SCHOLARSHIPS TO ATTEND THE MAB YOUTH FORUM 2026

The International Centre for the Mediterranean Biosphere Reserves (UNESCOMED), with the support of **Abertis Foundation**, we can offer **scholarships for up to 7 young participants** (non-state representatives) to attend the **MAB Youth Forum 2026** (May 18–22, Po Delta Biosphere Reserve, Italy).

Participants will receive a letter of support from UNESCOMED centre and MedMAB network and travel expenses will be covered. To participate, please **complete the form until March 16 at 23:45h CET** to enter the selection process.

The objective of this support is to strengthen youth engagement within the MedMAB Network and to ensure that participation in the MAB Youth Forum generates a tangible impact at the Biosphere Reserve level.

1. Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must meet **all** of the following requirements:

- *Be between **18 and 35 years old** at the time of the Forum.*
- *Be affiliated with a **Biosphere Reserve that is part of the MedMAB** Network.*
- *Provide formal **support from the Biosphere Reserve** management body.*
- ***Not be the National MAB Youth Focal Point** of their country in the MYF 2026.*

Applications that do not meet all eligibility criteria will not be considered.

2. Selection Criteria

Among eligible applicants, the selection committee will assess candidates based on the following criteria:

2.1. Current Engagement in the Biosphere Reserve

- *Level and continuity of involvement in the Biosphere Reserve.*
- *Leadership roles or active participation in projects, governance, or community initiatives.*

- *Demonstrated commitment to MAB principles and sustainable development.*

2.2. Quality and Impact of the Proposed Contribution

- *Relevance and clarity of the topic, project, or experience to be presented at the MAB Youth Forum 2026.*
- *Potential impact of the contribution at local, Mediterranean or international level.*
- *Alignment with the objectives of the MAB Programme and the MedMAB Network.*

2.3. Expected Post-Forum Impact

- *Clear explanation of how participation in the MAB Youth Forum 2026 will benefit the applicant's Biosphere Reserve.*
- *Concrete ideas for transferring knowledge, networks, and experiences gained at the Forum.*
- *Potential to strengthen youth engagement and MedMAB cooperation after the event.*

2.4. Geographic and Gender Balance (if applicable)

- *The selection committee may consider achieving balanced representation across MedMAB countries and ensuring gender equity.*

3. Obligations and Commitments of Selected Participants

Selected participants commit to fulfilling the following obligations:

3.1. Participation During the Youth Forum

- *Attend the full duration of the 3rd Global MAB Youth Forum 2026.*
- *Actively participate in the MedMAB workshop, which will take during the MAB Youth Forum 2026.*
- *Engage actively in plenary sessions, working groups, and networking activities throughout the event.*

3.2. Communication and Visibility

- *Contribute to UNESCOMED and MedMAB communication activities related to the travel support (e.g., photos, short interviews, testimonials, video content, social media posts).*
- *Acknowledge UNESCOMED and Abertis Foundation support in any public communication related to their participation. For social media, please use the following hastags #MedMAB or #UNESCOMED.*

3.3. Post-Forum Reporting

No later than **30 June 2026**, selected participants must submit their post-Forum report by email to **unescomedcenter@fundacioabertis.org**.

A **2-page report (maximum)** describing:

- *Their personal experience at the Youth Forum.*
- *Key learnings and networking outcomes.*
- *The expected impact on their Biosphere Reserve.*
- *Evidence of at least one local dissemination activity (e.g., presentation to the BR team, youth group meeting, local communication article, workshop, etc.).*
- *Specific proposals for being implemented in the MedMAB Network.*

Failure to comply with these commitments may affect eligibility for future MedMAB support opportunities.

4. Timeline and Application Process

4.1. Call Publication

The call for applications will be published during the first week of March 2026.

4.2. Application Deadline

The application form will close on: **16th March 2026 at 23:45h CET.**

Late applications will not be considered.

4.3. Notification of Selected Candidates

Selected candidates will be informed **no later than 19th March 2026.**

On the same day, **selected candidates will receive an official support letter** from **UNESCOMED and the MedMAB** Network.

4.4. Mandatory Official Application to the MAB Youth Forum 2026

All candidates must submit a **formal application to participate in the 3rd Global MAB Youth Forum 2026** through the official UNESCO webpage: https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/3rd-global-mab-youth-forum-2026-committed-future-we-want

The deadline for submitting the official Youth Forum application is: **23 March 2026** at 23:59h (as established by UNESCO).

The timeline of the UNESCOMED scholarship has been intentionally designed to align with this deadline, as the support letter provided on 19 March must be attached to the official UNESCO application.

Failure to submit the official application to UNESCO by 23 March 2026 will automatically invalidate the UNESCOMED financial support.

5. Important Clarification

Financial support from UNESCOMED does not imply automatic acceptance to the 3rd Global MAB Youth Forum 2026. Final participation in the Forum is subject to the official selection process conducted by UNESCO.

Therefore:

- *UNESCOMED support will only be confirmed for applicants who are*
  1. *Selected by UNESCOMED, **and***
  2. *Officially accepted by UNESCO to participate in the MAB Youth Forum 2026.*

If a candidate selected by UNESCOMED is not accepted by UNESCO, the travel support will not be granted.

The scholarship will fund only public transport (e.g., trains, buses, flights) as part of the travel support to the MAB Youth Forum 2026. Applicants should note that taxi or private transportation costs are not covered. Accommodation and manutention is neither covered, as it will be covered by the Forum organizers.

6. Support for Applicants

UNESCOMED is committed to supporting young applicants throughout the application process.

If you require clarification or assistance regarding the UNESCOMED Scholarship or the application procedure, please contact us at: **unescomedcenter@fundacioabertis.org**

We encourage applicants to contact us in advance of the deadlines to ensure timely assistance. Our Working hours are, Monday to Thursday 08:00–17:00h (CET) and Friday 08:00–15:00 (CET).