



Young Future Shaper application preview & FAQs

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Information for young people nominating themselves

What is in the application

The application form asks for:

- Your name, school, date of birth, and how you identify in terms of your gender and culture
- Your parent/guardian's contact details
- Confirmation that you have your parent's permission to apply and that they've seen CSIRO's [Program Privacy Notice](#), [Child Safety Notice](#) and [Evaluation Notice](#)
- Information about what STEM activities you do.

Then, there are two main questions about your interests and aspirations, which you can respond to as a written response (no more than 500 words) or a video (no longer than three minutes).

You can type responses into the form or upload documents as .doc, .docx, .PDF, .ppt, or .pptx files. Videos should be uploaded as .mov, .mp4, .wmv or .avi files.

Main question 1: Tell us what interests you about STEM and what you do at the moment.

You might want to include:

- What are you curious or passionate about?
- Any STEM activities you do (it's okay if you don't do any)
- What activities you wish you could do more of?
- What do you see as some of the challenges stopping you doing the STEM things you enjoy?

Main question 2: How would becoming a Young Future Shaper help you?

Young Future Shapers offers an opportunity for young people who have an interest in STEM to try out fun activities, learn with new friends, travel, and discover new things about STEM.

You'll be able to talk to real experts and ask them about the cool stuff they work on.

You'll also learn that in STEM, it is not about being the best or the smartest. It's about what makes you unique and how your own strengths can help solve real-world problems.

Young Future Shapers is about increasing your confidence, recognising your strengths, helping you grow, and connect with others. Below are some ideas to help you write about how Future Shapers can support you. Feel free to use some, all, or none of them - it's up to you!

In your response, you might want to include:

- Why you want to be a Young Future Shaper
- How you could take your interests further (now or when you're older: careers that look interesting to you; or how you might share your interest with others)
- Are there any STEM-related activities you would like to get involved in or start up within your community?
- How would being chosen as a Future Shaper help improve your ability to do something (build your capability), and help build your confidence and connection with STEM?

Ready to apply?

[Click here to begin your application.](#)

Good luck!

Information for adults nominating a young person

What is in the application

The application form asks for:

- Your name, contact details and how you know the young person
- The young person's name, school, date of birth, and how they identify in terms of gender and culture
- The contact details for the young person's parent/guardian
- Confirmation that the parent/guardian consents to the application and sharing of information in the application form in line with CSIRO's [Program Privacy Notice](#), [Child Safety Notice](#) and [Evaluation Notice](#)
- Information about the nominee's current access to STEM learning opportunities.

Then, there are two main questions about the nominee's interests and aspirations, each answerable with a written response (500 words max) or a video (three minutes max).

You can type responses into the form or upload documents as .doc, .docx, .PDF, .ppt, or .pptx files. Videos should be uploaded as .mov, .mp4, .wmv or .avi files.

Top tip! We are looking for authentic, specific examples about the young person and how they engage with STEM. Generic responses created in AI may not stand out from the pack.

Main question 1: Why do you think this young person would make a great Future Shaper?

Remember that Future Shapers don't need to be at the top of the class. We're looking for the curious, for those that invent things, or want to make a positive change. If they have a passion, or even an inkling of an interest in STEM, then we'd love to hear about them.

In your response you might want to include:

- specific examples about their STEM interests or what sparked their interest in STEM
- their current access to STEM opportunities
- any obstacles they might encounter when trying to pursue these interests.

Top tip! If you are submitting multiple nominations, resist using copy/pasted text across the applications. Ensure each response is as unique as the young people you put forward.

Main question 2: How would becoming a Future Shaper help you?

The nominee (young person) must provide the response to this question.

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In your response, you might want to include:

- Why you want to be a Young Future Shaper
- How you could take your interests further (now or when you're older: careers that look interesting to you; or how you might share your interest with others)
- Are there any STEM-related activities you would like to get involved in or start up within your community?
- How would being chosen as a Future Shaper help improve your ability to do something (build your capability), and help build your confidence and connection with STEM?

In your response, you might want to include: [Ready to apply?](#)

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Good luck!

FAQs

Is there a cost for the program?

No, all costs are covered.

Can I nominate a young person that isn't in one of the underrepresented groups?

Yes, you can. Girls; Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples; those from lower opportunity areas and those from regional areas are underrepresented in STEM. This is why we usually prioritise opportunities for young people from at least one of these groups; but that doesn't exclude other students from being considered.

Does the young person need to have a science project underway, have awards or involvement with other STEM competitions?

Any Year 5-10 student in Australia can be nominated but Young Future Shapers is not designed for students that already have access to the level of support and resources that come with being involved with STEM projects and competitions. The program aims to open the door for those that may have limited access or exposure to STEM opportunities.

Do parents need to be involved with the prize if they're selected?

We need parental consent for the young person to take part in the program. We encourage parents/guardians to attend the meetings between our team and the Future Shaper to map out their personalised plan and look at the options for their prize.

For Year 5-6 students that choose to go on a STEM camp, a parent/legal guardian will also need to attend (the travel/camp costs for this will be covered). Future Shapers on the Year 7-10 camp do not need to be accompanied by a parent.

Do teachers need to be involved if they're selected?

If the Future Shaper opts to take their class on a local excursion, we will get in touch with the teacher to see what options we have to take this further. Our team can handle key logistics (booking venues, experts and transport and provide information for risk assessments, curriculum links etc.)

When will we find out the outcome of the nomination?

We will be in touch in Term 2 to notify all applicants of the outcome of the nomination.

I still have questions, who can I contact?

Get in touch with us at STEMTogether@csiro.au. We will be happy to answer any queries you have.