



**New Zealand National
Commission for UNESCO**
Te Kōmihana Matua o Aotearoa mō UNESCO

Policy for UNESCO Programmes/Networks, Prizes and Boards

One function of the Commission is to serve as a first point of contact for UNESCO in New Zealand and to undertake a programme of activities which promotes UNESCO objectives in New Zealand. The Commission does this in a number of ways, including through supporting New Zealand participation in UNESCO programmes and endorsing New Zealand nominees for UNESCO prizes.

Networks/ Programmes

The National Commission currently supports engagement with a range of UNESCO Networks/Programmes, including the UNESCO Chairs and University Twinning and Networking Programme, the Memory of the World Programme, and the Creative Cities Network.

Any individual or entity interested in joining a UNESCO Programme/Network must notify the National Commission as early as possible and at least three months before the UNESCO deadline.

The Secretariat (on behalf of the National Commission and in consultation with the Chair) may decline to consider applications due to a range of factors, including relevance to the National Commission's priorities and capacity.

In making its assessment and recommendation to the Commission, the Secretariat will take into account the respective guidelines and procedures for the relevant Programme/Network, including any limitations on membership.¹

The Secretariat will consider the relevance and value to New Zealand of joining a Programme or Network. It will also take a strategic approach on behalf of New Zealand as a Member State, considering factors such as the number of other Programme/Network members in New Zealand and ongoing sustainability.

When assessing a request, the Secretariat will consult with appropriate members of the National Commission (based on their areas of speciality) and the Chair. The full National Commission will be asked to make a final decision.

The National Commission may decline to nominate New Zealand entities or individuals for membership of UNESCO Programmes/Networks at its discretion.

There is an obligation on both the applicant and the Secretariat to communicate proactively at the application stage and during the life of the engagement with a UNESCO Programme/Network.

¹ For example, the UNESCO Creative Cities Network has recently imposed a limit of only two Creative Cities applications per year per Member State, each of different designation.

Prizes

UNESCO uses prizes to facilitate the sharing of and celebration and dissemination of good practice in its programmes.

The National Commission receives a range of UNESCO Prize nomination opportunities from UNESCO Headquarters each year. The Secretariat analyses their relevance to the New Zealand context and other factors such as priorities and capacity, and decides whether or not to publicly invite nominations for a particular prize.

Once a year the National Commission will consider the range of UNESCO prizes and make a decision about which, if any, it will promote. If the National Commission has invited nominations for a UNESCO prize, a deadline for nominations will be set, usually at least six weeks ahead of the UNESCO international deadline. Nominations must be received by the deadline to be eligible for consideration. The National Commission may choose not to endorse any of the nominations at its discretion. It may decline to progress nominations it considers unlikely to be successful.

If an individual or entity is interested in being nominated for a UNESCO prize for which the National Commission has not invited nominations, they must register their interest with the National Commission at least three months before the UNESCO international deadline. The Secretariat (on behalf of the National Commission) will then make a decision about whether to publically invite nominations.

When assessing a request, the Secretariat will consult with appropriate members of the National Commission (based on their areas of speciality) and the Chair. External stakeholders/experts may also be consulted.

The Secretariat in consultation with the Chair may decline to consider nominations for UNESCO Prizes due to a range factors, including relevance to the National Commission's priorities and capacity.

There is an obligation on both the applicant and the Secretariat to communicate proactively at the application stage and during the life of the engagement with a UNESCO Programme or Network.

International Boards

UNESCO has a range of governance and advisory boards in support of its various programmes. Membership of these boards may be in a personal capacity as an independent expert, or as a Member State representative.

Customarily, candidacies for such positions require nomination or endorsement from National Commissions. A request may be received from either UNESCO or an interested individual.

When assessing a request, the Secretariat will consult with appropriate members of the National Commission (based on their areas of speciality) and the Chair. External stakeholders/experts may also be consulted.

The National Commission may decline to nominate/re-nominate or endorse New Zealanders to these boards at its discretion.