

EXCELLENCE in science

2007-2008 CONTEST

Isabelle Comtois
Mechanical Engineering
École de technologie supérieure

TO BE WON:

Cash prizes ranging from \$2 000 to \$5 000
Paid work placements
Career development trips outside Québec

Application deadline: **February 8, 2008** www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/chapeau



CRÉPUQ
CONFÉRENCE DES RECTEURS
ET DES PRINCIPAUX
DES UNIVERSITÉS DU QUÉBEC



Les Offices jeunesse
internationaux du Québec

EXCELLENCE in science

New for 2007-2008

Welcome to our new partners:

- The **Office franco-québécois pour la jeunesse (OFQJ)** and the **Mission pour la place des femmes** at the **Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS)**: these two organizations will jointly offer a work placement in a laboratory in France.
- The **Chaire CRSNG/Industrielle-Alliance pour les femmes en sciences et génie au Québec** will offer a \$2 000 prize.

New category:

The **Chaire Marianne-Mareschal** in conjunction with the **Chaire CRSNG/Industrielle-Alliance pour les femmes en sciences et génie au Québec** will award a prize of \$2 000 or assistance in finding a placement in a university lab, at the winner's choice.

All the prizes will be awarded to students pursuing a bachelor's degree in a science or engineering subject that is recognized as eligible for the Contest (see Section 1).

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*The **Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS)**, in collaboration with the **Ministère du Développement économique, de l'Innovation et de l'Exportation (MDEIE)**, is inviting women enrolled in a bachelor's degree program in selected branches of the pure and applied sciences (see the list of eligible programs in Section 1) to take part in the **Excellence in Science** Contest. These government departments each award four prizes of \$5 000 and 10 prizes of \$2 000, as well as one joint prize of \$3 000.*

Additional prizes are awarded by the following partners:

- Centrale des syndicats du Québec (CSQ)
- Confédération des syndicats nationaux (CSN), en collaboration avec la Fédération nationale des enseignantes et enseignants du Québec (FNEEQ) et la Fédération des professionnelles (FP)
- Conférence des recteurs et des principaux des universités du Québec (CREPUQ)
- Fédération des travailleurs et travailleuses du Québec (FTQ)
- Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation (MAPAQ)
- Ministère des Transports (MTQ)
- Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs (MDDEP)
- Office Québec-Amériques pour la jeunesse (OQAJ)
- Office Québec Wallonie Bruxelles pour la jeunesse (OQWB)

This Contest is intended specifically for women enrolled in university-level programs leading to a bachelor's degree in a field of pure or applied science where women account for less than a third of the work force. Graduate students at the master's and doctoral levels are not eligible for this Contest.

The **Excellence in Science** Contest is the university counterpart of the *Hats Off to You!* competition organized by the Direction de la formation continue et du soutien (DFCS), Secteur de la formation professionnelle et technique et de la formation continue de la MELS (see the contact information in Section 5). Financial support is provided by the MELS **Secteur de l'enseignement supérieur**.

Like the *Hats Off to You!* competition for women in vocational and technical training programs, the Excellence in Science Contest is aimed at familiarizing women with the many career options open to them, particularly in the sciences, and at encouraging those training for nontraditional occupations to persevere to graduation..

NOTE

Winners of the *Hats Off to You!* competition may participate in the Excellence in Science Contest if they meet the general Contest requirements.

Awards 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 on May 5, 2008.

Three good reasons for having the Contest

- 1 To increase the number of women enrolled in programs leading to the practice of a nontraditional occupation:** The number of women currently working in pure and applied science professions amounts to less than 23% of the active labour force in these fields.
- 2 To increase women's economic independence:** The average salary earned by women is generally less than three quarters of that earned by men. This gap could be narrowed if more women take up jobs in science fields traditionally dominated by men.
- 3 To provide successful role models:** The Excellence in Science Contest exists to foster a wider choice of careers for women and to generate an interest on their part in technological and scientific fields.

Three good reasons to participate:

- 1 To obtain recognition for their efforts:** By supporting and encouraging women who embark on a different path, the Excellence in Science Contest recognizes that they have a place in areas traditionally dominated by men.
- 2 To earn a good reputation and cash prizes:** Former prizewinners recognize that their involvement in the Contest has had a positive impact on their future plans, employment prospects and . . . pocketbooks!
- 3 To create a network for support and the exchange of ideas:** Taking part in the Contest provides contestants with an opportunity to forge ties with other students, former prizewinners, workers and teachers.

Objectives

- To recognize women who choose a traditionally male-dominated career.
- To reward their hard work.
- To provide role models for women to emulate.
- To encourage women to pick a nonstereotyped career.
- To help female students overcome specific problems related to their minority status within a predominantly male group.

New prizes

Two **school mentorship** prizes will be awarded (one for *Hats Off to You!* and one for *Excellence in Science*) as well as a **mentorship award** from among the *cybermentors of Hats Off to You!* and *Excellence in Science*. The prizewinners will be randomly drawn and will also be awarded a prize worth approximately \$500 that they will receive at the provincial awards ceremony in May 2008 in Montréal.

Cybermentors for the candidates

Candidates can obtain advice on the preparation of their portfolios from previous prizewinners, who function as "cybermentors." How? By contacting them on the MELS Web site at www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/cybermentores.

Tips for writing a letter of introduction

The mentoring relationship can be useful for preparing a letter of introduction and obtaining writing tips. This kind of help can come from a cybermentor, a member of the school staff, parents or friends—in short, from all those who want the candidate to succeed.

*Don't hesitate to seek advice.
Your success may depend on it!*





“When you love what you’re doing, you feel fulfilled, you gain others’ respect and you can break down stereotypes that women may fear facing in school and in the workplace. It is therefore important to give examples of success . . . which is what the Excellence in Science Contest does!”

Amélie Bernier,
2006-2007 MELS winner,
Applied Geomatic Sciences,
Université de Sherbrooke

1 SECTION 1 Eligibility Requirements

Candidates must have attended a university-level institution in Québec in 2007-2008 and have been enrolled full-time in one of the following programs:

PURE SCIENCES

- 5215 Biophysics
- 5240 Physical sciences
- 5243 Meteorology and atmospheric sciences
- 5244 Geology (mineralogy)

APPLIED SCIENCES

- 5230 Environmental design
- 5332 Architecture
- 5334 Landscaping architecture
- 5335 Urban architecture and development
- 5337 Industrial design
- 5338 Urban planning
- 5340 Information sciences
- 5350 Engineering
- 5352 Aerospace, aeronautical and astronautical engineering
- 5353 Agricultural and rural engineering
- 5354 Food engineering
- 5356 Chemical engineering
Biotechnological engineering
- 5358 Civil, construction and transportation engineering
- 5359 Electrical, electronic and communication engineering
- 5360 Mechanical engineering
- 5361 Geological 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

- Candidates must be Canadian citizens or permanent residents and have resided in Québec for at least one year.
- There is no age limit for participating in the competition; however, special eligibility requirements may apply to certain categories, namely Category 2, Career Development Trips Outside Québec. Candidates must therefore carefully read over the eligibility requirements described in this brochure.
- Previous winners do not qualify for this year’s Contest.
- Graduate students at the master’s and doctoral levels are not eligible for this Contest.
- Although a candidate may submit projects for several provincial prizes, she cannot claim more than one prize.
- Winners of the *Hats Off to You!* competition are eligible for the *Excellence in Science* Contest.

2 SECTION 2 Candidate’s Portfolio

Candidates must submit the following:

- a duly completed registration form (included in this brochure)
- a letter of introduction of no more than two pages (see Section 3)
- a short essay of no more than one page for candidates in a thematic category
- a résumé
- a copy of the most recent transcript issued by the university attended

No items (objects, photographs, special documents, etc.) other than the documents listed above will be accepted for the purposes of evaluating portfolios.

3 SECTION 3 Letter of Introduction

Presentation requirements:

- not more than two pages long
- typed with one-and-a-half line spacing
- printed on one side on white paper (21.5 cm x 28.0 cm)
- margins (top, bottom, left and right) of 1.5 cm
- 11-point Arial font, with full justification of the text

The letter of introduction must include the following information in order to meet the selection criteria (see Section 4):

- 1 Personal history and reasons for choosing a traditionally male-dominated type of training or career
 - a) What are the highlights of your personal, academic or working life?
 - b) How did you become interested in your choice of training or career?
- 2 Aptitudes and strategies for remaining in a traditionally male-dominated field
 - a) What aptitudes or personal qualities do you have that will allow you to achieve personal fulfillment in training or in a career where women are in the minority?
 - b) What means do you use (or would you use) to foster your academic or career success in an area traditionally reserved for men?
- 3 Your knowledge of your chosen occupation and career objectives
 - a) Describe your chosen occupation, the duties involved and the related working conditions.
 - b) What are your goals for the future in your chosen occupation?
- 4 Personal or professional commitment
 - a) Which of your actions or achievements demonstrate your commitment (in terms of education, society and the community) to your chosen program or occupation?
 - b) Do you think that you have already influenced (or might influence) other women to opt for a career in a traditionally male-dominated occupation, or to remain in one? Describe how you did or would exert such an influence and the means at your disposal.
- 5 Your reasons for entering the Contest

What are your reasons for entering the Contest and why do you believe you should be selected to participate?

4 SECTION 4 Selection Criteria

Portfolios will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- submission of a complete portfolio
- quality of the presentation
- compliance with presentation requirements
- clarity of the portfolio documents
- authenticity and persuasiveness of the portfolio documents
- relevance of your personal or professional commitment
- relevance of the reasons for entering the Contest
- quality of the résumé

NOTE

Academic achievement is taken into consideration; a candidate may be penalized only if she has failed two or more courses during the most recent school term.

5 SECTION 5 Application Process and Deadline

Candidates must:

- 1 Prepare their portfolio (duly completed registration form, letter of introduction, résumé, copy of most recent university transcript and, if applicable, a short essay).
- 2 Have a professional staff member of the university they attend (dean, director, professor) fill out the "Recommendation" section of the registration form, which is found at the end of this brochure.
- 3 On the registration form, place a check mark in each box opposite the theme(s) for which they would like to register.
- 4 Send their application package to the following MELS address before **February 8, 2008**:

Excellence in Science Contest

Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport
1035, rue De La Chevrotière, 12^e étage
Québec (Québec) G1R 5A5

Téléphone : 418 646-1536 poste 2332

Télécopieur : 418 643-1926

Courriel : chapealesfilles@mels.gouv.qc.ca

- 5 The MELS will forward Contest applications to the selection committees, which are made up of sponsors and partners from the fields of education, labour and business. Applications will be identified by codes only.
- 6 Around mid-March 2008, candidates will be sent a letter stating whether or not their application was successful.



EXCELLENCE
IN SCIENCE

CATEGORY 1 Cash Prizes



“My career goal is to enjoy my work. I would also like to encourage other women to enter nontraditional occupations so that they too can contribute to scientific and technological developments and continue to make a place for themselves in history.”

Isabelle Comtois,
Isabelle Comtois, 2006-2007
MDEIE prizewinner,
Mechanical Engineering,
École de technologie
supérieure, and provincial
spokesperson for the
2007-2008 Excellence in
Science Contest

To find out more about:
the MDEIE and its former
prizewinners,
go to the Web site
<www.mdeie.gouv.qc.ca/chapeau>
the MELS and the Contest,
go to the Web site
<www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/chapeau>

Excellence in Science

The **Ministère du Développement économique, de l'Innovation et de l'Exportation (MDEIE)** awards two prizes of \$5 000 and five prizes of \$2 000. The **Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS)** awards two prizes of \$5 000 and five prizes of \$2 000. The **Conférence des recteurs et des principaux des universités du Québec (CREPUQ)** awards a prize of \$2 000. The **Chaire CRSNG/ Industrielle-Alliance pour les femmes en sciences et génie au Québec** awards a prize of \$2 000.

Requirements

Candidates must be enrolled in one of the programs listed in Section 1. In addition, they must submit a portfolio that meets the requirements in Section 2, and write a letter of introduction according to the instructions in Section 3.

They must also write a short essay of no more than one page in which they answer the following questions about the involvement of women in scientific occupations:

- What do you think about the fact that women are underrepresented in scientific or technological careers?*
- In your opinion, what factors prevent greater numbers of women from embarking on a career in science and technology?*
- What do you think about the image that scientific researchers currently have in society?*



“Efforts to encourage young women to pursue their studies in science and technology do not begin early enough. From the start of secondary school, their interest quickly begins to wane when faced with all those male teachers. We must encourage schools to hire—and keep—female teachers.”

Sarah Lebel,
2006-2007 MDEIE/MELS
prizewinner,
Bioresource Engineering,
McGill University
To find out more about:
the MDEIE and its former
prizewinners,
go to the Web site
<www.mdeie.gouv.qc.ca/chapeau>
the MELS and the Contest,
go to the Web site
<www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/chapeau>

Next Generation

The **Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport** and the **Ministère du Développement économique, de l'Innovation et de l'Exportation** jointly award a prize of \$3 000 to a first-year female student enrolled in one of the programs listed in Section 1.

Requirements

Candidates must meet the general Contest requirements in sections 1 and 2, and write a letter of introduction according to the instructions in Section 3.

They must also write a short essay of no more than one page in which they answer the following questions about the new generation of women in science and technology:

- In your opinion, what factors prevent greater numbers of women from embarking on a career in science and technology?*
- In your opinion, what measures should be taken to encourage women who have opted for a career in science and technology?*



"I don't have a specific strategy for success. I simply try to do my best every day. The field of agriculture is not driven by brawn, but rather by people who love their work and are committed to it."

Magalie Dion,
2006-2007 MAPAQ prizewinner,
Agricultural &
Environmental Sciences,
McGill University

To find out more about:
the MAPAQ and its former
prizewinners,
go to the Web site
<www.mapaq.gouv.qc.ca/chapeau>

Agriculture and Agri-food

The Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation awards a prize of \$2 000 to a female student enrolled in one of the following programs:

- 5353 Agricultural and rural engineering
- 5354 Food engineering
Agroeconomics
Agroenvironment

Requirements

Candidates must submit a portfolio that meets the requirements in Section 2, and write a letter of introduction according to the instructions in Section 3.

They must also write a short essay of no more than one page in which they answer the following questions about agriculture or agri-foods:

How will the competencies you have acquired during your training prepare you to work in the fields of agriculture or agri-foods?

How are you currently involved in one of these fields?



"In 2006, no woman in Québec was denied access to university in this field. And I would hope that no family would prevent a young woman from studying in these programs. I know from experience that the limitations we set for ourselves are often all in our heads."

Mélanie Plourde,
2006-2007 MTQ prizewinner,
Civil Engineering,
Université de Sherbrooke

To find out more about:
the MTQ,
go to the Web site
<www.mtq.gouv.qc.ca>

Transportation

The Ministère des Transports awards one prize of \$2 000 to a candidate who is enrolled in one of the following programs:

- 5350 Engineering
- 5352 Aerspatial, aeronautical
and astronautical engineering
- 5358 Civil, construction and
transportation engineering
- 5371 Surveying

Requirements

Candidates must submit a portfolio that meets the requirements in Section 2, and write a letter of introduction according to the instructions in Section 3.

They must also write a short essay of no more than one page in which they answer the following questions about transportation:

In your opinion, what is the main challenge in the field of transportation today?

How have your education and training prepared you to meet this challenge?

CATEGORY 1 Cash Prizes



"I chose to work with the mechanics of machinery rather than the human body; in other words, I enrolled in electromechanics instead of massage therapy, because I found it easier to work on an inanimate object rather than a human who can feel pain."

Élisabeth Desjardins,
2006-2007 FTQ prizewinner,
Automated Systems
Electromechanics,
Centre de formation
Compétences-2000,
Commission scolaire de Laval

To find out more about:
the FTQ and its former
prizewinners,
go to the Web site
<www.ftq.qc.ca>

Equity

The *Fédération des travailleurs et travailleuses du Québec (FTQ)* awards one prize of \$2 000 to a candidate *who left an unstable job (part-time, on call, on contract, temporary, etc.) to train or retrain, voluntarily and after careful consideration, for a traditionally male-dominated career.*

Requirements

Candidates must meet all the general Contest requirements in sections 1 and 2, and write a letter of introduction according to the instructions in Section 3.

Candidates must also write a short essay of no more than one page on their personal experience in an unstable job, as well as their past, present and future experiences with union, social or volunteer involvement, answering each of the following questions:

What was your experience like in an unstable job and why did you choose to train or retrain for a traditionally male-dominated occupation?

How will your experience and training help you:

- *take your place within the team*
- *be accepted by a male majority*
- *keep your job*
- *improve your own situation as well as working conditions for women in general*

NOTE The FTQ jury reserves the right not to award a prize if all of the requirements are not met.



"I created a networking association for computer engineering students at my university. I'm proud of my achievement because the association has been kept up over the years and helps others to succeed."

Rosalynn Nguyen,
2006-2007 CSN prizewinner,
Electrical Engineering,
Concordia University

To find out more about:
the CSN and its former
prizewinners,
go to the Web site
<[http://www.csn.qc.ca/
Evenements/Chapeau/
Chapeau2006.html](http://www.csn.qc.ca/Evenements/Chapeau/Chapeau2006.html)>

Cultural or Native Communities

The *Confédération des syndicats nationaux (CSN)*, the *Fédération nationale des enseignantes et enseignants du Québec (FNEEQ)* and the *Fédération des professionnelles (FP)* together award a prize of \$2 000 to a woman who has chosen a nontraditional occupation and who is either a Native person or someone who regards herself as a member of a cultural community.

Requirements

Candidates must meet the general Contest requirements in sections 1 and 2, and write a letter of introduction according to the instructions in Section 3.

They must also write a short essay of no more than one page in which they answer the following questions about the involvement of women from cultural or Native communities in traditionally male-dominated occupations:

As a member of a cultural or Native community, what obstacles did you have to face?

Were you encouraged to fulfill your ambition? If so, how?

What motivated you to choose a nontraditional occupation?



"It is important to communicate that women can do as well, if not better, than men. Seriousness, attention to detail, perfectionism . . . our qualities are worth their weight in gold to employers, providing, of course, that they know we have them!"

Jessica Huneault,
2006-2007 CSQ prizewinner,
Industrial Design,
Université de Montréal

To find out more about:
the CSQ and its former
prizewinners,
go to the Web site
<www.csq.qc.net>

Perseverance

The Centrale des syndicats du Québec (CSQ) awards a prize of \$2 000 to a female student who has shown exceptional perseverance in learning a traditionally male-dominated occupation.

This award recognizes perseverance in the achievement of career goals. It is not designed to reward those who have overcome physical or social handicaps. Perseverance may be demonstrated in a number of ways, for instance by taking an upgrading course, overcoming special obstacles (e.g. being far from one's family, having a baby, family responsibilities, stereotypes), or making lifestyle choices in order to continue their education.

Requirements

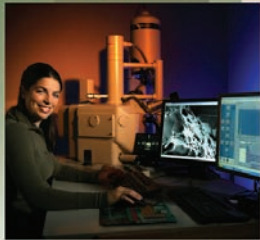
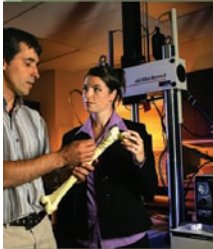
Candidates must meet the general Contest requirements in sections 1 and 2, and write a letter of introduction according to the instructions in Section 3.

They must also write a short essay of no more than one page that describes their perseverance in learning their occupation, while answering the following questions:

What obstacles did you encounter and how did you overcome them?

How did you motivate yourself to persevere in pursuing your career goals? Describe your experience.





NEW PRIZES: CNRS/OFQJ

Career development trip France

Work placement in a CNRS lab

The *Mission pour la place des femmes* of the *Centre national de la recherche scientifique* (CNRS) and the *Office franco-québécois pour la jeunesse* (OFQJ) will be offering a work placement in a CNRS lab¹. The work placement will be awarded to the best candidate pursuing a traditionally male-dominated type of university program in the pure or applied sciences.

A new partner of *Hats Off to You!* and *Excellence in Science*, the CNRS' *Mission pour la place des femmes*, in collaboration with the MELS, is also proposing a travelling exhibit entitled *Physique de femmes*. This exhibit will be presented in various regions of Québec in 2008.

The prize

The prize includes the following (subject to certain conditions):

- an allowance (in cash or services) varying according to the duration of the work placement, paid by the CNRS
- a waiver of the enrollment fees of \$450 for the OFQJ program, paid by the CNRS
- the identification of a suitable work placement in France by the CNRS
- round-trip air transportation from Montréal to Paris offered by the OFQJ
- welcome and first night's accommodation in Paris paid by the OFQJ
- medical and liability insurance as well as a local transportation allowance for candidates who live far from the departure airport, paid by the OFQJ

Requirements

Candidates must meet the general Contest requirements in sections 1 and 2, write a letter of introduction according to the instructions in Section 3, and:

- be between 18 and 35 years of age at the time of the work placement
- have graduated (by June 30, 2008) from one of the programs listed in this brochure
- be Canadian citizens or permanent residents
- have resided in Québec for at least one year

Candidates must also write a short essay of no more than one page explaining why they wish to take part in a career development trip to France, to a CNRS lab, and answer the following questions:

What are your reasons for wanting a work placement in a CNRS lab in France, and what impact do you think this placement will have on your personal and professional development?

What would be an ideal work placement for you and what steps would you take to prepare for this opportunity (e.g. looking up contacts, obtaining information in the area)?

To find out more about:

the CNRS or the *Mission pour la place des femmes*, go to the Web sites

www.cnrs.fr

or

www.cnrs.fr/mission-femmes

the OFQJ and its former prizewinners,

go to the Web site

www.ofqj.org

¹ The Centre national de la recherche scientifique is the largest public research organization in Europe. It produces and makes knowledge available to the general public and conducts research in all the scientific, technological and societal fields. It comprises 1 260 labs set up throughout France and employs 30 000 technicians, engineers and researchers working in various capacities.



"Belgium is a place of intercultural communication. The Hesbaye plains and the many forests such as those of Anlier are such interesting sites. Having the opportunity to explore such a country in an academic context of sharing and collaboration is a dream come true."

Anaïs Couasnon,
2006-2007 OQWBJ
prizewinner, Bioresource
Engineering, McGill University

To find out more about:
the OQWBJ
and its former prizewinners,
go to the Web site
www.oqwbj.org

Career development trip Wallonia-Brussels

A bursary will be awarded to the best candidate in this category by the **Office Québec Wallonie Bruxelles pour la jeunesse (OQWBJ)** for a career development trip to Wallonia or Brussels. This work placement with a company connected to the candidate's field of study will last from 6 to 12 weeks and will take place between September 2008 and August 2009.

The OQWBJ bursary includes:

- a total living allowance of \$1 000 paid by the OQWBJ
- round-trip air transportation from Montréal to Brussels
- the identification of a suitable company and completion of the administrative formalities for obtaining a work permit and temporary visa for Wallonia or Brussels
- medical and liability insurance
- a local transportation allowance for candidates who live far from the departure airport

Eligibility

Candidates must:

- be between 18 and 35 years of age at the time of the work placement
- be Canadian citizens or permanent residents and have resided in Québec for at least one year

Requirements

Candidates must meet the general Contest requirements in sections 1 and 2, and write a letter of introduction according to the instructions in Section 3.

They must also write a short essay of no more than one page in which they answer the following questions:

What are your reasons for wanting a work placement in Wallonia or Brussels and what impact do you think this placement will have on your personal and professional development?

What would be an ideal work placement for you and what steps would you take to prepare for this opportunity (e.g. looking up contacts, obtaining information in the area)?

Career development trip The Americas

Financial assistance for a career development trip will be provided by the **Office Québec-Amériques pour la jeunesse (OQAJ)** to the best candidate in this category. This stay (e.g. work placement, applied research practicum) will last from 4 to 12 weeks and must be related to the selected candidate's field of study.

Each OQAJ prize includes:

- a living allowance of \$1 000 paid by the OQAJ
- round-trip air transportation between Montréal and the destination for the career development trip in the Americas
- assistance in finding a suitable company
- travel insurance
- a local transportation allowance for candidates who live far from the departure airport

Responsibilities of the selected candidate

The winner must complete the administrative formalities for entering the destination country (obtaining a temporary visa or any other document) and pay for any related costs, if applicable.

Winners must complete their career development trip within 12 months after they are awarded this prize (i.e. before May 2009).

Eligibility

Candidates must:

- be between 18 and 35 years of age at the time of the career development trip

- be Canadian citizens or permanent residents and have resided in Québec for at least one year
- have the language skills necessary for the career development trip (specify languages spoken—English, Portuguese, Spanish)

Requirements

Candidates must meet the general Contest requirements in sections 1 and 2, and write a letter of introduction according to the instructions in Section 3.

They must also write a short essay of no more than one page in which they answer the following questions:

What are your reasons for wanting a work placement in the Americas and what impact do you think this placement will have on your personal and professional development?

What would be an ideal work placement for you and what steps would you take to prepare for this opportunity (e.g. looking up contacts, obtaining information in the area)?

To find out more about:
the OQAJ and its former prizewinners,
go to the Web site
www.oqaj.gouv.qc.ca



"I would like to specialize in environmental engineering in order to reduce the impact of human activity on our planet. My goal is to set up my own company in Bangladesh, my country of origin, where many opportunities exist for making improvements through the field of environmental engineering."

Mashuda Mulk,
2006-2007 MDDEP
prizewinner, Civil Engineering,
Concordia University

To find out more about:
the MDDEP and its former
prizewinners,
go to the Web site
<www.mddep.gouv.qc.ca/chapeau>

Work Placement in the Environment Sector

*A paid work placement worth approximately \$6 500 will be awarded by the **Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs**.*

The 12-to-15-week work placement must be a compulsory part of the selected candidate's program or carry credits toward her diploma, further to an agreement between the Ministère and the educational institution. The selected candidate is responsible for making sure that her educational institution will recognize the work placement as part of her program. The selected candidate may opt for a \$2 000 cash prize instead of the work placement.

Candidates must be enrolled in one of the following programs:

- 5215 Biophysics
- 5243 Meteorology and atmospheric sciences
- 5350 Engineering
- 5356 Chemical engineering
- 5358 Civil engineering
- 5360 Mechanical engineering
- 5364 Metallurgical and materials engineering
- 5363 Industrial and administrative engineering
- 5368 Mining engineering
- 5371 Surveying
- 5375 Forestry engineering, forestry and silviculture

Requirements

Candidates must meet the general Contest requirements in sections 1 and 2, and write a letter of introduction according to the instructions in Section 3.

They must also write a short essay of no more than one page in which they answer the following questions about environmental protection:

How will the skills acquired in your university program help you become professionally involved in environmental protection?

How are you currently involved in environmental protection?

NEW PRIZE

Work Placement in a University Lab

*The **Chaire CRSNG/Industrielle-Alliance pour les femmes en sciences et génie au Québec** and the **Chaire Marianne-Mareschal** will be offering the winner a choice of a cash prize of \$2 000 or a paid work placement during the summer term.*

The work placement will be in one of the research labs of the Université Laval in Québec City or at the École Polytechnique in Montréal. The prizewinner will be offered a placement in a lab specializing in her field and the placement will be funded by the researcher in charge of the lab.

Requirements

Candidates must meet the general Contest requirements in sections 1 and 2, and write a letter of introduction according to the instructions in Section 3.

They must also write a short essay of no more than one page in which they answer the following question about applied research:

How will this experience help you enhance your skills and further your personal and professional development?

To find out more about:

the Chaire Marianne-Mareschal,
go to the Web site

<www.chairemm.polymtl.ca>

the Chaire CRSNG/Industrielle-Alliance,
go to the Web site

<www.chaire-crsng-inal.fsg.ulaval.ca>

NAME OF PROGRAM

START AND END DATES OF PROGRAM

START:	END:
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NAME OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION ATTENDED

ADDRESS OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION ATTENDED

NUMBER AND STREET

CITY OR TOWN

POSTAL CODE

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TELEPHONE NUMBER
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SIGNATURE:

DATE

YEAR

MONTH DAY

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RECOMMENDATION

I have read the portfolio submitted for the *Excellence in Science* Contest and I endorse the entry of:

CANDIDATE'S NAME:

NAME OF PERSON RECOMMENDING THE CANDIDATE

TITLE

SIGNATURE

DATE

YEAR

MONTH DAY

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I wish to register for the following categories:

CATEGORY 1: CASH PRIZES

- Excellence in Science
- Next Generation
- Agriculture and Agri-Food
- Transportation
- Equity
- Cultural or Native Communities
- Perseverance

CATEGORY 2:

CAREER DEVELOPMENT TRIPS OUTSIDE QUÉBEC

- Career Development Trip: France
- Career Development Trip: Wallonia or Brussels
- Career Development Trip: The Americas

CATEGORY 3: PAID WORK PLACEMENTS

- Work Placement in the Environment Sector
- Work Placement in a University Lab



Use of Personal Information

(Applicable to winners)

If you agree that the personal information you provide us with may be used in a study or survey to evaluate this Contest, place a check mark in this box

Rest assured that refusal to grant your consent will in no way affect the assessment of your application.

Signature

Date

Transmission of Personal Information

(Applicable to winners)

Please note that a photograph of you and an abridged version of your text will be published on the MELS Web site.

Moreover, your file will be transmitted to those responsible for awarding prizes in the relevant Contest categories.

Finally, please be advised that the Contest coordinator at the MELS will get in touch with you first should a journalist or any other person ask to contact you.

Access to and Correction of Your Registration Form

As a Contest participant, you may at any time have the information on your registration form corrected by contacting the Contest representative at the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport at the following number:

418 646-1536 ext. 2332

Moreover, we would remind you that you may at any time access any information held by the MELS that is pertinent to you.



FRENCH VERSION AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.

For further information on the Hats Off to You! competition and its university counterpart, the Excellence in Science Contest, or on traditionally male-dominated occupations or trades, please visit the Web site at

<www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/chapeau>

or send an e-mail to

<chapeaulesfilles@mels.gouv.qc.ca>

EXCELLENCE in science

2007-2008 CONTEST

Isabelle Comtois
Mechanical Engineering
École de technologie supérieure

TO BE WON:

Cash prizes ranging from \$2 000 to \$5 000
Paid work placements
Career development trips outside Québec

Application deadline: **February 8, 2008** www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/chapeau



Les Offices jeunesse
internationales du Québec