Call for Geospatial Fellows and Mentors (CAG 2026)

The CAG GIS Study Group invites applications for up to five (5) **Geospatial Fellows** and 10+ **Mentors** to participate in a half-day, in-person **mentorship workshop + roundtable clinic** at the 2026 Annual Meeting at University of Victoria.

Event overview

This event is designed to support emerging scholars (Fellows) at high-leverage stages of project development (e.g., early-stage thesis design, a key methods decision, or a pivot point in scope). Fellows will benefit from presenting their project-in-progress and gaining feedback from Mentors (faculty, practitioners, researchers).

Date and time: June 1, 2026 (afternoon) at UVic

Format:

1. **Welcome + mentorship framing** (30 min)
2. **Fellowship Showcase** (2.5 hours): each Fellow gives a **10-minute project-in-progress talk,** followed by **20 minutes** of facilitated, structured discussion (30 minutes per Fellow)
3. **Open mentorship clinic** (60 min): themed roundtables hosted by Mentors (e.g., participatory GIS, spatial modelling, GeoAI, open data, cartography)

Attendance will be open to CAG members across all Study Groups. We encourage emerging scholars (students and early career faculty), as well as established scholars, to attend.

Please find the **Call for Fellows** and **Call for Mentors** below.

Call for Fellows

We welcome applications from:

- Senior undergraduate honours students
- MSc / PhD students
- Postdoctoral scholars
- Early career scholars

We especially encourage applications from potential Fellows who would benefit from targeted feedback on **research design, methodological choices, and project scoping**.

Eligibility: Applicants must be CAG members in good standing at the time of application and able to attend in person at CAG 2026. This opportunity is available whether or not you are presenting at the conference.

Fellows will receive:

- Structured, high-value feedback from a diverse set of Geospatial Mentors and peers
- A supportive venue to workshop a project at a decision point
- **$400 presenter honorarium (token of appreciation)** for their contribution as a featured presenter in the mentorship showcase. The honorarium is issued **after participation** and is **not** intended as financial support to attend the conference; Fellows are responsible for their own conference registration and travel costs.

Fellows will be selected via an open, competitive call with attention to:

1. Clarity of the research question or core problem and the need for a geospatial approach
2. Readiness for feedback at this project stage (e.g., early-stage, decision moment)
3. Diversity across institutions, regions, topics, and Study Group affiliations

Adjudication committee: GIS Study Group Executive (Victoria Fast, Rob Feick, Liliana Perez) plus two student representatives (Stella Harden, Ben Woodward).

Apply by submitting the following in a single PDF:

1. **Project snapshot (max 200 words)**
    - Research question + why a geospatial approach is essential
    - Current stage and the "decision point(s)" you are working through
    - Data/methods you're considering (even if preliminary)
2. **Fellowship readiness (max 200 words)**
    - What exactly would you like input on? (e.g., design, methods, evaluation strategy, feasibility, ethics/participation, communication/cartography)
    - How would being a Geospatial Fellow support your project development?
3. **CV or resume**
4. **CAG membership confirmation** (member number or screenshot is fine)
5. **Availability confirmation** (that you will be attending the CAG conference in person)

Please name your PDF: **GeospatialFellow_FirstName_LastName.pdf**

Submit to: victoria.fast@ucalgary.ca
Subject line: "Geospatial Fellowship Application: FirstName LastName"
Deadline: Friday, March 6 at 11:59 PM Pacific time
Notifications by: mid-March
Questions: GIS Study Group Chair, Dr. Victoria Fast (Victoria.fast@ucalgary.ca)

Call for Mentors

We are also recruiting **volunteer Mentors** (faculty, senior researchers, and practitioners) to participate in the structured discussions during the Fellowship Showcase and/or host a themed roundtable in the mentorship clinic.

Mentors qualifications:

- Faculty members and senior researchers
- Experienced practitioners in government, non-profit, or industry settings
- Postdoctoral scholars or advanced PhD candidates with strong methodological expertise

Mentors will be invited to:

- Provide constructive feedback in the Fellowship Showcase discussions (in a facilitated format), and/or
- Host or co-host a themed clinic roundtable (e.g., analysis techniques, spatial modelling, GeoAI, open data, cartography, qualitative GIS, visualization, validation/uncertainty, research design) to provide research support to attendees.

Mentor selection and incentives

Mentors will be selected to ensure **breadth of expertise, sector representation, and institutional diversity** across the event. Mentors will receive:

- Recognition in event materials
- Inclusion in CAG/GIS Study Group communications and post-event profiles
- Hosted coffee/tea/snacks during the session

Mentor registration and GIS Study Group profile

Mentors are asked to register and create a short profile for the GIS Study Group website.

Register and create your mentor profile here: https://arcg.is/9mrjP0.

We look forward to bringing Fellows and Mentors together to support the next generation of geospatial researchers, and to strengthen connections across the CAG community.