

Esri Development Center (EDC) Program for Higher Education



ArcGIS is a platform—a foundation upon which geospatial professionals build custom solutions that meet their organizations’ particular needs. Graduates of higher education programs in GI systems and science who can code software and build apps are highly sought after by employers. The Esri Development Center (EDC) program confers special status and benefits upon a select few leading university departments that challenge their students to develop innovative applications based upon the ArcGIS platform. This can include programs that help students advance and extend Esri’s core software or that provide training in system integration and application development within a particular domain. EDCs may be degree-granting academic departments or GIS research and development centers within higher education institutions that maintain an Esri Education Site License. Students affiliated with EDC programs gain special access to Esri software and have opportunities to be recognized for their accomplishments.

EDC Benefits

- 1) Direct access to Esri Developer Network (EDN) technical support.
- 2) Two (2) complimentary registrations to the annual Esri International Developer Summit in Palm Springs, California. EDC student participation in the Dev Summit is particularly encouraged.
- 3) Two complimentary Esri Instructor-led training courses per year (on request).
- 4) A certificate and monetary award for one student named “EDC Student of the Year.” From the set of all EDC student awardees, Esri president Jack Dangermond selects a most outstanding student for special recognition at the Annual Esri International Users Conference in San Diego.
- 5) Special recognition for students completing an EDC-based degree program when applying for [Esri Internships](#) at the corporate headquarters in Redlands, California.
- 6) A plaque to recognize the EDC Students of the Year.
- 7) Use of the Esri EDC emblem on promotional materials (e.g., web pages, brochures) and documents that acknowledge student achievements (e.g., certificates, awards).

Eligibility Criteria

- 1) Have a vision and a plan to play a leadership role in GIS education.

- 2) Have faculty and staff who are competent to supervise student software and app development projects.
- 3) Offer formal and informal educational programs, courses, workshops, and advising that help students learn to develop custom applications using the ArcGIS platform and related technologies.
- 4) Be part of an accredited higher education institution that maintains an Esri Education Site License Agreement (solely or jointly with related institutions).

Expectations

- 1) Name and document the achievements of an annual Student of the Year award winner (due March 15th).
- 2) Respond to an annual survey about faculty and student activities related to EDC program goals (due May 15th).
- 3) Sponsor student presentations at one or more of the following events:
 - Esri International Developer Summit (<http://www.esri.com/events/devsummit/>) or regional equivalent (preferred event)
 - Esri-sponsored Dev Meetups
 - Esri International User Conference (<http://www.esri.com/events/user-conference>) or regional equivalent
 - Esri Education GIS Conference (<http://www.esri.com/events/educ>)
- 4) Provide Esri with information regarding the specific ArcGIS software applications being developed, so that we can help promote the EDC's efforts.

The Esri Development Center designation is conferred by invitation only. EDC's retain their status by fulfilling the expectations outlined above.