

R^{AI}SE AI - Supporting Ontario's AI Eco-System

Vector Scholarships in Artificial Intelligence

2020-2021 Competition Details & Eligibility

The Vector Institute's R^{AI}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 2020-21, 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 and that have successfully competed for VSAI awards in previous competitions will receive a VSAI allocation to enable early recruitment of excellent candidates (to be communicated in early January 2020). These programs may also nominate meritorious candidates 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 2020-21 (earliest start date May 2020).
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. It is expected that the transcript will reflect preparedness for the proposed master's study. 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. Candidates must ensure that their referees submit the completed forms directly to the program in which the candidate will register. At least one of the reports must be from an academic referee. [
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.

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 corresponding grading system (both undergraduate and, if applicable, graduate transcripts)
2. Two referees' reports
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 corresponding grading system (both undergraduate and, if applicable, graduate transcripts)
2. Two referees' reports
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 2020-21, must remain enrolled as a full-time student and be in good standing for the duration of their tenure of the award.

Submission

All forms will be made available in early January 2020 when the competition launches and the key dates and deadlines will be announced on the [VSAI website](#) in July 2019.