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# Building Success: You & AIA

A resource guide for architecture students.

## Introduction

The American Institute of Architects is invested in the next generation and want to support students and emerging professionals through every stage of professional development. This document includes information and resources to help you advance your academic and professional career.

## Student opportunities

### Kick-start your career

1. Scholarships & awards
  - The Architects Foundation provides **scholarship** funding to both individual students and directly to universities through nine different programs.
  - The Medal for Academic Excellence is awarded annually to the top graduating student in each NAAB accredited program.
  - In the AIA/AIAS **CRIT** Scholar research program, eight recipients receive \$1,000 each toward research projects and are matched with a mentor. Applications open in the Fall of 2023 with a December deadline.
2. Competitions
  - AIA is a sponsor of the U.S. Department of Energy **Solar Decathlon**<sup>®</sup>, a collegiate competition that has inspired thousands of students worldwide to enter the clean energy workforce since its inception in 2002.
  - The **COTE Top Ten for Students** is a competition that challenges students, working individually or in teams, to submit projects that use a thoroughly integrated approach to architecture, natural systems, and technology to provide architectural solutions that protect and enhance the environment. Winning students and their faculty sponsors will receive cash prizes. Registration opens early spring each year.
3. Professional development & networking
  - The **AIA Conference on Architecture & Design** is the architecture and design event of the year. Held annually in June, students may take advantage of the \$35 registration rate!
  - AIA and the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA) jointly host an annual **Intersections Research Conference** dedicated to strengthening the intersection between academia and design practice.
  - Each year, 20 students are selected to be a part of the **Women's Leadership Summit** Student Delegation. This special opportunity is coordinated in conjunction with local NAAB accredited architecture programs.

**Overview** page for student resources.

## Post-grad opportunities

### Get further, faster

#### 1. Scholarships & Grants

- [Jason Pettigrew Memorial ARE Scholarship](#)—scholarship recipients receive funds to cover the cost of the ARE, as well as study materials.
- [AIA Arthur N. Tuttle Jr. Graduate Fellowship in Health Facility Planning and Design](#)—supports graduate students and young architects in training, increasing their awareness of the needs and nature of healthcare facilities.
- [YAF-LFRT Future Forward Grant](#)—supports early career professionals in the testing of new ideas that disrupt the traditional conception of practice, process, and product in the field of architecture.

#### 2. Awards

- [AIA Associates Award](#)—recognizes outstanding Associate member leaders and creative thinkers for significant contributions to their communities and the architecture profession.
- [Young Architects Award](#)—recognizes architects licensed 10 years or less who have demonstrated exceptional leadership early in their career.

#### 3. Professional development and networking

- [Free Associate AIA membership](#), for up to 18 months following graduation.
- [AIAU](#) hosts an extensive catalog of inexpensive professional development tutorials and workshops. HSW credits count toward AXP hours, up to 20 credits.
- In addition to AIA National there are over 200 chapters in the US and abroad who coordinate a variety of programs and partnerships. Tap into the [chapter closest to you](#) at school as well as wherever you plan to be after you graduate.
- Join one or more of the 21 [Knowledge Communities](#) that share your passions and interests.
- Get involved with the [National Associates Committee](#) which supports emerging professionals.

#### 4. Resources

- [AIA Guides for Equitable Practice](#) including the new supplement, Equity in Architectural Education
- [AIA Compensation Report & Salary Calculator](#)
- [AIA Best Practices](#) collection of relevant, experience-based knowledge and expert advice on firm management, project delivery, contracts and more.
- [Framework for Design Excellence](#)
- Reach out to your [local chapter](#) and ask about additional programs, leadership opportunities and scholarships.

**Overview page for post-graduation resources.**