Global Student Prize 2024

Online Reading Panel – Screening Guidelines

Background

We have had thousands of applications and nominations for the Global Student Prize. The applications have been pre-filtered based on completeness, eligibility and quality, to produce a shortlist of strong candidates for professional consideration to be entered into the Top 50 for the Prize Committee. From these, 10 will be chosen as Finalists for the Academy vote.

We are looking for exceptional candidates, who can demonstrate incredible achievements as students inside and outside the classroom and students that have overcome challenges and continue to make a real impact on learning, the lives of their peers, and on society beyond.

Note that all candidates in the Top 50 list must qualify as being *eligible* for the award.

A reminder of criteria elements:

- The prize is open to all students who are at least 16 years old (there is no upper age limit)
- Students must be enrolled in an academic institution or training and skills program
- Part time students as well as students enrolled in online courses are also eligible for the prize
- The Prize is open to students in every kind of school and, subject to local laws, in every country in the world

In any case of unclarity regarding eligibility, the Varkey Foundation's decision is final.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS PROCESS IS HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL AND NOT TO BE DISCUSSED EXTERNALLY.

Screening Evaluation Criteria

At this stage we are asking you to evaluate the candidates based on the following criteria. When judging each candidate through our online system, you will be presented with the relevant parts of their application in turn, and asked to enter a score for each of them:

1. Story
2. Academic Achievement
3. Impact on Peers
4. Community Impact
5. Overcoming the Odds
6. Creativity and Innovation
7. Developing Global Citizens
8. Use of Funds
9. Wow Candidate
10. Concern

> Scores for the first 8 fields are between 0 and 5 (with 5 being best and 0 worst), as explained in the final section of these guidelines. Detailed requirements are given below, for each of the 10 criteria – *please consult this text while making your assessments through the online system.*

1. Story – How compelling is their personal story of thriving as a student, achieving goals and fulfilling their potential? How compelling would their story be in generating interest in the Prize? *Note that we are looking for compelling stories that would make these students role models in their countries and for other students overall*.

2. Academic Achievement – Is there evidence of recognition of their achievements in the classroom and beyond from a teacher, other pupils, head-teachers or members of the wider communit*y? (This could be through record of prizes won for academic or project work; research that has been published or won other recognition; an outstanding reference from a supervisor or professor; grants and fellowships; or videos of high-quality scholarly presentations made by the candidate)*

3. Impact on Peers – Has the student been involved or made a mark on their student community and changed it for the better? *(This could be through supporting other students; tutoring and mentoring peers; participating in initiatives that encourage individuals in socioeconomically disadvantaged communities, helping other students tackle mental or physical health challenges; engaged in activism to support minority groups; fundraised for a good cause; or simply carried out individual acts of support, courage, and generosity).*

4. Community Impact – What have they done in promoting wider social change, and how active are they in their local, national or even international communities? *Examples might include civic action and engagement, such as volunteering; working with students in other parts of the world; taking part in national and global advocacy and activism on issues such as racism, sexism, climate change, and poverty; and also could include creating platforms for social change.*

5. Overcoming the Odds

Has the student had to face any challenges or overcome significant barriers to reach higher education and achieve their goals? In each case, the candidate's personal journey will demonstrate an indomitable spirit in the face of difficulties that might have stopped others. *Examples may include severe health problems; socioeconomic disadvantage; discrimination; frequent relocation; family difficulties; living in a warzone or a region that has seen environmental disaster; pursuing their education while under refugee or asylum-seeker status; being a carer/guardian or raising a child while studying.* Judges shouldn't penalise a candidate if they haven't got much information in this section as it may not apply to all candidates and should not make them less worthy if they're great in the other areas.

6. Creativity and Innovation – Has the student demonstrated any creativity or innovation? *Creativity and innovation can take place in a variety of forms, examples may include designing an app; creating a platform; artwork; movements; writing a book; directing a film; creating a YouTube channel; recording a podcast; becoming a social media influence;, creating a social purpose organization or some other type of service and using new technology or fresh ideas about how to connect people.*

7. Developing Global Citizens – How do they embed global citizenship in and beyond the classroom? Candidates will be passionate about the future of global co-operation. *Examples may include working on projects with people in other countries; forging links between institutions; taking part in exchanges; having an active role in fostering cultural understanding; breaking down barriers; fighting ignorance on global issues; using online platforms to share resources, information, and expertise and helping students in other countries to access education or improve its quality.*

8. Use of Funds – Does what they plan to do with the funds sound like a realistic and impressive activity, ideally one that can be achieved? (*For example do they have any projects or campaigns that they are passionate about that would benefit from the additional funding; will they be supporting their education or helping them to achieve their goals*).

9. Wow Candidate – Based on your overall assessment, do you believe this candidate has a great chance of being in the Top 10, and at least the Top 50?

10. Concern – Bear in mind, all things being equal, how supportive they are likely to be regarding the promotion of the Prize, or if there are any other issues you believe would make them less appropriate members of the Top 50. Enter any concerns into the "Comments" box.

Additional Considerations

➢   Do not be overly harsh on applicants for poor English or use of language – English is not the first language for the majority of candidates, and therefore correct English is not a criterion.

➢   You can be more generous in your scores (if necessary) for candidates who are studying in challenging circumstances (e.g. deprived areas, rural areas, developing countries, children with disabilities, etc.). Please consider the environment and context of each applicant when scoring.

➢ There may be AI-generated content in Awards submissions. We understand the use of AI content, as English may not be the student's first language. Any AI-generated content submitted as part of a prize application will be thoroughly checked for authenticity, and any instances of inauthentic content will result in disqualification from the competition. If you detect a high level of AI generated content in a students application please include it in your comments for us to review.

➢ You should be trusting of the applicant in what they say unless you find evidence that they may not be telling the truth.

➢ Be ready to Google search any terms you do not understand that might be important in your scoring.

➢ Judges shouldn't penalise a candidate if they haven't got much information on the 'Overcoming the Odds' section. This question may not apply to all candidates and should not make them less worthy if they're great in the other areas.

➢ We want to recognize individual achievement, so you may score lower if it seems as though it is an overall achievement from the class or school rather than the applicant.

➢ If you are not sure on any score for a specific candidate, please add notes in the "Comments" section.

➢ We are looking for consistency in judging across the judges so please take some time to ensure that you interpret the criteria in the required way (otherwise your scores may be rejected and time wasted).

➢ It will typically take up to 30 minutes to review an applicant. Within the application there may be links to additional information provided by the candidate but we recommend you only look at these for the very best candidates who may be in the Top 50 – do not waste time on low scoring candidates who are very unlikely to be in the Top 50 as their answers in their applications should be looked at in the first instance.

Recording Your Scores

We use a scoring system that considers the above criteria on a scale of 0 to 5.

0-1 = poor to adequate
2-3 = average or good but not exceptional
4 = strong with evidence to support claims
5 = exceptional, world class, exemplary, unusually good, high credibility

If you think that the person fails to be eligible for the prize or you have concerns regarding their suitability, please mark this in the "Comments" field and include your reason.

Your aggregate scores – together with those of the other judge who is assessing the application – will determine whether the candidate passes to the next round.

If you have any comments or feedback on any candidate in particular, positive or negative, please also capture these in the "Comments" field. These too will influence whether the candidate progresses.

Once you have entered a full set of marks for each candidate, please review and submit your assessments.

Note that once you have clicked "Submit", your score will be final.