



WORLD HERITAGE YOUNG PROFESSIONALS FORUM 2026

“World Heritage, Communities and Education: Empowering Youth as Agents of Change”

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Republic of Korea, 13–21 July 2026

As integral part of the 48th session of the World Heritage Committee and the UNESCO World Heritage Education Programme, the Republic of Korea, through the Korea Heritage Service (KHS) and the Korean National Commission for UNESCO (KNCU), will host the World Heritage Young Professionals Forum 2026 from 13 to 21 July 2026, under the theme **World Heritage, Communities and Education: Empowering Youth as Agents of Change**.

The Forum will bring together 30 young professionals from around the world to engage in dialogue, learning and exchange on the role of communities, youth and education in strengthening the protection, management and transmission of World Heritage.

At the end of the Forum, the young professionals will collectively present their Declaration at the 48th session of the World Heritage Committee.

BACKGROUND

The World Heritage Young Professionals Fora are flagship activities of the World Heritage Education Programme, designed to foster intercultural learning, peer-to-peer exchange and professional engagement among young people working in the field of heritage. They provide a unique space for young professionals to gain a deeper understanding of the World Heritage Convention and its implementation, to exchange with peers, site managers, communities and institutions, and to engage in site-based learning at World Heritage properties. The Fora also offer an opportunity for participants to reflect on their role as present and future actors in World Heritage conservation, while benefiting from the experience of the host country and from direct interaction with World Heritage stakeholders at local, national and international levels. For further information on the previous World Heritage Young Professionals Fora, please visit:

<https://whc.unesco.org/en/youth-forum/>

THEME OF THE FORUM

The theme of the World Heritage Young Professionals Forum 2026 is set as **World Heritage, Communities and Education: Empowering Youth as Agents of Change**. The overall aim of the Forum is to strengthen the commitment, skills and critical understanding of young professionals in protecting, managing and safeguarding natural and cultural World Heritage sites.

Through exchanges with local and international experts, and through a combination of presentations, discussions, collaborative working sessions and site visits at World Heritage properties in the Republic of Korea, participants will collectively explore the role of communities, youth and education in World Heritage conservation.

In particular, the Forum will address how community knowledge and participation can support conservation and management practices; how education, research and learning can contribute to informed decision-making and effective site management; and how young people can act as active members of communities, mediators and contributors to inclusive and sustainable World Heritage governance.

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

The Forum will combine thematic discussions, workshops, group work and site visits at World Heritage properties in the Republic of Korea.

A provisional outline is provided below. The detailed programme will be shared with selected participants.

- 12 July 2026: Arrival of participants
- 13 July 2026: Opening of the Forum and introductions
- 14–19 July 2026: Thematic sessions, site-based learning and group work
- 18 July 2026: Joint session with the World Heritage Site Managers Forum
- 19 July 2026: Drafting of the Youth Declaration
- 20 July 2026: Finalisation and presentation of the Youth Declaration
- 21 July 2026: Closing of the Forum and departure of participants

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Applicants to the World Heritage Young Professionals Forum 2026 should meet the following criteria:

- **Age:** Between 23 and 32 years (born between 1994 and 2003 inclusive);
- **Professional profile:** Young professionals and practitioners engaged in one or more of the following areas:
 - Education and teaching in formal learning settings;
 - World Heritage site management;
 - Research and innovation related to World Heritage
 - Work within NGOs or community-level associations focused on World Heritage;

- **Engagement:** Demonstrated involvement in activities related to World Heritage;
- **Motivation:** Strong interest in contributing to discussions on youth, communities and education;
- **Availability:** Full availability for the entire duration of the Forum;
- **Language:** Proficiency in English, as the Forum will be conducted exclusively in English.

In addition, the selection process will seek to ensure: Balanced geographical representation; - Gender equality; Diversity of professional backgrounds; Potential for knowledge-sharing and impact after the Forum.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Interested candidates are invited to submit their application through the **online application form** available at: <https://unesco-2023.limesurvey.net/662537>

The deadline for submitting the applications is 15 March 2026 at 23:59 CET.

Only complete applications submitted through the online form will be considered.

Selection of participants will be carried out solely on the basis of the online applications, in accordance with the criteria specified in the Call for Applications. Recommendations, nominations, or endorsements will therefore not be considered.

Selected applicants will be informed by email.

TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION

Participants are expected to arrive on **12 July 2026** and depart on **21/22 July 2026**.

All related expenses for the duration of the Forum (international travel in economy class, accommodation, local transportation, meals and visa fees, where applicable) will be covered by the organizers. The organizers will also assist in the travel preparations and will provide support to the participants who need a visa.

If any participant wishes to extend his/her stay after 21 July 2026, all related costs will be covered by the participant. In such a case, the host country should be informed in advance, in order to make all the necessary arrangements.

CONTACT

For any questions regarding the application process, please contact: wh-ypf@unesco.org