

Frequently Asked Questions ^[1]

What is GEOSTAT?

GEOSTAT is a series of Summer Schools specialized in spatio-temporal data analysis using R and Open Source GIS tools. It is an academic society which is moderated by the lecturers. GEOSTAT is non-profit which means that we do not have any bank account and we do not offer commercial services. Our main objective is to promote Open Source software tools for spatial analysis / geoinformatics. In short, GEOSTAT is UseR summer school for people doing spatial analysis. It is when people around R-sig-geo ^[2] and OSGeo ^[3] come to meet and hang out.

There are two types of GEOSTAT Summer Schools: (1) *the annual meeting* (the big GEOSTAT) and (b) *the local Summer School* (the local GEOSTAT with usually only 3-4 lecturers).

I'm not a PhD student, can I also apply?

Yes. Most of the participants of GEOSTAT Summer Schools are PhD students, but this is not a requirement (you should, however, be aware that people attending are usually in the age group 25-35).

Who can register for the Summer Schools?

GEOSTAT is an open platform for collaboration. We do not look at your age, sex, race, profession, passport, your financial capabilities... On the other hand, we do have to rank the applicants because we typically get 2-3 more applications than places. At the moment, selection of candidates follows a ranking system ^[4], which is based on: solidarity, academic output and contributions to the open source projects. To remove geographical bias, participants coming from more distant areas have a priority on the rankings list. Participants from ODA-listed countries ^[5] typically receive a subsidized price for the accommodation and registration costs.

What are my chances to get selected for GEOSTAT?

If you have contributed to the Open Source community already (i.e. developed and published software, organized workshops, published high quality scientific publication on FOSS, or produced Open Access materials) then they are pretty high. Otherwise, you need to hurry and register a.s.a.p.

How much does GEOSTAT costs?

GEOSTAT is a non-profit society and all the lecturers are volunteers. The costs for the

summer school are typically in the range 300-400 EUR; **these cover the actual costs ? no profits are made.** Accommodation and local transportation is not included in this price. The final price is determined after we receive all registrations and after all lecturers provide the details about their travel arrangements. If you compare the costs of attending some academic conference and registration costs for GEOSTAT - we are cheap. We actually prefer to come to smaller towns, and work under simple arrangements because the costs drop drastically. Read more about the [payment and refunding policy](#) ^[6].

Do we provide scholarships or some kind of a subsidy?

GEOSTAT is usually organized with a tight budget and we do not have any special additional fund for awarding scholarships or such. Participants employed by the institutions and/or companies from [ODA-listed countries](#) ^[5] (regardless of the nationality) and/or full time students, however, typically can apply for a subsidized price (up to 50% discount) and are offered subsidized accommodation costs (e.g. bed in a shared room). PhD studies in various country are organized in different way, so PhD students can only apply for a student discount if they have a proof of full time student status (i.e. a copy of a student card or letter from the university certifying student rights).

Do I need to have approval from my supervisor / budget holder before I apply for the GEOSTAT?

Registration for the GEOSTAT does not necessarily mean that you will be invited (hence you become first an applicant, then a participant). After we publish the rankings, and if you are indeed accepted, we will send you a formal invitation letter specifying the registration costs, daily programme etc. After that you will typically have 1-2 months to get approval/support from your supervisor and organize the funding.

I've already been on one GEOSTAT, can I come again?

Yes. We accept also participants from previous GEOSTAT events (you need to register! and go through the same selection procedure). The fact that people like to come back to GEOSTAT is probably a good sign.

When/where will be next GEOSTAT be held?

At the end of each GEOSTAT summer school we publish an open call to host the next Summer School. The lecturers then vote for the best candidate and the winner is announced some 6-7 months before the date. Most GEOSTAT Summer Schools so far have been held in Europe (with exception of one in Australia and in Quebec City, Canada), but we are open to suggestions / ideas. We support any similar activity to promote Open Source tools in your country / continent, and we would love to host all your materials on this website (provided that it get's approved by the [GEOSTAT scientific committee](#) ^[4]).

Can I get ECTS ^[7] points for GEOSTAT?

At the moment no. We are considering this, but because GEOSTAT moves from place to place, this is often difficult to achieve.

Upon finishing GEOSTAT will I really be able to call my self an R / spatial

analysis expert?

This is really up to you how you want to call yourself.

I would like to bring GEOSTAT to my hometown?

Then come to the next GEOSTAT to meet us, talk to us and apply to host the next Summer School.

Source URL: <https://geostat-course.org/content/frequently-asked-questions>

Links

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