

Vector Scholarship in AI: Webinar for Prospective Students

February 7, 2023

Johannah Thumb
Manager, Student Engagement
aimasters@vectorinstitute.ai



VECTOR INSTITUTE

Agenda

- Why study and work in Ontario?
- What is the Vector Institute and the Vector Scholarship in Artificial Intelligence?
- Eligibility Criteria
- Nomination Process
- Nomination Package & What Makes a Good One
- Q&A about Administrative Details
- Meet Current Scholarship Recipients: Fireside Chat
- Q&A for Scholarship Recipients

Welcome, Introductions & Poll Time

- Let's get to know each other and answer a few questions:
 - Where are you joining the webinar from today?
 - How many master's programs have you/are you applying to?
 - What types of master's programs are you interested in applying to?



Why study and work in Ontario?

- **Ontario is at the forefront of AI research:**
 - Home to researchers leading in groundbreaking research including Vector's Chief Scientific Advisor, Geoffrey Hinton
- **Work opportunities for international students:**
 - Many students can work part-time during their master's degrees and may be eligible for a post-graduate work permit of up to three years after a two-year degree (IRCC)
- **Safe and diverse environment:**
 - 50% of the population of Ontario's capital and most populous city, Toronto, are people born outside of Canada

Why study and work in Ontario?

- **Endless opportunities to grow your AI & analytics career:**
 - Vector's community includes AI startups, founders, and investors
- **In 2021-22**
 - **22,400 + AI jobs** were created & retained
 - **250+ companies** invested in Ontario-based AI companies
 - **22 new AI companies** were established in Ontario
 - There was a 29% year-over-year increase in **VC investment totalling \$2.76 billion**
- **140+ organizations** in Ontario hired talent from the Vector community

What is the Vector Institute?

- **World-class Research:**
 - Not-for-profit dedicated to AI research, with a focus on machine learning and deep learning
 - Community of over 700+ researchers leading in AI and publishing at top conferences
- **AI for Business:**
 - Work with Ontario businesses to foster AI applications and equip industry professionals with training and knowledge around applied AI
- **Training & Education:**
 - Vector Scholarship in Artificial Intelligence and 25 Vector recognized master's programs that respond to demand for AI talent by industry and employers
- **Health Strategy:**
 - Develop frameworks to improve access to data for AI; helping Ontario hospitals adopt ML applications and partner on data initiatives; upskilling clinicians and health professionals

What is the Vector Scholarship in AI?

- Merit-based scholarship for promising AI master's candidates entering full-time AI-related programs or study paths at Ontario universities
- Valued at up to \$17,500 CAD for one year of full-time study: will be prorated for shorter programs Nominations accepted from Core-Tech and Complementary programs
- Approximately 100 scholarships will be awarded for the 2023-24 cycle
 - **Only students beginning their master's studies are eligible**
 - Funded by the Government of Ontario to support Vector's mandate for AI workforce development

Benefits to Scholarship Recipients

- **Professional development and networking events**
 - career supports to prepare for AI internship/job search
 - build connections with fellow students and industry representatives
 - explore career pathways and opportunities
- **Research talks and events**
- **Vector Digital Talent Hub** curated platform of AI-related internship and career opportunities with top Canadian employers
- **Recruitment and career-focused events**
- **Access to the Vector community** including AI professionals, researchers, fellow recipients, and alumni

Eligibility Criteria

- **Entering a full-time master's program in an AI-related field at an Ontario university for the 2023-24 academic year**
 - Spring 2023, Fall 2023, or Winter 2024 starts
 - Vector-recognized master's program OR include individualized study plan that is demonstrably AI-focused (3+ components)
- **Hold first-class standing (minimum of A- or equivalent) in the last two years of full-time equivalent study from a recognized university**
 - Typically 20 half-courses, can include graduate and undergraduate degrees
 - A- equivalent on the 4.3 GPA scale is 3.7
 - Nominees with upper second class standing (B+ or 3.3 GPA) and relevant work experience may be considered, but must include rationale for consideration in package

Nomination Process

- Students do not apply directly for the scholarship but are nominated by your prospective program(s) of study.
 - Vector does not have a limit on the number of programs that can nominate you.
- Review the eligibility criteria and contact your program to let them know you are interested in being nominated.
 - Some institutions or programs may have internal application forms to complete.
- Should the program decide to nominate you, provide all completed forms to documentation **in advance of internal deadlines**.
- The program will submit all nominees to Vector Institute by March 22, 2023.

What does a strong nomination package look like?

- **Transcripts:**

- Choice of coursework-do you have relevant AI-related courses? Do your previous academic studies prepare you well for your proposed master's degree?
- Performance in courses- did you perform well in relevant courses? Relative to your cohort?
- Overall GPA

- **Referee forms:**

- How well did your referees rank you relative to your peers?
- How well does your referee know you and in what context?
- In the open text section, do your referee's comments support and explain their ratings of you?
- At least one academic reference is required – should be an instructor or faculty member from an accredited university

What does a strong nomination package look like?

- **Student statement:**
 - Written in your own words
 - Do a spelling and grammar check
 - You have clearly defined your drive/motivation for pursuing the degree and career ambitions. It is well-described and realistic?
 - Describe relevant AI-related experience and detail why it makes you a standout candidate
 - Be concise: 250 words or less

What does a strong nomination package look like?

- **CV:**
 - Emphasize past work, research, and/or project experiences and how they will help you be successful in your program.
 - Does your overall CV show how you will be successful in your master's program and beyond?
 - Demonstrate extra-curricular or co-curricular leadership
 - Include publications and AI-related conferences, especially if you are pursuing a research program
 - No more than 2 pages
- **Self-Identification Questionnaire:** needs to be submitted to program but will not be assessed

Any questions so far?



Meet Vector Scholarship in Artificial Intelligence recipients



Tarnem Afify
Master of Management
in Artificial Intelligence
expected '23,
York University
(Schulich)



Ycaro Dantas
MASc in Electrical &
Computer Engineering
expected '23,
University of Ottawa



Let's take a few
minutes to answer
your questions for the
recipients



Thanks for attending today's webinar!



aimasters@vectorinstitute.ai



[Vectorinstitute.ai/scholarship](https://vectorinstitute.ai/scholarship)



[Bit.ly/Aiundergrads](https://bit.ly/Aiundergrads)



[Bit.ly/VectorYoutube](https://bit.ly/VectorYoutube)

