

Esri Young Scholars Award – FAQ for Canada’s 2024 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, passes for both the Education Summit @ Esri UC and the Esri UC are included. The winning student will be provided with instructions on how to register.

Q: How many nights’ accommodation will be covered?

A: Seven nights maximum (check-in no earlier than Friday, July 12; check-out no later than Friday, July 19). The student must provide a hotel receipt.

Arrangements will be made for the winning 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. The winning student will need to make their own arrangements for a Tourist Visa, if needed.

Q: Will transportation within San Diego be reimbursed for the winning student?

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 winning student receive the acrylic award and ArcGIS for Personal Use license?

A: The winning student will receive the acrylic award during the Special Achievement in GIS award ceremony at the UC.

Since students often have access to ArcGIS software through their institutions and may not wish to receive an additional license, the Personal Use license will be provided on request. The winning student will have until December 15, 2024, to request the license.

Q: What should the winning student do to get the most out of the conference?

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

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

Q: Will there be any other prizes?

A: Yes. Up to two (2) additional bursaries and Esri Press eBooks may be awarded to meritorious students at the discretion of the judges.

Eligibility and Application

Q: What is the application deadline?

A: The application deadline for the 2024 competition is **5 p.m. EDT, March 25, 2024**. Applications are to be submitted via the form available at scholars.esri.ca

Q: What are the application requirements?

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

To apply, students must submit a poster and a story map on their project or research. Format requirements can be found at <https://scholars.esri.ca/students/eys>. The story map must be public (shared with everyone).

Students must also submit a personal statement describing their experience with GIS and future plans, an academic transcript and contact information. Official, hard copy transcripts are not required. Transcripts obtained through a college or university's online system will be accepted.

The winning student will be asked to submit a photo to be used in a story map of the international Young Scholars, such as the [one for 2022 award winners](#).

Q: Do submissions need to be in English?

A: No. Students may submit the required documents in either English or French.

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 2023 and are not currently enrolled in a full-time program are *not* eligible.

Students who officially graduated in September 2023 or later or who have completed their program requirements and are not enrolled in any courses for the Winter 2024 term but have not yet officially graduated may be eligible. They should contact scholars@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 winning student be selected?

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

Submissions will be judged based on content as well as poster design and presentation and story map organization and clarity. Applicants' academic standing, experience with GIS and specifically with Esri technology will also be taken into account.

Q: Can more than one student be selected to win?

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 the discretion of the judges.

Q: What will happen with the submitted posters?

A: The winning student's poster will be sent to Esri for display during the UC. All submissions (candidates) therefore must [comply with U.S. Export laws](#) and all other applicable laws, including [copyright laws](#). The winning student will be required to sign a consent form to display their work.

A selection of posters from non-winners may be displayed throughout the year at Esri Canada events and may also be displayed online.

Q: What will happen with the submitted story maps?

A: All submitted story maps must be public (shared with everyone). After the application deadline has passed, Esri Canada may choose to share the story maps in a gallery or a group and publicize them in a blog post or through other means. See, for example, [Canada's 2023 Esri Young Scholars](#).

Any applicants using an ArcGIS Online account from their college or university should ensure that their content will not be deleted from the organization before the end of 2024.

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