



UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities (GNLC)

Membership Application 2025

Instructions

Please note:

1. Before submitting your application, **please carefully review the GNLC membership regulations**. These regulations are outlined in the membership concept note: <https://www.uil.unesco.org/en/learning-cities/members/become-member>.
2. **Your application should be concise and informative, not exceeding the word limits for each question**. Focus on key points and concrete actions that showcase your city's lifelong learning initiatives. Please include statistics to demonstrate achievements, supported by references such as policy documents, publications, reports and web links. You may also submit supporting materials, including illustrations, case studies or videos. All documents must be in English, French or Spanish. If submitted in another language, a translation into one of these three languages is required.
3. **Once your city has completed Part 1 of this form, email it to your country's National Commission for UNESCO, copying in the GNLC Coordination Team** (learningcities@unesco.org) at the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL). For National Commission contact details, please visit the [Database of National Commissions for UNESCO](#).
4. **Once the National Commission for UNESCO has endorsed your membership by signing the application (Part 2), it will forward the complete application to the GNLC Coordination Team at UIL** (learningcities@unesco.org) and send a copy to you. Alternatively, your city may submit the final application directly to the GNLC Coordination Team, copying in the National Commission after its endorsement (Part 2).

Part 1 (To be completed by the city)**Basic information**

Name of city:

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Country:

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Official city website:

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City's Facebook page:

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City's X (formerly Twitter) page:

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City's Instagram page:

City's LinkedIn page:

Mayor

☐ Ms ☐ Mr ☐ Other

First name:

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Surname:

.....

Official title:

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City hall postal address:

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Postcode:

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Email address:

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Telephone number (including country code):

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Focal point for the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities

☐ Ms ☐ Mr ☐ other

First name:

.....

Surname:

.....

Official title:

.....

Organization (if other than municipality):

Postal address:

Postcode:

Telephone number (including country code):

Fax number (including country code):

Email address:

Other email addresses:

*Please provide a **primary email address** and **one or more alternative email addresses** to ensure uninterrupted communication, particularly in the event of a change in the designated focal point.*

Language of communication: ☐ English ☐ French ☐ Spanish

Your city's profile

Please note that the information you provide will be published on the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities website (www.uil.unesco.org/en/learning-cities/list) once your application has been processed by the GNLC Coordination Team. To guide you, examples of existing member city profiles are available on the website and can help you determine the type of information to include in the sections below.

The city's overall strategy for becoming a learning city

Please describe your city's overall strategy and innovative approaches for developing into a learning city by answering the questions below. Whenever possible, **provide concrete data, measurable results and specific examples** to demonstrate your city's achievements. Additionally, include relevant sources to support your information.

General information	
Population of your city (year recorded):	
Introductory sentence (20–30 words): <i>Provide a brief, engaging introduction to your city as a learning city. You may include an interesting fact, key statistics, or symbolic and historical information.</i>	

<p>Socio-economic and cultural context (max. 200 words):</p> <p><i>Describe your city's socio-economic and cultural landscape, highlighting key activities and characteristics that support its development as a learning city. Where possible, include relevant data and examples.</i></p>	
<p>Mayor's quote:</p> <p>Why is lifelong learning important to your city's development? (max. 70 words)</p> <p><i>Provide a short statement from the mayor on the expected impact of lifelong learning in your city. Please include the date of the statement.</i></p>	
<p>Does your city have the legal authority to provide formal education at any level (primary, secondary, tertiary)? (max. 200 words).</p> <p><i>If yes, please specify the levels and the city's responsibilities in formal education.</i></p>	
<p>Does your city have any UNESCO-designated institutions or sites that contribute to education and lifelong learning? (max. 200 words).</p> <p><i>Relevant designations include: UNESCO World Heritage Sites, UNESCO Global Geoparks, UNESCO Biosphere Reserves (Man and the Biosphere Programme; MAB), UNESCO Creative Cities, UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN Networks, UNESCO Associated Schools (Associated Schools Project Network; ASPnet), UNESCO Category 1 and Category 2 Institutes and Centres, Memory of the World Register (documentary heritage), Intangible Cultural Heritage elements inscribed on the UNESCO lists of Intangible Cultural Heritage and the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices</i></p>	
<p>Your learning city project</p>	
<p>Has your city developed and adopted a Learning City Strategy or implemented other</p>	

<p>public policies and strategies to promote lifelong learning for all? (max. 200 words)</p> <p><i>If yes, please provide details, cite the source or indicate where the document can be accessed.</i></p>	
<p>What are the medium-term (3-5 years) and long-term (5-10 years) objectives of your learning city project? (max. 400 words)</p>	
<p>How is your city integrating aspects of education for sustainable development and climate change education into the learning city project? (max. 200 words)</p> <p><i>Please provide at least one specific example of initiatives or policies implemented by your city in this area.</i></p>	
<p>How is your city integrating aspects of health and well-being into the learning city project? (max. 200 words)</p> <p><i>Please provide at least one specific example of initiatives or policies implemented by your city in this area.</i></p>	
<p>How is your city integrating aspects of global citizenship and peace education into the learning city project? (max. 200 words)</p> <p><i>Please provide at least one specific example of initiatives or policies implemented by your city in this area.</i></p>	
<p>How is your city integrating aspects of decent work and entrepreneurship into the learning city project, including measures to promote skilling, reskilling and upskilling of the workforce and expand access to technical and vocational education and training (TVET)? (max. 300 words)</p> <p><i>Please provide at least one specific example of initiatives or policies implemented by your city in this area.</i></p>	
Coordinated structure and stakeholder engagement	
<p>Has your city established a core team, committee or forum for the learning city project? (max. 200 words)</p>	

<p><i>If yes, please provide a brief description of how this mechanism operates and who is involved.</i></p>	
<p>How is your city promoting intersectoral coordination to engage governmental and non-governmental organizations, the private sector and academia in its learning city project? (max. 200 words)</p>	
<p>Mobilizing and utilizing resources</p>	
<p>How is your city mobilizing and utilizing monetary resources to build a learning city? (max. 300 words)</p> <p><i>Please provide detailed information and data on financial investment in lifelong learning (e.g. public expenditure on education as a percentage of the total city budget), including specific examples.</i></p> <p><i>Monetary resources may include local authority budgets; regional or national government funds; multi-stakeholder funding partnerships; cost-sharing mechanisms involving multiple stakeholders; sponsorships; philanthropic or private-sector contributions.</i></p>	
<p>How is your city mobilizing and utilizing non-monetary resources to build a learning city? (max. 300 words)</p> <p><i>Please provide detailed information on how your city leverages non-monetary resources, including specific examples.</i></p> <p><i>Non-monetary resources may include public spaces and community centres; volunteer organizations; cultural venues; partnerships involving the public and private sectors, as well as civil society.</i></p>	
<p>Ensuring learning is accessible to all citizens</p>	
<p>How is your city integrating aspects of inclusion into the learning city project? (max. 200 words)</p> <p><i>Please provide an overview, noting that specific groups will be addressed in the following questions.</i></p>	

<p>How is your city promoting gender equality in lifelong learning opportunities? (max. 200 words)</p> <p><i>Please provide at least one specific example of initiatives or policies implemented by your city in this area.</i></p>	
<p>How is your city promoting citizens' access to ICT tools, digital learning programmes and online platforms? (max. 200 words)</p> <p><i>Please provide at least one specific example of initiatives or policies implemented by your city in this area.</i></p>	
<p>How is your city supporting marginalized and underprivileged groups in accessing lifelong learning opportunities? (max. 200 words)</p> <p><i>Please provide at least one specific example of initiatives or policies implemented by your city in this area.</i></p> <p><i>Marginalized and underprivileged groups include older learners, refugees, internally displaced persons, people with disabilities, prisoners, learners from linguistic/ethnic minorities or disadvantaged backgrounds, among others.</i></p>	
<p>How does your city keep citizens informed about learning opportunities? (max. 200 words)</p> <p><i>Examples could include community-based learning spaces, maps of learning provision in the city, digital technologies, mobile learning apps or other mechanisms.</i></p>	
Celebratory events to promote and sustain the learning city process	
<p>How is your city organizing and supporting public events and initiatives that encourage and celebrate learning? (max. 200 words)</p> <p><i>Please provide concrete examples, such as festivals, conferences, storytelling events, performing arts, literature competitions, art workshops and awareness campaigns.</i></p>	

<p>What is the measurable impact of celebratory events on lifelong learning in your city? (max. 200 words)</p> <p><i>Please provide specific data, including target groups, participation numbers, types of learning activities, partnerships and other relevant indicators.</i></p>	
<p>Mechanisms to monitor and evaluate the development of the learning city</p>	
<p>How is your city monitoring and evaluating lifelong learning? (max. 200 words)</p> <p><i>Please provide details on the measures and tools adopted by city authorities to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the learning city project. Include specific examples such as evaluation teams, qualitative and quantitative reporting, indicators, targets, consultative meetings or external evaluations.</i></p>	
<p>Does your city have key performance indicators/mechanisms to monitor and evaluate lifelong learning? (max. 200 words)</p> <p><i>Please specify and clarify how these indicators relate to the Key Features of Learning Cities and/or the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).</i></p>	
<p>Learning city best practice</p>	
<p>What are the three most outstanding flagship projects or best practices that illustrate your city's commitment to lifelong learning? (max. 500 words)</p> <p><i>Examples may include the most impactful policies, strategies, programmes, projects, actions, measures, monitoring processes or partnerships that demonstrate how your city is promoting lifelong learning within the community.</i></p> <p><i>Please highlight the social, cultural, environmental and economic impact of these best practices, providing concrete data such as participation rates, outcomes achieved, policy changes, funding secured, job creation,</i></p>	<p>Best practice 1</p> <p>Best practice 2</p> <p>Best practice 3</p>

environmental improvements or community engagement levels.

Where possible, include references to online sources such as websites, reports or publications to substantiate your response.

Your city and the GNLC

How can your city contribute to the GNLC, and what unique value does it bring to enhance the collaboration and impact of the network? (max.200 words).

Please describe your city's strengths, expertise and successful initiatives that could benefit other learning cities in the network. This may include innovative policies or programmes; best practices in lifelong learning; partnerships with key stakeholders; experience in specific areas such as digital learning, inclusion, sustainability or skills development.

Photos of your city

Please submit at least **four high-resolution photos** (original, uncompressed and not resized) along with your city's application. The photos should be city images and photos related to lifelong learning best practices.

The picture recommendations are as follows: horizontal, 300 dpi, around 2,000 pixels in width.

Each photo must include a short description and copyright information.

Kindly note that the submitted photos may be used for the public promotion of the GNLC through the UNESCO website, social media channels, newsletters and other formats if your city's application is accepted by the GNLC Coordination Team.

Please sign the [Grant of Rights Form](#) to authorize the use of your photos and submit it along with your application to the GNLC Coordination Team.

Declaration of application

The city of hereby applies to join the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities (GNLC).

With this application, the city pledges to support the objectives and activities of the GNLC in accordance with the membership regulations and to uphold its [guiding documents](#), including the *Beijing Declaration on Building Learning Cities* and the *Key Features of Learning Cities*.

Date:

Mayor's signature:

Part 2 (To be filled in by the National Commission for UNESCO)

The National Commission for UNESCO in hereby endorses the application of the city of to become a member of the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities.

Name of the representative of the National Commission for UNESCO:

.....

Signature and date:

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Thank you and final remarks

Thank you for your application.

**UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning
Coordination Team of the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities**

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