

## R<sup>AI</sup>SE AI - Supporting Ontario's AI Eco-System

### Vector Scholarships in Artificial Intelligence

### 2019-2020 Competition Details & Eligibility

The Vector Institute's R<sup>AI</sup>SE AI initiative is a catalyst for workforce development comprising three primary activities: talent placement via internships, networking and AI community building, and master's education in AI. The support of the Province of Ontario and the commitment of Ontario's universities to recruit top talent and increase both enrolment and the number of graduates from AI-related master's programs will contribute to growing the AI talent base needed for a robust AI eco-system. The merit-based *Vector Scholarships in Artificial Intelligence* (VSAI) assist universities in attracting excellent students and deepening the pool of applicants in addition to supporting students in their pursuit of AI-related studies and building community among scholars.

Up to 115 VSAI will be awarded in 2019-20, each valued at \$17,500 for one year (prorated for programs less than 12 months duration). AI-related master's programs recognized by Vector as delivering a curriculum that equips its graduates with the skills and competencies identified by industry as essential are eligible to receive a VSAI allocation to enable early recruitment of excellent candidates (up to a total of 25 VSAI system-wide). These programs may also nominate meritorious candidates to compete for up to 90 awards in the open competition as per instructions (A) below. [A list of recognized programs can be found on Vector's website: <http://vectorinstitute.ai/aimasters/#recognizedprograms>]. Programs not currently listed may nominate top candidates based on each candidate's specific plan of study in AI as per instructions (B) below.

#### ***Eligibility for Scholarships***

For candidates to be considered for a VSAI, all the following conditions must be met:

1. Candidates must be accepted into either: A) a recognized full-time AI-related master's program; or B) a full-time master's program not currently recognized, but in which candidates will pursue an individualized plan of study that is demonstrably AI-focused.
2. Candidates must register for full-time study and begin their AI-related master's program in 2019-20.
3. Candidates must hold first-class standing (minimum of A- or equivalent) in the last two-years of study (full time equivalent) in an honours undergraduate program from a recognized university. Consideration will be given to candidates with upper second class standing (B+) and relevant work experience or where extenuating circumstances apply (describe reason for consideration).
4. Two referee reports must be completed using the downloaded fillable PDF [VSAI referee report form](#) submitted to the program in which the candidate will register. At least one of the reports must be from an academic referee. [Candidates should seek references as soon as possible and complete the top portion of the referee form before emailing the form to their referees for them to fill out]. \*
5. Candidates must supply a 250-word statement outlining their reason for pursuing a master's in AI, relevant AI-related experience, and career aspirations. \*
6. Candidates must be nominated by the program in which they intend to register.

\* Programs are asked to please communicate these requirements to AI master's applicants who may be considered for nomination for a VSAI. In addition, advise them of the name and email address of the program contact to which materials should be sent and the deadline for submission which must be in advance of Vector's submission deadline of April 5, 2019 to allow for ranking and compilation of the nomination package.

### **A. Nomination Process for Candidates in Recognized AI-Related Programs**

Each recognized master's program must submit a completed web-based **Form A** which requires uploading the [nominee table](#) listing, in rank order from highest (1) to lowest, those eligible candidates with an offer of admission to the program who merit consideration for a scholarship. The selection and ranking should be conducted by committee and the nomination package approved by the Head of Department, the Chair of the Graduate program, or their representative. The complete nomination package includes: 1) the completed web-based nomination form (**Form A**); and 2) two uploaded files: i) the ranked [nominees table](#) (word.doc), and ii) the [single](#) PDF file with all supporting documents for each nominee collated as follows [and](#) in ranked order.

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

1. A copy of the official transcript(s) including the grading system (undergraduate and, if applicable, graduate transcripts)
2. Two referees' reports ([VSAI referee report form](#))
3. A statement from the applicant (**maximum 250 words**).

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

For a program that is not currently recognized, the program must submit a completed web-based **Form B** which requires uploading the [nominee table](#) listing, in rank order from highest (1) to lowest if more than one eligible candidate, those with an offer of admission to the program who merit consideration for a VSAI. In addition, the proposed AI-focused study plan approved by the Graduate Curriculum Chair or appropriate faculty advisor must be included for each nominee (see #4 below).

Ranking should be conducted by committee, and the nomination package approved by the Head of Department, the Chair of the Graduate program, or their representative. The complete nomination package includes: 1) the completed web-based nomination form (**Form B**); and 2) two uploaded files: i) the ranked [nominees table](#) (word.doc), and ii) the [single](#) PDF file with all supporting documents for each nominee collated as follows [and](#) in ranked order.

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

1. A copy of the official transcript(s) including the grading system (undergraduate and, if applicable, graduate transcripts)
2. Two referees' reports ([VSAI referee report form](#))
3. A statement from the applicant (**maximum 250 words**).
4. A description of the candidate's AI-related study plan (e.g. course numbers & titles; capstone/project description) signed by the nominee and the Graduate Curriculum Chair or faculty advisor.

### **Eligibility to hold a VSAI**

Award recipients must be newly admitted on a full-time basis commencing in 2019-20, must remain enrolled as a full-time student and be in good standing for the duration of their tenure of the award.

### **Submission**

The completed nomination form (A or B, as required) and supporting documents must be submitted electronically (submit button on the nomination webform) no later than **4:00 pm EDT, April 5, 2019**. Incomplete and ineligible nominations will not be considered. Competition results will be communicated by noon, April 26, 2019.