2020 Esri Young Scholars Award

Esri Canada is pleased to announce the 2020 Esri Young Scholars Award program. The award is available to any student at a Canadian university or college subject to the terms and conditions listed below.

- Applicants need to have used Esri GIS technology to complete a project or conduct interesting research.
- Applicants must be enrolled full-time in an undergraduate or graduate program or have graduated within the current academic year (i.e., post-September 2019) from a university or college in Canada.
- The successful candidate’s poster (see below under What to Submit) will be submitted to Esri for display at the User Conference in San Diego. All submissions must fully comply with U.S. Export laws and all other applicable laws.
- The successful candidate will be responsible for obtaining the necessary visas for their visit (if applicable).
- The successful candidate will need to have or create an Esri Account in order to attend the user conference.
- The successful candidate will need to submit a self-photo for inclusion in a Story Map of all the international winners.

Highlights of the Young Scholar program include:

- Airfare and living expenses (accommodations and per diem) for you to attend the annual Education Summit @ Esri UC (July 11-14, 2020) and Esri User Conference (UC, July 13-17, 2020) in San Diego, California.
- Complimentary registration for both conferences.
- Attending social events to meet other international Young Scholars.
- Displaying and presenting your work and interacting with other Young Scholar recipients at the UC Map Gallery Opening and Reception.
- Attending the Special Achievement in GIS (SAG) Award Ceremony to receive formal recognition for your award.
- Participating in the Facebook group for international Young Scholars.

What to submit

If you meet the terms and conditions and you would like to be considered for the award, you must submit the following no later than 5:00 pm Eastern Time Friday, February 28, 2020:

- A poster that highlights the objectives, methods and results of your use of Esri technology and meets the following requirements. Additional guidelines for the poster are available at scholars.esri.ca.
  - Posters must be created only by the applicant (i.e. no group work).
  - Posters must be submitted in portable document format (PDF).
  - Poster orientation must be portrait for the display boards in San Diego and the dimensions must be 24” width x 36” height (60.96 cm x 91.44 cm).
  - For quality printing, all maps and graphics must be high resolution, minimum 300 dpi.
A summary paper that explains your work. Additional guidelines for the paper are available at scholars.esri.ca.

- Papers should be between 800-1000 words.
- Include maps and additional diagrams as and where appropriate to explain your research.

A personal statement describing your experience with GIS and why you want to attend the Esri UC.

- Statement should not be longer than 2 pages, minimum 11 pt. font.

Academic transcripts for all post-secondary education. (Official transcripts are not required; however, the transcripts must show cumulative average or an equivalent indication of standing. Graduate students and students enrolled in post-secondary diploma or certificate programs should provide a record of their undergraduate education.)

Full contact information. (First and last name, email address, phone number, and mailing address.)

Institution name and program of study.

Applications are to be submitted via the form available at scholars.esri.ca.

Selection criteria

Submissions will be judged based on content as well as poster design and presentation and paper organization and clarity.

Applicants’ academic standing, experience with GIS and specifically Esri technology, and reasons for wanting to attend the Esri UC will also be taken into account.

If you have any questions at all, please feel free to contact us at highered@esri.ca.

We look forward to receiving your submission.

Best regards,

G. Brent Hall PhD | Director
Education and Research

Jon Salter PhD | Associate Director
Education and Research
Esri Young Scholars Award – FAQ for Canada’s 2020 Competition

Award Details

Q: What will the winning student receive?

A: The student who wins the Esri Young Scholar Award will receive complimentary registration for the Education Summit @ Esri UC and Esri User Conference; airfare to and from San Diego; hotel and per diem for their stay in San Diego; an acrylic award; a photo with Jack Dangermond; and an ArcGIS for Personal Use license.

Registration, transportation, accommodation and per diem will be coordinated by Esri Canada in consultation with the winning student.

Q: Will a conference pass be issued for both the Education Summit and UC?

A: Yes, both the Education Summit @ Esri UC and the Esri UC are included.

Q: How many nights’ accommodation will be covered?

A: Seven nights maximum (check-in no earlier than Friday, July 10; check-out no later than Friday, July 17). The student must provide a hotel receipt.

Arrangements will be made for the student to share accommodations with Esri Canada staff unless the student has a specific need for individual accommodations. In the latter case, there may be a maximum dollar amount that is covered per night with the student responsible for anything over that amount.

Q: Will Esri pay for the student’s Visas?

A: No. Students will need to make their own arrangements for a Tourist Visa, if needed.

Q: Will transportation be reimbursed for the student once they arrive?

A: No. Car rentals and limo or taxi services are not authorized for reimbursement, other than travel to and from respective airports.

Q: What special events will there be for the international Young Scholars?

A: Young Scholars will have a social event during the Education Summit to meet and network; will be on hand to discuss their posters in the special display area during the Map Gallery Opening and Reception; and will attend the Special Achievement in GIS award ceremony to receive their award and take a group photo with Jack Dangermond. Date, time and location for these events and any others that may be of interest to the Young Scholars will be sent prior to the conference.

Note that participation in all special events for Young Scholars is required.

Q: When will the student receive their award and take a group photo?

A: This will be a joint event at the SAG Award Ceremony.
Q: What should the winner do to get the most out of the conference?

A: Esri will provide an agenda for the Young Scholars activities.

The winner should consult with members of Esri Canada’s Education and Research group for suggested seminars/presentations/events.

Eligibility and Application

Q: What is the application deadline?

A: The application deadline for the 2020 competition is 5 pm ET, February 28, 2020.

Q: If the student graduated within the last year, are they eligible?

A: Students who officially graduated, meaning they received their degree, diploma or certificate, prior to September 2019 and are not currently enrolled in a full-time program are not eligible.

Students who officially graduated in September 2019 or later or who have completed their program requirements and are not enrolled in any courses for the Winter 2020 term but have not yet officially graduated may be eligible. They should contact highered@esri.ca to confirm their eligibility before submitting an application.

Q: Can students who applied last year but were unsuccessful apply again?

A: Yes. Previous applicants, whether they were successful or unsuccessful, may apply again provided they meet all of the requirements.

Q: How will the winner be selected? Are there any specific criteria?

A: The winner will be selected by a panel of judges.

Applicants must have used Esri technology to complete a thesis/research project or conduct interesting research. They must be enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program at a Canadian college or university, or have very recently graduated (see above).

To apply, students must submit a poster and a summary paper on their project or research. Format requirements can be found at https://scholars.esri.ca/eyapplication/. They must also submit a personal statement describing their experience with GIS and why they want to attend the Esri UC, an academic transcript and full contact information. Official, hard copy transcripts are not required. Transcripts obtained through a college or university’s online system will be accepted.

Submissions will be judged based on content as well as poster design and presentation and paper organization and clarity. Applicants’ academic standing, experience with GIS and specifically Esri technology, and reasons for wanting to attend the Esri UC will also be taken into account.

The winner will be asked to submit a photo to be used in a Story Map of the international winners.

Q: Can more than one winner be selected?
A: No. Esri’s program will accommodate only one student. However, Esri Canada may choose to award honourable mentions to a small number of students at its discretion.

Q: What will happen with the submitted posters?

A: The winner’s poster will be sent to Esri for display during the UC. All submissions (candidates) therefore must fully comply with U.S. Export laws and all other applicable laws.

A selection of posters from non-winners may be displayed throughout the year at Esri Canada User Conferences or other education events sponsored by Esri Canada and may also be displayed online.

Q: Will the student be responsible for printing and bringing their own work for display?

A: No. Esri Graphics department will print their work. For quality printing all images and graphics must be high resolution in the range of 300 dpi.

Any other questions can be addressed to highered@esri.ca.