

EXCELLENCE in science

University Contest

Off to You!

Hats

2000-2001
EDITION

5th
anniversary

PRIZES TO
BE WON:

TEN \$2 000 PRIZES



FOUR \$5 000 PRIZES



FIVE WORKING TRIPS OUTSIDE QUÉBEC



FOUR PAID PRACTICUMS



ONE SCHOLARSHIP

CONTEST DEADLINE: MARCH 1, 2001

Québec

Ministère
de l'Éducation

and its partners:

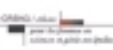
Ministère de la Recherche,
de la Science et de la Technologie

Ministère de
l'Environnement

Ministère de l'Agriculture,
des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation

Office Québec-Amériques
pour la jeunesse

GlaxoWellcome
Glaxo Wellcome Inc.,
Bureau d'affaires du Québec



The Ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ), in collaboration with the Ministère de la Recherche, de la Science et de la Technologie (MRST), is inviting young women enrolled in the pure sciences, computer studies or engineering to participate in EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE, the new university-level contest that is part of the *Hats Off to You!* competition. The EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE contest is open specifically to all women students enrolled in a program leading to a bachelor's degree in a scientific field in which women make up less than one-third of student enrollment.

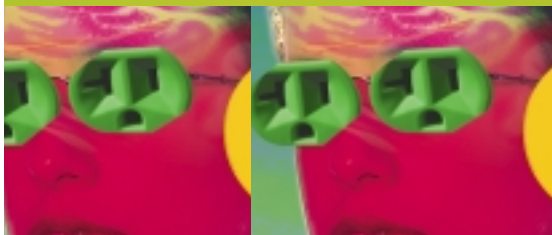
Please read this brochure carefully to find out the entry requirements and the programs of study eligible for the contest.

There is no age limit for taking part in the contest, although some conditions apply to the winners of the thematic prizes. This brochure specifies all the entry requirements for the various EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE thematic prizes.

BACKGROUND TO THE COMPETITION

The *Hats Off to You!* competition and the new EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE contest are held in all regions of Québec. The competition is organized by the MEQ status of women division (Coordination à la condition féminine), but takes place under the supervision of the educational institutions involved.

The EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE contest is aimed at getting young women to expand their career options and at encouraging those training for nontraditional occupations to persevere and get their diploma. Besides focusing on successful examples in fields in which women are underrepresented, the contest rewards academic effort and social commitment.



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PRIZES

The MEQ and the MRST will award ten \$2 000 prizes and four \$5 000 grand prizes.

The following prizes will also be awarded, thanks to the support of the businesses, unions and government departments and agencies that are partners of the EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE contest, part of the *Hats Off to You!* competition:

- 3 ▼ \$5 000 prizes awarded by Glaxo Wellcome Inc., Québec business office
- 3 ▼ working trips within the French-speaking community of Belgium organized by the Agence Québec/Wallonie Bruxelles pour la jeunesse
- 2 ▼ working trips within the Americas organized by the Office Québec-Amériques pour la jeunesse
- 1 ▼ \$1 000 prize, combined with a \$3 800 scholarship per semester for four consecutive semesters, for master's level studies at the Institut national de la recherche scientifique du Québec
- 1 ▼ summer-session practicum, worth \$6 000, offered jointly by the Chaire NSERC/Alcan pour les femmes en sciences et génie au Québec at Université Laval and the Chaire Marianne-Mareschal at the École Polytechnique de Montréal
- 1 ▼ \$2 000 prize offered by the Centrale des syndicats du Québec (CSQ)
- 1 ▼ \$2 000 prize awarded by the Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation
- 1 ▼ paid practicum in an environmental field, worth \$6 500, offered by the Ministère de l'Environnement

THE EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE AWARD CEREMONY

The winners of the EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE contest will receive their prizes at the provincial awards ceremony for the *Hats Off to You!* competition, to be held in Montréal in May 2001.

SECTION 1

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Candidates must have attended a university-level institution in Québec in 2000-2001 and have been enrolled full time in one of the programs listed in this brochure.

Important! To be eligible for a working trip outside Québec or a scholarship, candidates must meet certain special requirements. Please read the eligibility requirements on pages 7 to 11 carefully.

A candidate may be awarded more than one prize.

SECTION 2

PORTFOLIO

Each candidate must submit a portfolio containing:

- ▼ a résumé and a duly completed registration form (see pages 13 to 14)
- ▼ a recommendation from the educational institution attended (use the recommendation form on page 15)
- ▼ the candidate's most recent transcript, issued by the educational institution attended
- ▼ an essay (one or two pages, double-spaced, on letter-size paper), explaining why the candidate is interested in an occupation in which women are underrepresented, why she is suited for the occupation, and what is at stake in her career choice. In addition, the candidate should describe any personal commitment to educational, social or community issues that is likely to have an impact on Québec society.
- ▼ plus a short text (half a page to one page) pertaining specifically to the prize applied for. For example, if the candidate is applying for a working trip outside Québec, she must give the reasons for her choice. Candidates entering the competition in several categories must prepare a short text for each category. For further details, see the pages describing the various thematic prizes.



SECTION 3

ESSAY

The following questions are meant as guidelines to help participants draft their essays:

1. What are the milestones in your personal, academic or working life?
2. What motivated you to choose a nontraditional occupation?
3. What aptitudes or personal qualities do you have that will allow you to achieve fulfillment in a nontraditional occupation?
4. What are your goals for the future in your chosen occupation?
5. How does the knowledge you acquired in your program of study prepare you for your occupation?
6. Which of your actions or achievements demonstrate your social commitment?
7. Why should you be selected as a winner? Give your reasons for entering the competition.

SECTION 4

SELECTION CRITERIA

The selection panel will take the following criteria into consideration:

- ▼ Personal, academic and professional background
- ▼ Personal goals
- ▼ Knowledge of the profession and of the tasks involved
- ▼ Personal aptitudes and qualities suited to the chosen profession
- ▼ Significant actions or achievements
- ▼ Reasons for entering the contest
- ▼ Originality and presentation of the portfolio
- ▼ Academic results



SECTION 5

APPLICATION PROCESS AND DEADLINES

The candidate must:

- ▼ prepare her portfolio (résumé, registration form, recommendation form, transcript and essay or essays)
- ▼ state whether she intends to compete for one of the thematic prizes by checking the appropriate boxes on the registration form

send the completed portfolio to the following address:

EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE contest
Hats Off to You! competition

Coordination à la condition féminine
Ministère de l'Éducation
1035, rue De La Chevrotière, 20^e étage
Québec (Québec) G1R 5A5

The portfolio must be delivered
to the above address by
March 1, 2001.

PROGRAMS ELIGIBLE FOR THE EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE CONTEST

PURE SCIENCES

- 5215-Biophysics
- 5233-Applied mathematics
- 5240-Physical sciences
- 5299-Multidisciplinary (pure sciences)

APPLIED SCIENCES

- 5340-Information sciences
- 5350-Engineering
- 5352-Aerospatial, aeronautical and astronautical engineering
- 5358-Civil, construction and transportation engineering
- 5359-Electrical, electronic and communication engineering
- 5360-Mechanical engineering
- 5363-Industrial and administrative engineering
- 5364-Metallurgical and materials engineering
- 5368-Mining engineering
- 5369-Engineering physics
- 5371-Surveying
- 5373-Computer and information systems engineering
- 5375-Forestry engineering, forestry and silviculture



THEMATIC PRIZES

WORKING TRIPS OUTSIDE QUÉBEC

FRENCH-SPEAKING COMMUNITY IN BELGIUM: WALLONIA OR BRUSSELS

Three bursaries will be awarded by the Agence Québec/Wallonie Bruxelles pour la jeunesse (AQWBJ) for working trips to Wallonia or Brussels.

The bursaries will allow EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE contestants to work with a company connected to their field of study. Each trip will last from three to four weeks, will be supervised by the AQWBJ, and will take place between May 2001 and March 2002.

EACH BURSARY INCLUDES:

- ▼ registration for the program, the identification of a suitable company, an information session, and completion of the administrative formalities for obtaining a work permit and residence permit for Wallonia or Brussels
- ▼ round-trip air transportation between Montréal and Brussels
- ▼ a living allowance paid by AQWBJ or by the host company, depending on the conditions negotiated
- ▼ the first night's accommodation in Brussels

More information on the AQWBJ is available on the Web site:

www.aqwbj.org.

ELIGIBILITY

The candidate must:

- ▼ be eligible for the EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE contest of the *Hats Off to You!* competition, according to the criteria set out on page 5.
- ▼ be between 18 and 30 years of age
- ▼ be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident, domiciled in Québec for at least one year

SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

In addition to the general essay (see page 5), candidates must submit a one-page essay explaining how their participation in a working trip outside Québec will help improve mutual understanding between two French-speaking communities and cooperation in an increasingly international environment. The candidates must also state how the experience will enhance their skills and further their professional development.



THEMATIC PRIZES

WORKING TRIPS OUTSIDE QUÉBEC

▶▶ AMERICAS: UNITED STATES AND MEXICO

Two working trips will be awarded by the Office Québec-Amériques pour la jeunesse (OQAJ) to EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE contestants to complete paid practicums (lasting four to twelve weeks) in their field of study.

Each prize includes:

- ▼ round-trip air transportation between Montréal and the location of the placement in the Americas
- ▼ a living allowance paid by the OQAJ or by the host company, depending on the conditions negotiated
- ▼ a local transportation allowance for candidates who live at a distance from the point of departure
- ▼ accident and health insurance coverage
- ▼ documentation and a pre-departure information session

More information on OQAJ is available on the Web site:

www.oqaj.gouv.qc.ca.

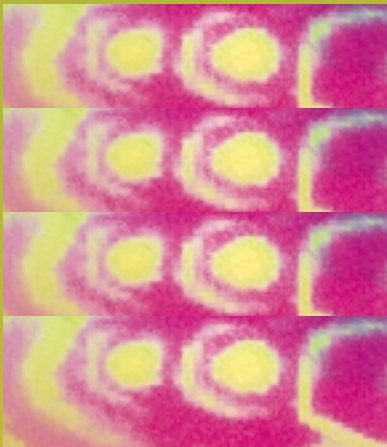
ELIGIBILITY

The candidate must:

- ▼ be eligible for the EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE contest of the *Hats Off to You!* competition, according to the criteria set out on page 5
- ▼ be between 18 and 35 years of age
- ▼ be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident, domiciled in Québec for at least one year
- ▼ possess the necessary language skills to undertake the working trip

SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

In addition to the general essay (see page 5), candidates must submit a one-page essay explaining how their participation in a working trip outside Québec will help improve mutual understanding between two countries and cooperation within the Americas. The candidates must also state how the experience will enhance their skills and further their professional development.



THEMATIC PRIZES

MASTER'S LEVEL SCHOLARSHIP AT THE INSTITUT NATIONAL DE LA RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE

A \$1 000 scholarship will be awarded by the Institut national de la recherche scientifique (INRS) to an EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE contestant who intends to pursue a master's level program in an INRS field of specialization. The prize winner will also be eligible, on starting the program, for the normal INRS financial assistance program, which provides a \$3 800 bursary per semester for four consecutive semesters.

The INRS, which is part of the Université du Québec, will provide the prize winner opportunities to interact with researchers in various fields and to compare approaches, ideas and hypotheses.

The eligible INRS programs are as follows:

▶▶ INRS-EAU, IN SAINTE-FOY (QUÉBEC CITY AREA):

- master's degree in water sciences
- with dissertation
- without dissertation

▶▶ INRS-ÉNERGIE ET MATÉRIAUX, IN VARENNES (MONTRÉAL AREA):

- master's degree in energy and materials sciences

▶▶ INRS-GÉORESSOURCES, IN SAINTE-FOY (QUÉBEC CITY AREA):

- master's degree in earth sciences
- with dissertation

INRS-TÉLÉCOMMUNICATIONS, IN MONTRÉAL (MONTRÉAL AREA):

- master's degree in telecommunications
- with dissertation
- without dissertation

ELIGIBILITY

Candidates must:

- ▼ be eligible for the EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE contest of the *Hats Off to You!* competition, according to the criteria set out on page 5
- ▼ hold a bachelor's degree in a field of study listed above, or a bachelor's degree or the equivalent in a relevant field, or possess the necessary knowledge, appropriate training and relevant experience; there must also be an adequate link between the candidates' previous training and the training required to undertake the program
- ▼ have an outstanding academic record and meet the requirements for the program selected (see www.inrs.uquebec.ca)
- ▼ state the program that interests them in their essay

THEMATIC PRIZES PAID PRACTICUMS

ENVIRONMENT

The Ministère de l'Environnement will award a 12-to-15-week paid practicum worth \$6 500 to a student in one of the following fields:

5215-Biophysics

5340-Information sciences

5350-Engineering

5358-Civil engineering

5360-Mechanical engineering

5363-Industrial and administrative engineering

5368-Mining engineering

5371-Surveying

5375-Forest engineering, forestry and silviculture

More information on the Ministère de l'Environnement is available on the Web site: www.menv.gouv.qc.ca.

ELIGIBILITY

The candidate must:

- ▼ be eligible for the EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE contest of the *Hats Off to You!* competition according to the criteria set out on page 5.
- ▼ be enrolled in a program in one of the fields of study listed above

SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

In addition to the general essay (see page 5), candidates must submit a one-page essay stating how this experience will help them enhance their skills and further their professional development.



THEMATIC PRIZES PAID PRACTICUMS

METALLURGY

The Noranda company will award two 12-week paid practicums, worth \$6 500 each.

More information on Noranda is available on the Web site:

www.noranda.com.

ELIGIBILITY

The candidate must:

- ▼ be eligible for the EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE contest of the *Hats Off to You!* competition according to the criteria set out on page 5
- ▼ be enrolled in metallurgy and materials engineering
- ▼ agree to work in one of Noranda's plants, which are located throughout Québec

SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

In addition to the general essay (see page 5), candidates must submit a one-page essay stating how this experience will help them enhance their skills and further their professional development.



UNIVERSITY LABORATORIES

The NSERC/Alcan Chair and the Chaire Marianne-Mareschal will award a paid summer-session practicum worth \$6 000 in a research laboratory at Université Laval, near Québec City, or École Polytechnique, in Montréal. The prize winner will be assigned to a laboratory according to her field of specialization.

More information on these two research chairs is available on the Web sites:

www.chairemm.polymtl.ca

and

www.fsg.ulaval.ca/chaire-crsng-alcan.

ELIGIBILITY

The candidate must:

- ▼ be eligible for the EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE contest of the *Hats Off to You!* competition according to the criteria set out on page 5.
- ▼ have completed the second year of a bachelor's program in one of the fields of study eligible for the contest

SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

In addition to the general essay (see page 5), candidates must submit a one-page essay stating how this experience will help them enhance their skills and further their professional development.

REGISTRATION FORM

**REGISTRATION FORM
TO BE COMPLETED BY THE CANDIDATE**

FAMILY NAME **GIVEN NAME**

PERMANENT ADDRESS

Number and street

City

Postal code

Telephone number ()

Area code

**ADDRESS DURING SCHOOL YEAR
(if different)**

Number and street

City

Postal code

Telephone number ()

Area code

Social insurance number

Date of birth

Year/ Month/ Day

PROGRAM

Name of program

Date of beginning and end of program

Beginning: End:

Name of educational institution attended

Address of educational institution attended

Number and street

City

Postal code

I wish to enter the contest in the following categories:

To be completed by the candidate

- Working trips outside Québec
 - French-speaking community in Belgium: Wallonia or Brussels
 - The Americas:
 - United States
 - Mexico
- Master's level scholarship at the Institut national de la recherche scientifique (INRS)
- Paid practicums
 - Environment sector
 - Metallurgy sector
 - University laboratories sector

I possess the following language skills:

- | | | |
|------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| French | <input type="checkbox"/> spoken | <input type="checkbox"/> written |
| Spanish | <input type="checkbox"/> spoken | <input type="checkbox"/> written |
| Portuguese | <input type="checkbox"/> spoken | <input type="checkbox"/> written |

Candidate's signature:

Date:

N.B.: Please make sure that your application meets all the requirements for the prize concerned.

CANDIDATE'S CONSENT

I hereby authorize the MEQ to disclose my personal information to the members of the selection panel for the EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE contest of the *Hats Off to You!* competition.

Signature:

Date:

I hereby authorize the MEQ to disclose my personal information to accredited journalists who wish to contact me in order to request an interview or to write an article about the EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE contest of the *Hats Off to You!* competition.

Signature:

Date:

EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE
University-level contest for the *Hats Off to You!* competition

RECOMMENDATION FORM

To be completed by a representative of the educational institution attended

One form per candidate

Information on the candidate

Family name _____ given name _____

Program: _____

Name of educational institution: _____

1. I know the candidate:

- very well well a little

in my capacity as a:

- professor (one course)
 professor (several courses)
 department head
 other: _____

2. The candidate has shown me her application and I have studied it:

- Yes No

3. Given that candidates will be evaluated on a comparative basis, I assess the candidate's ability on the following scale as:

Assessment scale (circle appropriate level):

- 1 = Well above average
2 = Above average
3 = Average
4 = Below average

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| a) Academic skills | Relations with peers |
| Oral and written communication | 1 2 3 4 |
| 1 2 3 4 | Sense of responsibility |
| Technical ability (practical work) | 1 2 3 4 |
| 1 2 3 4 | I (signature) |
| Quality of completed work | _____. |
| 1 2 3 4 | recommend this candidate. |
| b) Personal skills | Name (block letters): _____ |
| Creativity | Position or rank: _____ |
| 1 2 3 4 | _____ |
| c) Commitment | Signature _____ |
| Resourcefulness | Date: _____ |
| 1 2 3 4 | _____ |
| Team spirit | |
| 1 2 3 4 | |



For more information on the
EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE

contest, write to:

Coordination à la condition féminine

Ministère de l'Éducation

1035, rue De La Chevrotière, 20^e étage

Québec (Québec) G1R 5A5

Phone: (418) 646-0983

Fax: (418) 646-7592

E-mail: condition.feminine@meq.gouv.qc.ca

Web site: www.meq.gouv.qc.ca/cond-fem