

Esri Young Scholars Award – FAQ for Canada’s 2025 Competition

Eligibility

Q: Who is eligible to apply?

A: Any student currently enrolled full-time in an undergraduate or graduate program at a college or university in Canada is eligible to apply. This includes students enrolled in college diploma or certificate programs.

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

A: A student whose degree, diploma or certificate has been conferred, meaning officially awarded, and who is not currently enrolled in a full-time program is *not* eligible.

Students who have completed their program requirements and are not enrolled in any courses for the Winter 2025 term but have not yet had their degree, diploma or certificate conferred *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: Do students need to be enrolled in a specific program to be eligible to apply?

A: No. Students enrolled in any program are eligible to apply. However, they must have used Esri technology to complete a project or conduct interesting research in the context of their program.

Application

Q: What is the application deadline?

A: The application deadline for the 2025 competition is **8 p.m. EDT, March 19, 2025**. Applications are to be submitted via the form available at scholars.esri.ca

Q: What are the application requirements?

A: Applicants must meet the eligibility requirements (see above): be currently enrolled full-time in an undergraduate or graduate program at a Canadian college or university and have used Esri technology to complete a thesis/research project or conduct interesting research as part of their program.

To apply, students must submit:

1. A poster that highlights the objectives, methods and results of their use of Esri technology.
2. A story map that further explains the work presented in the poster. The story map must be public (shared with everyone).
3. A brief personal statement describing their experience with GIS, future plans using GIS, and why they want to attend the Esri User Conference (UC).

4. Academic transcripts for all post-secondary education. Official, hard copy transcripts are not required. Transcripts obtained through a college or university's online system will be accepted.
5. An application form.

Format requirements and a link to the application form can be found at <https://scholars.esri.ca/students/eys>.

The winning student will be asked to submit a photo that will be displayed with their poster in the Map Gallery, and provide additional information for the purposes for processing the award.

Q: Do submissions need to be in English?

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

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 2024 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 2025.

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 11, 2025; check-out no later than Friday, July 18, 2025). The student must provide a hotel receipt.

Arrangements will be made for the winning student to stay in the same hotel as Esri Canada staff.

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 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, 2025, 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: Up to two (2) additional bursaries and Esri Press eBooks may be awarded to meritorious students at the discretion of the judges.

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