Applied AI Education: Vector Scholarships in Artificial Intelligence

A main goal related to applied AI education programs is to increase the number of graduates from AI-related master's programs to 1000 per year by 2023. Increasing enrolment in programs that produce graduates with the knowledge, skills and competencies sought by industry will contribute to a diverse and highly skilled AI talent pool aiding Ontario-based companies and labs in attracting and retaining newly formed talent.

To support universities in achieving this goal, Vector has introduced the *Vector Scholarships in Artificial Intelligence* (VSAI) to recognize top students enrolled in core technical AI-related STEM and complementary AI-related master's programs. These programs are recognized as contributing to building AI capacity that aligns with the needs of industry.[1]

The VSAI are expected to enhance recruitment of top tier students, increase the number of applicants to recognized AI programs, increase access to advanced AI-related master's degree programs, and build community among scholars.

VSAI are valued at $17,500 for one year.[2] Programs recognized as part of the R<u>AI</u>SE initiative may nominate suitably qualified candidates as per instructions (A) below (a list of recognized programs can be found on the Vector website: [INSERT URL HYPERLINK]). Programs not currently listed may nominate candidates based on each candidate's specific plan of study in AI as per instructions (B) below.

Eligibility for Scholarships
To be considered for a VSAI, candidates must meet all the following conditions:

1. Be accepted into a recognized full-time AI-related master's program with a September, January, or May start date OR into an applied master's program not currently recognized, but in which candidates will pursue an individualized study path that is demonstrably AI-focused.

2. Be registered in said program as a full-time student in good standing for the duration of the award.

3. Hold first-class standing (minimum of A- or equivalent) in the last two-years of study in an honours undergraduate program from a recognized university or in a recognized graduate degree program. Consideration will be given to candidates with upper second class standing (B+) and relevant experience or where extenuating circumstances apply (describe reason for consideration).

4. Have referee reports that support the candidate's excellence, both demonstrated and potential, in the AI program of study.

5. Be nominated by the program in which the master's candidate will be enrolled.

A. Nomination Process for Candidates in Recognized AI-Related Programs
Each recognized master's program must submit a completed **nomination form A** (URL) listing, in rank order from highest (1) to lowest, those eligible candidates with an offer of admission to the program that merits consideration for a scholarship (or enrolled in the program for this inaugural year only). The selection and ranking should be conducted by committee and the nomination package submitted by the Head of Department, the Chair of the Graduate program or their representative. The package should be a

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[1] Programs recognized by Vector (visit https://vectorinstitute.ai/1000aims/ for the process on acquiring recognition.
[2] For program less than 12 months in duration, the value of VSAI will be corresponding prorated.

single PDF file starting with the completed nomination form (Form A) followed by supporting documents for each nominee collated in the order presented below and in ranked order.

For each nominee, the following supporting documents must be provided:

1. A copy of the official transcript(s) upon which the candidate's admission decision was made.
2. A copy of referees' reports from the nominee's application file.
3. A statement from the applicant outlining the reason for pursuing a master's in AI, relevant AI-related experience, and career aspirations (**maximum 250 words**).

B. Nomination Process for Candidates Pursuing Individualized AI-focused Study Plan in an Applied Master's Program not Currently Recognized

For a given program not currently recognized, the program must submit a completed **nomination form B** (URL) listing, in rank order from highest (1) to lowest if more than one eligible candidate, those with an offer of admission to the program (or enrolled in the program for this inaugural year only) <u>and</u> a proposed AI-focused study plan that merits consideration for a VSAI. The proposed study plan must be approved by the Graduate Curriculum Chair or appropriate faculty advisor.

Should ranking be required, it should be conducted by committee and the nomination package submitted by the Chair of the graduate program (or delegate). The package should be a single PDF file starting with the completed nomination form (Form B) followed by supporting documents for each nominee, collated in the order presented below and in ranked order.

For each nominee, the following supporting documents must be provided:

1. A copy of the official transcript upon which the candidate's admission decision was made.
2. A copy of referees' reports from the nominee's application file.
3. A statement from the applicant outlining the reason for pursuing a master's in AI, relevant AI-related experience, and career aspirations (**maximum 250 words**).
4. A description of the candidate's program of AI-related study (e.g. course numbers & titles; capstone/project description) signed by the student and the Graduate Curriculum Chair or faculty advisor.

Submission

For this inaugural year (2018-19), programs are invited to nominate current students newly admitted in September 2018. The completed nomination form (A or B, as required) and accompanying documentation must be submitted to 1000AIMs@vectorinstitute.ai by midnight, November 9, 2018. Incomplete nominations will not be considered. Details regarding the 2019-20 competition will be distributed early in the new year.