

How can I become an explorer?

There are no set requirements for a position as an explorer. Explorers come from many different backgrounds. Each year, National Geographic helps young explorers to follow their passions and educate people about the world we share. Through the Emerging Explorers Program, National Geographic recognizes and supports uniquely gifted and inspiring young adventurers, scientists, photographers, and storytellers—explorers who are already making a difference early in their careers. In addition, the program reflects the world's diversity by supporting young explorers who have dynamic personalities and who are making a significant contribution to world knowledge through exploration. To help them realize their potential, National Geographic awards each of them \$10,000 for research and exploration.

What qualities do I need to have to be selected as a National Geographic Emerging Explorer?

First and foremost, you should be at the beginning of a promising career in exploration. Your recent work and achievements should show a potential for future breakthroughs, discoveries, or developments that will protect and promote the natural world and educate us. However, you cannot apply or nominate yourself for the program. National Geographic relies on a network of experts who nominate new candidates each year. Candidate lists are kept confidential, and nominees are not notified that they have been nominated. Then, a big announcement is made, and it's all very exciting!

How can I be a photographer for National Geographic?

We are often asked by aspiring photojournalists for advice about entering this highly competitive field. National Geographic photographers have college degrees in a variety of disciplines. The most common majors have been journalism, anthropology, sociology or psychology, fine arts, and sciences. Our editors and photographers agree that it is important to complete a degree in a discipline other than photography. Freelancers usually come to us with at least five years of photojournalism experience or with specializations such as wildlife, underwater, nature, or aerial photography. We seek balance and a diverse blend of interests, abilities, and photographic styles in the freelancers we hire.

What if I am still studying?

If you are studying geography, photography, journalism, English, the humanities, marketing, or another area relevant to National Geographic activities, you might like to consider an internship. National Geographic offers internships across many of its departments and divisions such as journalism and multimedia. However, internships are based in Washington, D.C., and you must be attending college in America. There are many companies and organizations that are willing to offer professional work experience and training in return for your time, so it's a great way to improve your skills and make contacts in your chosen field. Good luck with your career!