Vector Scholarships in Artificial Intelligence (VSAI) Frequently Asked Questions

[see https://vectorinstitute.ai/aimasters/ for scholarship details and nomination processes]

Question: Can students apply for a VSAI?
Answer: *Students must be <u>nominated</u> by their program, they cannot apply directly.*

Question: Can programs nominate students who started their program prior to September 2018?
Answer: *Nominees must be new to program in September 2018 or be starting their AI-related program in the 2018-19 academic year (i.e. January 2019 or May 2019 start).*

Question: Is there a limit to the number of nominees that a given program can put forward?
Answer: *There is no restriction; however, as merit-based awards that are limited in number (up to 90 scholarships in total across the province), programs are expected to nominate its top candidates.*

Question: Do AI-related programs that are seeking recognition, but are not yet listed among Vector's recognized programs nominate students using Form A?
Answer: *Only programs that have been recognized can use Form A (see list: https://vectorinstitute.ai/aieducation/; all others, including those "in progress', must use Form B.*

Question: If students in a non-recognized program have yet to develop a clear study plan, can they still be nominated?
Answer: *It is a requirement that a plan of study that is demonstrably AI-related be provided for each nominee ranked using Form B. **Note that programs using Form B may have an earlier deadline for submission of materials to allow time for ranking.***

Question: At our institution, the referees' letters can only be used for the purpose of determining admission, how do we proceed?
Answer: *First, seek advice from your institution. It is generally the case that the admission to program file (inclusive of all materials) may be used for the purpose of adjudicating merit-based funding for which the student can be considered. In some cases, it may be that the use of application materials is reserved solely for the purpose of admission to program, unless the student and their referees' consent (programs would therefore seek consent in association with those nominated).*

Question: Can we submit both a Form A and a Form B? The Form B for those students who are not enrolled in the recognized AI-specialization?
Answer: *Several programs have introduced a formal AI specialization identifying those students pursuing formally designated AI-related study within a broader degree program; as such only Form A should be used to nominate top candidates.*

Question: Will the process be the same next year?
Answer: *The competition is intended to draw applicants to AI-related programs and aid universities to attract talent; therefore, the 2019-20 VSAI competition will be announced early in 2019 with the adjudication expected to be completed in spring. Further, with the information obtained through the 2018-19 competition and lessons learned, some modifications may be made.*