

EXCELLENCE in science

2008-2009 Contest



Jessica Dubois-Martel

Forest Engineering, Université Laval
Chaire CRSNG/Industrielle-Alliance pour les
femmes en sciences et génie au Québec Prize



Application deadline: **February 6, 2009**
For more information, go to the Web site:
www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/chapeau

TO BE WON: Cash prizes ranging from \$2000 to \$5000 | A paid work placement at CNRS in France
A career development trip within the Americas
A paid work placement in a Québec university laboratory



In 2008-2009

- The **Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS)** in France is again offering a work placement in a lab. The **Office franco-québécois pour la jeunesse (OFQJ)** and the **Mission pour la place des femmes au Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS)** are jointly offering this prize, which includes round-trip air transportation from Montréal to Paris and a two- to three-month paid work placement in a CNRS laboratory doing work related to the winner's field.
- The Chaire Marianne-Mareschal de l'École Polytechnique de Montréal and the Chaire CRSNG/Industrielle-Alliance pour les femmes en sciences et génie au Québec will award a prize of a paid work placement valued at \$4000.

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 \$5000 and 10 prizes of \$2000, as well as one joint prize of \$3000.

We would like to thank our partners

Prizes will be awarded by the following partners:

- Centrale des syndicats du Québec (CSQ)
- Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS)
- Chaire CRSNG/Industrielle-Alliance pour les femmes en sciences et génie au Québec
- Chaire Marianne-Mareschal de l'École Polytechnique de Montréal
- Confédération des syndicats nationaux, in collaboration with the Fédération nationale des enseignantes et enseignants du Québec and the Fédération des professionnelles (CSN)
- 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 franco-québécois pour la jeunesse (OFQJ)
- Office Québec-Amériques pour la jeunesse (OQAJ)

The *Excellence in Science Contest* rewards young women who dare to venture off the beaten track

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 workforce. Graduate students at the master's and doctoral levels are not eligible for this Contest. Winners of the *Hats Off to You!* Competition may participate in the *Excellence in Science Contest* if they meet the general Contest requirements.

The *Excellence in Science Contest* is the university counterpart of the *Hats Off to You!* Competition organized by the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS).

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.



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 4, 2009.

3 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.

3 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.

Mentorship Prize

In order to recognize the contribution of school staff who help students prepare their portfolios, two prizes will be awarded (one for *Hats Off to You!* and one for the *Excellence in Science Contest*). The names of the prizewinners will be drawn at random. The prizes will highlight the importance of mentorship in schools and its effects on student success (see special section).

One prize will also be awarded at random to a cybermentor of *Hats Off to You!* and *Excellence in Science* working via the Web site.

These prizes are worth \$500, and the winners will be invited to receive them at the provincial awards ceremony to be held in May 2009 in Montréal.

In 2007-2008, the winner was Mohamed Khelifi, professor and program director at Université Laval. These are the words of his mentee, prizewinner Annik Grenier:

“Mr. Khelifi encouraged me to participate in the Competition. He gave me advice and was always available to answer my questions and help me improve. Above all, he believes in me!”

Annik Grenier, 2007-2008 MAPAQ prize winner, Agricultural and Environmental Engineering, Université Laval

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 member of the school staff or a cybermentor via the following Web site: www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/cybermentores.

“There is lots of room for innovation in the wood manufacturing industry. Québec needs value-added products and properly trained personnel.”

Jessica Dubois-Martel, winner of the 2007-2008 Chaire CRSNG/Industrielle-Alliance pour les femmes en sciences et génie au Québec and 2008-2009 spokesperson, Forest Engineering, Université Laval




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

Biophysics
Geology (mineralogy)
Meteorology and atmospheric sciences
Physical sciences

APPLIED SCIENCES

Aerospatial, aeronautical and astronautical engineering
Agricultural and environmental engineering 
Agricultural and rural engineering
Architecture
Bioresource engineering 
Biotechnological engineering
Chemical engineering
Civil, construction and transportation engineering
Computer and information systems engineering
Electrical, electronic and communication engineering
Engineering
Engineering physics
Environmental design
Environmental geomatics 
Food engineering
Forestry engineering, forestry and silviculture
Geological engineering
Industrial and administrative engineering
Industrial design
Information sciences
Landscaping architecture
Mechanical engineering
Mining engineering
Surveying
Urban architecture and development

- 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* if they meet the general Contest requirements.

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.

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?

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.

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 6, 2009**:

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
Telephone: 418-646-1536 ext. 2332
Fax: 418-643-1926
E-mail: chapeaulesfilles@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.

“Water engineering offers an economic, political, social and scientific approach to environmental issues. This is a global issue and I want to contribute to its preservation.”

Magalie Laramée Vézina, 2007-2008 CREPUQ prizewinner, Water Engineering, Université Laval

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;
the CREPUQ, go to the Web site www.crepuq.qc.ca.

Cash Prizes

Category 1

Excellence in Science

The **Ministère du Développement économique, de l'Innovation et de l'Exportation (MDEIE)** awards two prizes of \$5000 and five prizes of \$2000.

The **Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS)** awards two prizes of \$5000 and five prizes of \$2000.

The **Conférence des recteurs et des principaux des universités du Québec (CREPUQ)** awards a prize of \$2000.

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?*



“There is still a long way to go before the engineering physics program is no longer dominated by men. But we’re on the right track: there is less sexism in my generation, so imagine the next one!”

Geneviève Gariépy, 2007-2008 MDEIE/MELS prizewinner, Engineering Physics, École Polytechnique de Montréal

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.



Category 1 (cont.)

Next Generation

The **Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS)** and the **Ministère du Développement économique, de l'Innovation et de l'Exportation (MDEIE)** jointly award a prize of \$3000 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?*

“With industrialisation, the increasingly urban population and demographic growth, we tend to forget about the importance of farmland and its preservation.”

Annik Grenier, 2007-2008 MAPAQ prizewinner, Agricultural and Environmental Engineering, Université Laval

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



Cash Prizes

Category 1 (cont.)

Agriculture and Agri-Food

The **Ministère de l’Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l’Alimentation (MAPAQ)** awards a prize of \$2000 to a female student enrolled in one of the following programs:

Agricultural and rural engineering
Agroeconomics
Agroenvironment
Food engineering

- *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?*

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:

“I have always been fascinated by natural phenomena, and now I am concerned about global warming. In my future career, I hope to contribute to increased public awareness.”

Anna-Belle Filion, 2007-2008 MDDEP prizewinner, Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences, McGill University

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




Category 1 (cont.)

Environment


The **Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs (MDDEP)** awards a prize of \$2000 to a student enrolled in one of the following programs:

Biophysics

Bioresource engineering 

Meteorology and atmospheric sciences

Engineering

Environmental geomatics 

Chemical engineering

Civil engineering

Mechanical engineering

Metallurgical and materials engineering

Industrial and administrative engineering

Mining engineering

Surveying

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?*

“Both my work placements at the Ministère des Transports helped me realize the importance of developing and, especially, maintaining Québec’s road system.”

Maude Trépannier, 2007-2008 MTQ prizewinner, Civil Engineering, Université de Sherbrooke

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



Cash Prizes

Category 1 (cont.)

Transportation

The **Ministère des Transports (MTQ)** awards one prize of \$2000 to a candidate who is enrolled in one of the following programs:

Engineering

Aerospatial, aeronautical and astronautical engineering

Civil, construction and transportation engineering

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?*

“In the business I plan to start, I want to give other young women a chance. I also have some ideas on how to improve their working conditions, especially when they’re working with heights and heavy tools.”

Karine Boulet, 2007-2008 FTQ prizewinner, Automobile Mechanics,
École professionnelle de métiers, CS des Hautes-Rivières

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



Category 1 (cont.)

Equity

The **Fédération des travailleurs et travailleuses du Québec (FTQ)** awards one prize of \$2000 to a university student 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*
- *What do you plan to do to improve working conditions for all women in traditionally male-dominated careers?*

NOTE: The FTQ jury reserves the right to transfer the prize to the *Hats Off to You!* Competition if all of the requirements of the *Excellence in Science Contest* are not met.

*“I developed a software program, and my heart races every time
I google my name and see references to my program!
I wish all women could experience the same sense of pride.”*

Bettina Murenne Thimot, 2007-2008 CSN prizewinner, Software Engineering, École de technologie supérieure

To find out more about the CSN and its former prizewinners,
go to the Web site www.csn.qc.ca/evenements/chapeau.



Cash Prizes

Category 1 (cont.)

Cultural or Native Communities

The **Confédération des syndicats nationaux (CSN)**, the **Fédération national des enseignantes et enseignants du Québec (FNEEQ)** and the **Fédération des professionnelles (FP)** together award a prize of \$2000 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?*

“Going back to school as a single mother is an extreme sport. But if you’re motivated to change your life, you roll up your sleeves and get to work!”

Isabelle Bédard, 2007-2008 CSQ prizewinner, Mechanical Engineering, École de technologie supérieure

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



Category 1 (cont.)

Perseverance

The **Centrale des syndicats du Québec (CSQ)** awards a prize of \$2000 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.*

“My specialty is water treatment in the mining industry. I feel lucky to have chosen this field, but I’m surprised how few people are interested in it, when it’s essential to the region. My work placement with CNRS will allow me to study this issue.”

Josiane Rodriguez, 2007-2008 CNRS/OFQJ prizewinner, Technologie minérale, Cégep de l’Abitibi-Témiscamingue

To find out more about the CNRS and the Mission pour la place des femmes, go to the Web sites www.cnrs.fr and www.cnrs.fr/mission-femmes.
To find out more about the partnership between MELS and the Mission pour la place des femmes au CNRS, go to the Web site for the exhibition “Physique de femmes” in Québec: www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/chapeau.

To find out more about the OFQJ and its former prizewinners, go to the Web site www.ofqj.org.

Career Development Trips Outside Québec

Category 2

Work placement in a laboratory in France – CNRS/OFQJ

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 lab. The work placement will be awarded to the best candidate pursuing a traditionally male-dominated university program in the pure or applied sciences.

The CNRS is the largest public research organization in Europe. It comprises more than 1 200 laboratories set up throughout France and employs more than 30 000 technicians, engineers and researchers working in various capacities.

This prize is specifically for female students in the programs of study listed in section 1.

The winner will be offered a work placement in a CNRS laboratory specializing in her field of study. The work placement in the lab of the student's choice will last two to three months and must begin and end between September 2009 and August 2010. For example, the work placement could take the form of a practicum during the 2010 summer session.

A cash allowance or free services (accommodation, for example) will be provided by the CNRS, which will also waive the enrollment fees (\$450) for the OFQJ program. Meetings with people working for professional equality between men and women or other such activities could also be organized.

The OFQJ will provide round-trip air transportation from Montréal to Paris, welcoming services and the first night's accommodation in Paris upon arrival, medical and civil liability insurance, bus transportation for candidates who live far from the departure airport, as well as an allowance for local transportation in urban areas of France.



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*
- *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)?*

*“It makes me sad to see that so few girls study science,
while many could develop a real passion for it.”*

Élise Letarte Lavoie, 2007-2008 OQAJ prizewinner, Chemical Engineering, Université de Sherbrooke

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



Career development trip Outside Québec

Category 2 (cont.)

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.

The OQAJ prize includes:

- round-trip transportation from Montréal to the site of the practicum in the Americas
- a living allowance of \$1000 paid by the OQAJ
- health and repatriation insurance
- a local transportation allowance for candidates who live far from the departure airport
- depending on the destination, the OQAJ may provide support for the prizewinner in her search for a practicum

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SELECTED CANDIDATE

The winner must complete the administrative formalities for entering the destination country (obtaining a temporary visa or any other formality) 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 2010).

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 how do you think this placement will affect you from a personal and professional point of view?*
- *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)?*

*“Science is a passion that requires time and energy.
It forces you to risk defeat but it also gratifies you with great victories.”*

Kim Mantha, winner of the 2007-2008 Chaire CRSNG/Industrielle-Alliance and Chaire Marianne-Mareschal, Electrical Engineering, Université de Sherbrooke

To find out more about the Chaire Marianne-Mareschal, go to the Web site www.chairemm.polymtl.ca.

To find out more about the Chaire CRSNG/Industrielle-Alliance, go to the Web site www.chaire-crsng-inal.fsg.ulaval.ca.

Paid Work Placements

Category 3

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 de l'École Polytechnique de Montréal** will be offering the winner a paid work placement worth \$4000 in one of the research labs of 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.

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?*



Registration Form To be completed by the candidate

(Please print)

Last name

First name

Date of birth

Year

Month

Day

Permanent address

Number, Street

Apartment

Social insurance number (**compulsory**)

City

Postal code

Telephone number with area code

E-mail

Cell number with area code

Address during the school year (if different from permanent address)

Number, Street

Apartment

City

Postal code

Telephone number with area code

Program of study (Please print)

Name of Program

Start date of program of study

End date of program of study

Name of educational institution

Address of educational institution

Number, street

Telephone number with area code

City

Postal code

Candidate's signature

Year-Month-Day

I wish to register for the following categories:

CATEGORY 1: CASH PRIZES

- EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE
- NEXT GENERATION
- AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD
- ENVIRONMENT
- TRANSPORTATION
- EQUITY
- CULTURAL OR NATIVE COMMUNITIES
- PERSEVERANCE

CATEGORY 2: CAREER DEVELOPMENT TRIPS OUTSIDE QUÉBEC

- WORK PLACEMENT IN A LABORATORY IN FRANCE – CNRS/OFQJ
- CAREER DEVELOPMENT TRIP - THE AMERICAS

CATEGORY 3: PAID WORK PLACEMENT

- WORK PLACEMENT IN A UNIVERSITY LAB

ACCESS TO AND CORRECTION OF YOUR REGISTRATION FORM

As a participant in the Competition, you may, at any time, have the information appearing on the registration form corrected by contacting the person in charge of the Contest at the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) 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 MELS that is pertinent to you.

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 here.

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 different 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.

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

A French version is 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 write to chapeaulesfilles@mels.gouv.qc.ca.

Égalité Prize for the *Hats Off to You!* Competition and the *Excellence in Science Contest*

The Minister of Culture, Communications and the Status of Women awarded the Égalité prize in March 2008 to the *Hats Off to You!* Competition and its university counterpart, *Excellence in Science*. The jury selected the *Hats Off to You!* Competition because it upsets a number of prejudices concerning women in traditionally male-dominated careers. In addition, the Competition has encouraged women to enroll in traditionally male-dominated training programs, improved their studying conditions and helped them obtain rewarding jobs, which has had positive, permanent socioeconomic effects. Nearly 1800 women

have benefited at the regional and provincial levels, and the winners have gained spectacular visibility through the media.

This honour reflects on the partners who provide financial support to the Competition and, of course, on the winners.



EXCELLENCE in science

2008-2009 Contest



Jessica Dubois-Martel

Forest Engineering, Université Laval
Chaire CRSNG/Industrielle-Alliance pour les
femmes en sciences et génie au Québec Prize



Application deadline: **February 6, 2009**
For more information, go to the Web site:
www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/chapeau

TO BE WON: Cash prizes ranging from \$2000 to \$5000 | A paid work placement at CNRS in France
A career development trip within the Americas
A paid work placement in a Québec university laboratory