Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is the YAB?

The ITU Secretary-General's Youth Advisory Board (YAB) is a dynamic and forward-thinking initiative, that brings young people into the heart of global digital decision-making, through a unique platform to inform the work of ITU and directly advise the ITU Secretary-General on digital development matters as young experts. The first cohort was established in 2024.

YAB members serve in an independent advisory capacity and are not ITU staff members or representatives. Unless expressly authorised, the views and opinions expressed by YAB members in their individual capacity are their own and should not be interpreted as representing the views, positions or policies of ITU or the ITU Secretary-General.

2. Who are the current YAB members?

The full profiles of the current twelve members of the first cohort of the YAB can be found ***here***.

3. How can I apply to join the second cohort?

Apply via ***this link*** by the deadline of 23:59 CET on Friday 15 January 2027.

4. What will the selected fellows get?

A full curated programme of ITU related online and in-person opportunities, activities and meetings

5. What are the eligibility criteria for all applicants?

- Be aged 18-28 as of 1 June 2027
- Be interested in digital technologies and digital development issues

6. Are there any language requirements?

The application form is in English as this is the language of the planned offerings for YAB members including meetings, networking opportunities, and events.

7. What is the selection process? When and how will I find out if I am shortlisted?

Applications will be assessed based on eligibility and the selection criteria, including applicants' motivation and potential contribution, experience and impact, understanding of digital development, youth engagement, collaboration skills and capacity to provide practical advice.

Shortlisted candidates may be invited to provide additional information as part of the assessment process. The final cohort will be selected with a view to combine strong individual candidates with regional representation and a diversity of backgrounds, experiences and perspectives. Due to the anticipated volume of applications, kindly note that only shortlisted candidates will be individually contacted.

Please see the provisional selection timeline below:

- ✓ 19 November 2026 – 15 January 2027: Application window open
- ✓ 15 January – 31 March 2027: Shortlisting, verification and final selection
- ✓ April – May 2027: Onboarding process
- ✓ June 2027: Fully funded travel to ITU HQ in Geneva, Switzerland to participate in an in-person Board meeting and then the WSIS and AI for Good Global Youth Summit

8. What would make my application stand out?

- Demonstrated commitment to youth leadership and meaningful youth engagement

- Experience of meaningfully engaging in, or leading a community, organisation, initiative, research project or policy process on digital development matters
- Knowledge of, or a strong interest in ITU's work
- Willingness to collaborate and communicate respectfully

9. What will the composition of the selected cohort be?

We are aiming for gender balance and regional representation. We are looking for twelve young leaders from across ITU's six regions for a two-year term.

10. What are the planned activities for the second cohort of the YAB?

- Participate in four Board meetings with the ITU Secretary-General per year
- In small working groups based on areas of interest and experience, prepare two YAB thematic briefs and recommendations to the ITU Secretary-General per year
- Fully funded travel to ITU HQ in Geneva, Switzerland to participate in an in-person Board meeting and then the WSIS and AI for Good Global Youth Summit in June 2027
- opportunities to participate in other ITU meetings, consultations, events, podcasts and more

11. I have more questions, who can I speak with?

We are organising two virtual Information Sessions. There will be dedicated time there to ask any questions you have before the application deadline. Register now to join either of them via the links below

ITU Youth Advisory Board Information Session 1 - Friday 18 December 2026, 1500-1600 CET
ITU Youth Advisory Board Information Session 2 - Tuesday 12 January 2027, 1400-1500 CET