or scalability 3 questions	30%

AI Innovation in Education

Criteria	Weight assigned
Innovation 2 questions	40%
Educational impact enabled by AI 3 questions	30%
Depth or scalability 3 questions	30%

The Power of Partnerships

Criteria	Weight assigned
Partnership design & innovation 2 questions	40%
Project outcomes enabled by the partnership 3 questions	30%
Partnership sustainability & transferability 3 questions	30%



Innovation in Business Education

Criteria	Weight assigned
Redefining Business Education 2 questions	40%
Impact on Learners and the Business Ecosystem 3 questions	30%
Embedding Influence and Endurance 3 questions	30%

Sustainability Education Action

Criteria	Weight assigned
Innovation in Sustainability Action 2 questions	40%
Demonstrated Sustainability Impact 3 questions	30%
Depth or scalability 3 questions	30%

Sustainability Education Literacy

Criteria	Weight assigned
Innovation in Sustainability Education 2 questions	40%
Learning Impact & Capability Development 3 questions	30%
Embedding & Eduring Literacy 3 questions	30%

Award categories

This year's awards celebrate your innovative projects and initiatives across the education landscape. Explore the categories below to find the best fit for your work.

Future of Learning	
AI Innovation in Education	Have you developed original AI that enables measurable educational impact? Explain what you built, why it was needed, and how outcomes go beyond third-party tools.
Immersive Experiential Learning	Does your immersive experiential project create authentic, high-impact learning? Share how experiential design deepens understanding and skills, and evidence that impact goes beyond novelty.
Learning Assessment	Have you developed a project that rethinks how learners are evaluated? Explain how your approach improves the measurement of understanding, skills, and learning outcomes.
Learning Design Excellence	Have you innovated in pedagogy or curriculum design to improve learner experience? Describe your design choices and evidence of engagement, accessibility, and meaningful learning outcomes.
Neuroscience for Learning	Is your project grounded in neuroscience to improve learning? Describe how research informed your design and the measurable changes in teaching practice or learner outcomes.

Future of Universities	
Innovation in Business Education	Are you transforming business education through discipline-specific change? Explain how your initiative reshapes curriculum or practice and demonstrates impact beyond a single module.
The Power of Partnerships	Does your project focus on partnerships as the main driver of impact? Describe who you collaborated with, how it worked, and what outcomes were achieved through the partnership.

Future of Work	
Developing Emerging Skills and Competencies	Is your project equipping learners with future-ready skills? Highlight how you build technical and transferable capabilities, such as AI, data skills, creativity, and adaptability.
Lifelong Learning	Have you developed structured pathways for sustained upskilling or reskilling? Explain how learners progress over time through modular or flexible learning beyond one-off skills.
Nurturing Employability	Are you fostering employability with measurable career outcomes? Describe how your initiative improves work readiness, connects learners to opportunities, and supports successful transitions into employment.

Sustainability	
Sustainability Education Action	Does your project translate sustainability principles into measurable real-world action? Explain the environmental or social outcomes achieved and how the initiative drives impact beyond awareness.
Sustainability Education Literacy	Are you fostering sustainability literacy through structured curriculum and interdisciplinary content? Describe how you build systems thinking and understanding across environmental, social, and economic dimensions.

Values	
Access, Diversity and Inclusion	Does your project focus on removing barriers to access and inclusion? Explain the context, who benefits, and measurable improvements in participation and achievement.
Nurturing Values and Ethics	Have you developed initiatives that build values and ethical decision-making? Explain how integrity, empathy, or ethics are embedded in learning and what changes you can evidence.
Nurturing Wellbeing and Purpose	Are you fostering wellbeing and purpose in your learning community? Describe the support provided and evidence of improved mental, physical, or emotional outcomes for learners.



Regional awards

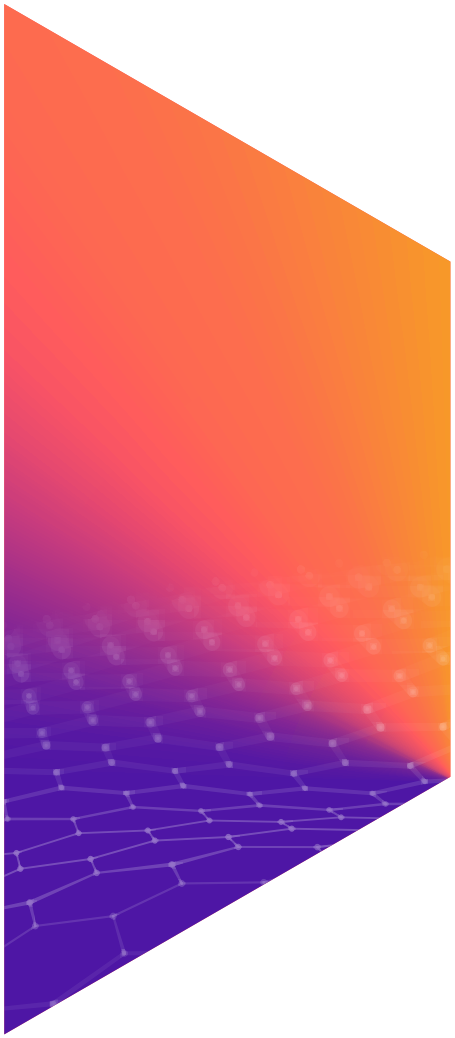
Shortlisted entries are also eligible to receive a Regional Award if they are created by a team or organisation based in any of the regions below.

Africa
Asia
Europe
Latin America
Middle East
USA & Canada
Oceania



Frequently asked questions

You can find the FAQs **here.**



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