**THE XPLORER PRIZE**

**2025 Application Guideline**

In accordance with the Charter of THE XPLORER PRIZE, this guideline has been developed to assist applicants in understanding the requirements, process, and important conditions for the application.

**I. Application Period**

January 1, 2025, to April 15, 2025 (before 12:00 midnight Beijing Time).

**II. Eligibility**

The XPLORER PRIZE is open to scientists who

1. have obtained a doctorate degree
2. currently work full-time in the Chinese mainland, Hong Kong SAR, or Macau SAR (regardless of nationality)
3. are 45 years old or younger for males (born on or after January 1, 1979) or 48 years old or younger for females (born on or after January 1, 1976).

In 2025, The XPLORER PRIZE will provide the opportunity to allocate one quota in each award field. Following the principle of selecting the best rather than filling quotas, this opportunity is intended to recognize outstanding young scientists (35 years old or younger for males, 38 years old or younger for females).

Please refer to the FAQs for detailed explanations regarding the eligibility criteria.

**III. Application Process**

1. Nomination

* The New Cornerstone Science Foundation (the Foundation) invites external nominators to propose candidates (nominees) and recommend two references (full professors or equivalent) for each candidate. Each nominator can propose one candidate each year, valid for three years.
* The Program Office will send out invitations to the candidates and references.
* Candidates should submit their applications via The Prize’s official website before April 15, 2025, at 12:00 midnight (Beijing Time).
* References should submit their recommendation letters via the link sent to their emails before April 30, 2025, at 12:00 midnight (Beijing Time). Recommendation letters are valid for three years. If the Program Office does not receive sufficient recommendation letters for a candidate before the due date, the candidate will be disqualified from this round of competition.

1. Individual applications

* Individual applications are also accepted. Applications should be submitted via The Prize’s official website before April 15, 2025, at 12:00 midnight (Beijing Time). Each candidate should also submit the names and contact information of three references (full professors or equivalent).
* The Program Office will send out invitations to the three references upon receiving the candidate’s application materials. References should submit their recommendation letters via the link sent to their emails before April 30, 2025, at 12:00 midnight (Beijing Time). Recommendation letters are valid for three years. If the Program Office does not receive sufficient recommendation letters for a candidate before the due date, the candidate will be disqualified from this round of competition.
* The references will only be invited by the Program Office to submit their letters after candidates have submitted their applications. Candidates must plan accordingly to allow enough time for their references to submit recommendation letters before the deadline.

**IV. Application Materials**

* Personal information, education and work experience, etc.
* Research accomplishments, grants, and representative publications, etc.
* Field of application and five-year research plan.

**V. Important Conditions**

* In any given calendar year, one person may only apply to one program, either THE XPLORER PRIZE or the New Cornerstone Investigator Program. New Cornerstone Investigator Program recipients cannot apply for THE XPLORER PRIZE. The New Cornerstone Investigator Program will be open for applications in 2025.
* Application materials should not include any information which violates relevant laws and regulations or contains information that is proprietary or sensitive. Applicants shall bear sole responsibility for the authenticity and legality of submitted materials. Plagiarism or falsification of information is strictly prohibited.
* Applicants should strictly follow relevant laws and regulations, including those related to science and technology security (e.g., biosecurity or information security), as well as international ethical guidelines for the conduct of scientific research.
* Applications should follow all relevant rules and regulations of their host institutions.
* Applicants shall not exert undue influence on the review process. Any applicant who attempts to influence the independence, objectivity and fairness of the review process, upon verification will be disqualified as an applicant in this and the next two rounds of competitions.

Please refer to The Prize’s official website for additional information, including answers to FAQs.

New Cornerstone Science Foundation