Top Ontario students pursuing graduate studies in AI receive nearly $2 million in scholarships from Vector

- *106 recipients will receive a $17,500 merit-based scholarship from the Vector Institute for the 2023-24 academic year.*
- *Now in its sixth year, the Vector Scholarship in Artificial Intelligence helps attract top AI talent in the province.*
- *Over 1,000 students have graduated from Ontario AI master's programs this year.*

TORONTO, May 3, 2023 – Today, the Vector Institute announced the 106 winners of the 2023-24 Vector Scholarship in Artificial Intelligence (VSAI). Valued at $17,500, these merit-based scholarships recognize top candidates pursuing studies in either [Vector-recognized master's programs](#), which provide students with the AI skills and competencies sought by employers, or individual AI study paths in Ontario.

"The Vector Institute is thrilled by the caliber and diversity of this year's cohort of talented students," said Melissa Judd, Vector's Vice President, Research Operations and Academic Partnerships. "The growth in the number and breadth of AI programs also speaks to AI's increasingly central place in our university curriculum. Programs like the Vector Scholarship in Artificial Intelligence are ensuring that Ontario is attracting top talent to enable AI adoption to fuel the province's economy."

This year's recipients are pursuing master's degrees in a range of programs from engineering to computer science, health informatics, business analytics, and more. The cohort received almost $2 million in total scholarship funding. After graduation, they will join Ontario's growing pool of workforce-ready AI talent.

"I was ecstatic when I received the email notifying me that I had been selected as a Vector Scholarship in Artificial Intelligence Recipient," says Pooja Sharma, who is pursuing a Master of Health Informatics (MHI) at the University of Toronto. "This scholarship is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that is going to open new doors for me and many other recipients."

The Vector Scholarship in AI attracts top talent to AI master's programs across Ontario and is part of a suite of programs run by Vector that connects highly skilled talent with companies adopting AI. Since 2018, Ontario companies and organizations have hired more than 850 Vector-affiliated students from AI master's programs, including VSAI recipients.

This sixth round of VSAI recipients will attend 14 universities across Ontario. There have been 567 scholarships awarded since the program launched in 2018, with many scholarship recipients joining newly created AI master's programs. The goal to graduate 1,000 AI master's students annually by 2023 has been achieved, with over 1,000 students graduating from Ontario AI master's programs for the second year in a row.

"This scholarship will not only help me financially but also help me to accelerate and aid my learning as a student. I am sure that this scholarship is going to be a turning point in my career," says Mehakdeep Dhothar, a future Master of Engineering in Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Ottawa. "Moreover, I look forward to joining the Vector community, connecting with fellow AI enthusiasts, and working together to provide AI solutions for real-world problems."

Scholarship recipients and students enrolled in master's programs recognized by the Vector Institute attend events and talks that put them face-to-face with top AI researchers, and teams from top Canadian employers, providing unique access to career opportunities. The master's students are also provided with access to Vector's *Digital Talent Hub*, career development and networking events, and AI-specific professional development programming to ensure they are ready to join the workforce.

2024-25 scholarship competition dates will be announced in Fall 2023. Learn more at: vectorinstitute.ai/scholarship.

Explore Vector's list of 2023 recipients here.

About the Vector Institute

Launched in 2017, the Vector Institute works with industry, institutions, start-ups, and governments to build AI talent and drive research excellence in AI to develop and sustain AI-based innovation to foster economic growth and improve the lives of Canadians.

Vector aims to advance AI research, increase adoption in industry and health through programs for talent, commercialization, and application, and lead Canada towards the responsible use of AI. Programs for industry, led by top AI practitioners, offer foundations for applications in products and processes, company-specific guidance, training for professionals, and connections to workforce-ready talent.

Vector is funded by the Province of Ontario, the Government of Canada through the *Pan-Canadian AI Strategy*, and leading industry sponsors from across multiple sectors of Canadian Industry.

For further information or media enquiries, please contact: media@vectorinstitute.ai