

# EXCELLENCE in science

APPLICATION  
GUIDE

TO BE WON:

CASH PRIZES RANGING  
FROM \$2000 TO \$5000

- > A work placement in France
- > A work placement in a university lab



For more information,  
go to  
[www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/  
chapeau](http://www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/chapeau)

2010-2011 Contest

YOUR TAKE PLACE

APPLICATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 3, 2011

Centrale des syndicats  
du Québec



CHAIRE CRSNG | INDUSTRIELLE ALLIANCE  
pour les femmes en sciences  
et en génie au Québec



Chaire Marianne-Mareschal  
promotion du génie auprès des femmes



CREPUQ  
CONFÉRENCE DES RECTEURS  
ET DES PRINCIPAUX  
DES UNIVERSITÉS DU QUÉBEC



lojia Les Offices jeunesse  
internationaux du Québec  
OFQJ • OQAJ • OQWBJ

Québec



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)**, invites undergraduate women enrolled in pure and applied science programs that lead to traditionally male-dominated occupations to take part in the **CONTEST**

# EXCELLENCE in science

## The Excellence in Science contest:

- > **recognizes** women who choose a traditionally male-dominated career
- > **rewards** their hard work
- > **promotes** the success of female students within a predominantly male group
- > **showcases** successful female role models that go beyond gender stereotypes

## PRIZES

- > 22 prizes ranging from **\$2000 to \$5000**
- > A work placement at the Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS) in France
- > A work placement in a university lab



**Good reasons for participating**  
Obtain recognition for women's efforts  
Earn a good reputation and win cash prizes

## WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR 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, en collaboration avec la Fédération nationale des enseignantes et enseignants du Québec et la Fédération des professionnelles (CSN)
- > Conférence des recteurs et des principaux des universités du Québec (CREPUQ)
- > Fédération des travailleurs et travailleuses du Québec (FTQ)
- > Les Offices jeunesse internationaux du Québec (LOJIQ)
- > 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)
- > Ministère du Développement économique, de l'Innovation et de l'Exportation (MDEIE)

# How to participate in the Contest

**IT'S SIMPLE!** Just click and participate. Answer the questions in this document and then send everything via the Internet.

> APPLICATION DEADLINE: **February 3, 2011**

*"In addition to providing recognition, the competition favourably affects student perseverance and integration into the workplace."*



## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- > Candidates must be enrolled full-time in a bachelor's program in one of the pure or applied sciences identified on the Contest's Web site: [www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/chapeau](http://www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/chapeau).
- > They must attend a university-level institution in Québec.
- > They must be Canadian citizens or permanent residents and have resided in Québec for at least one year.

## NOTE:

- > Graduate students at the master's and doctoral levels are not eligible for the Contest.
- > Winners from the past five years are not eligible. In addition, former winners must be in a different program of study in order to enter the Contest again.
- > Winners of the *Hats Off to You!* contest are eligible for the *Excellence in Science* contest if they meet the general Contest requirements.

## APPLICATION

The tools and interactive application forms to be completed are available at [www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/chapeau](http://www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/chapeau).

The candidate's application must include:

1. a duly completed registration form
2. a copy of a transcript issued by the university attended
3. answers to the general questions on this page
4. answers to the questions pertaining specifically to each prize
5. a résumé

No other items (objects, photographs, special documents, etc.) will be accepted for the purpose of evaluating applications.

### To participate in the Contest, candidates must answer the following questions:

1. What are the highlights of your personal, academic or working life?
2. What motivated you to choose your particular training program or occupation?
3. What aptitudes or personal qualities do you have that will allow you to take your place in a field where women are in a minority?
4. What strategies are you using (or will you use) to take your place in a field that is traditionally reserved for men?
5. Describe your chosen occupation, the duties involved and the physical working conditions.
6. What are your goals for the future in your chosen occupation?
7. What are your reasons for entering the Contest?



*“What the Contest promotes is not young women as such, but a situation that is far from the norm.”*

[Translation] From the MELS research report entitled *Sortir des sentiers battus*.

## FORMATTING STANDARDS

Your answers to the general questions must not exceed two pages. They must be typed on standard letter paper using one-and-a-half line spacing; the font must be 11-point Arial and the margins must be set at 1.5 cm.

## SELECTION CRITERIA

Applications will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- > submission of a complete application package
- > quality of the presentation
- > clarity of the answers provided
- > authenticity and persuasiveness of the answers
- > relevance of personal commitment
- > relevance of the candidate's reasons for entering the Contest
- > academic performance

### NOTE

A candidate's academic performance will only count against her if she has failed two or more courses during the most recent school term.

## RESOURCES TO HELP YOU WRITE

A mentor can help you prepare the documents for your application. This person may be a member of the school staff or may be a Contest cybermentor. For further information, please go to [www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/cybermentores](http://www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/cybermentores).

For inspiration, refer to the profile pages of former winners at [www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/chapeau](http://www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/chapeau).

## FOR SCHOOL STAFF: MENTORSHIP PRIZE

Contest candidates who receive help in preparing their application from someone at their educational institution may nominate this person for the Mentorship Prize. To do so, students must complete the appropriate section in the application form. The winner will be drawn at random and presented with the \$500 prize at the provincial awards ceremony in May 2011.

## TIME FRAME

MELS will forward applications for the *Excellence in Science* contest to the selection committees, which are made up of partners from the fields of education, labour and business. Applications will be identified by codes only.

Around mid-March 2011, candidates will be sent a letter stating whether or not their application was successful.

## AWARDS CEREMONY

The awards will be given out during a gala ceremony for winners of the *Excellence in Science* and *Hats Off to You!* contests in May 2011.

## SUMMARY

1. Candidate's must complete their applications using the tools and interactive forms available at [www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/chapeau](http://www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/chapeau).
2. Applications must be sent no later than February 3, 2011, to [www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/chapeau](http://www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/chapeau).

### For more information...

- > Please write to [chapeaufilles@mels.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:chapeaufilles@mels.gouv.qc.ca) or call Caroline Boutin at 418-646-1536, extension 2332.



## CASH PRIZES EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE PRIZE

### What do you see as the role of women in science and technology?

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.



*"We need to present more accessible role models of women in science and not limit ourselves to astronauts or lab assistants. Between these two extremes, a whole range of occupations exists that allow women to balance a fulfilling career and a harmonious family life."*

**Catherine G. Couturier**,  
winner of the 2009-2010  
MELS Prize,  
Industrial Engineering,  
École Polytechnique de Montréal

#### REQUIREMENTS

THE CANDIDATE'S APPLICATION MUST INCLUDE HER ANSWERS TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- > *What do you think about the fact that women are underrepresented in scientific or technological careers?*
- > *In your opinion, what obstacles prevent large numbers of women from going into science and technology?*
- > *What do you think about the image that scientific researchers currently have in society?*

For more information about the MDEIE and its former prizewinners, go to [www.mdeie.gouv.qc.ca/chapeau](http://www.mdeie.gouv.qc.ca/chapeau).

To learn more about MELS and its former prizewinners, go to [www.mels.gouv.qc.ca](http://www.mels.gouv.qc.ca).

To find out more about CREPUQ and its former prizewinners, go to [www.crepuq.qc.ca](http://www.crepuq.qc.ca).



## NEXT GENERATION PRIZE

### Making her mark right from the start

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 fields listed.



*"My love of physics is too great to keep to myself. If I can make physics enjoyable to others, that will be my reward."*

**Mirjam Fines-Neuschild,**  
winner of the 2009-2010  
Next Generation Prize,  
Physics,  
Université de Montréal

#### REQUIREMENTS

THE CANDIDATE'S APPLICATION MUST INCLUDE HER ANSWERS TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- > *In your opinion, what obstacles prevent large numbers of women from going into science and technology?*
- > *What measures should be taken to encourage women who have opted for a career in science and technology?*

For more information about the MDEIE and its former prizewinners, go to [www.mdeie.gouv.qc.ca/chapeau](http://www.mdeie.gouv.qc.ca/chapeau).

To learn more about MELS and its former prizewinners, go to [www.mels.gouv.qc.ca](http://www.mels.gouv.qc.ca).



## AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD PRIZE

### Feet on the ground

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

- > Agroeconomics
- > Agroenvironment
- > Agricultural and Rural Engineering
- > Food Engineering



*"Bioresource engineering seemed THE perfect program that would allow me to fight against climate change."*

**Stéphanie Mayer**,  
winner of the 2009-2010  
Agriculture and Agri-Food Prize,  
Bioresource Engineering,  
McGill University

### REQUIREMENTS

THE CANDIDATE'S APPLICATION MUST INCLUDE HER ANSWERS TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- > *How will the competencies acquired in your training prepare you to work in the field of agriculture or agri-food?*
- > *How are you currently involved in the field?*

To find out more about MAPAQ and its former prizewinners, go to [www.mapaq.gouv.qc.ca/chapeau](http://www.mapaq.gouv.qc.ca/chapeau).



## ENVIRONMENT PRIZE

### Dedicated to saving the planet

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

- > Biophysics
- > Bioresource Engineering
- > Chemical Engineering
- > Civil Engineering
- > Engineering
- > Environmental Geomatics
- > Forestry Engineering, Forestry and Silviculture
- > Industrial and Administrative Engineering
- > Mechanical Engineering
- > Metallurgical and Materials Engineering
- > Meteorology and Atmospheric Sciences
- > Mining Engineering
- > Surveying



*"If more women worked in the sciences, they would bring innovative ideas and contribute to the biodiversity of science and technologies."*

**Amélie Denoncourt**,  
winner of the 2009-2010  
Environment Prize,  
Forest Environment and Forest  
Resources Management,  
Université Laval

#### REQUIREMENTS

THE CANDIDATE'S APPLICATION MUST INCLUDE HER ANSWERS TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- > *How will the competencies acquired in your university program help you become professionally involved in the field of the environment?*
- > *How are you currently involved in the field?*

To learn more about the MDDEP and its former prizewinners, go to [www.mddep.gouv.qc.ca/programmes/chapeau](http://www.mddep.gouv.qc.ca/programmes/chapeau).



## TRANSPORTATION PRIZE

### **By all manner of means!**

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

- > Aerospace, Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering
- > Civil, Construction and Transportation Engineering
- > Engineering
- > Surveying



*"I want to participate in maintaining, renewing and improving the road network in Québec, without losing sight of sustainable development."*

**Fanny Seminaro,**  
winner of the 2009-2010  
Transportation Prize,  
Civil Engineering,  
Université de Sherbrooke

### **REQUIREMENTS**

THE CANDIDATE'S APPLICATION MUST INCLUDE HER ANSWERS TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- > *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?*

To find out more about the MTQ, go to [www.mtq.gouv.qc.ca](http://www.mtq.gouv.qc.ca).



## EQUITY PRIZE

### Have you experienced job insecurity?

Tell us your story...

The **Fédération des travailleurs et travailleuses du Québec (FTQ)** awards one prize of \$2000 to a female student who has held an unstable job (e.g. part-time, on call, on contract, temporary).

#### REQUIREMENTS

THE CANDIDATE'S APPLICATION MUST INCLUDE HER ANSWERS TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- > *Why did you choose to train or retrain for a traditionally male-dominated occupation? Describe your experience in an unstable job.*
- > *How will your training and work experience or your experience of union, social or volunteer involvement help you to:*
  - *overcome obstacles to take your place within a team?*
  - *be accepted and gain the respect of the male majority?*
  - *keep your job?*
- > *What steps do you plan on taking to improve the working conditions for women in generally male-dominated trades?*

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

For more information about the FTQ and its former prizewinners, go to [www.femmes.ftq.qc.ca](http://www.femmes.ftq.qc.ca).



## NATIVE AND CULTURAL COMMUNITIES PRIZE

### Are you a member of a Native community or a cultural community?

Tell us your story...

The **Confédération des syndicats nationaux (CSN)**, together with the **Fédération national des enseignantes et enseignants du Québec (FNEEQ)** and the **Fédération des professionnelles (FP)**, awards a prize of \$2000 to a woman who has chosen a nontraditional occupation and who is either a Native person or a member of a cultural community.



*"I had to earn the respect of my colleagues and supervisor to design video games. As a result, seven of my animations were included in the final version of the game."*

**Karla Michelle Gomez Abrego**,  
winner of the 2009-2010  
Native and Cultural  
Communities Prize,  
*Software Engineering*,  
École Polytechnique de Montréal

#### REQUIREMENTS

THE CANDIDATE'S APPLICATION MUST INCLUDE HER ANSWERS TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- > *As a member of a cultural or Native community, what obstacles did you face at school or regarding your career choice?*
- > *Were you encouraged to fulfill your ambition? If so, how?*
- > *What motivated you to choose a nontraditional occupation?*

To find out more about the CSN and its former prizewinners, go to [www.csn.qc.ca](http://www.csn.qc.ca).



## PERSEVERANCE PRIZE

### For those who never gave up

The **Centrale des syndicats du Québec (CSQ)** awards a prize of \$2000 to a female student who has shown exceptional perseverance in training for a traditionally male-dominated occupation.

This award recognizes perseverance in the achievement of career goals. It is not designed to reward students 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 home, having a baby, facing family responsibilities, overcoming stereotypes), or making lifestyle choices in order to pursue training.



*"Long hours spent studying, combined with effective study habits, made it possible for me to improve my results by leaps and bounds."*

**Anne-Marie Béland,**  
winner of the 2009-2010  
Perseverance Prize,  
Automated Production  
Engineering,  
École de technologie supérieure

#### REQUIREMENTS

THE CANDIDATE'S APPLICATION MUST INCLUDE HER ANSWERS TO 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.*

To learn more about the CSQ and its former prizewinners, go to [www.csq.qc.net](http://www.csq.qc.net).



## WORK PLACEMENT IN A LABORATORY IN FRANCE–CNRS/LOJIQ PRIZE

### International experience a boon for young people!

The **Mission for the Place of Women** of the **Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS)** and **Les Offices jeunesse internationaux du Québec (LOJIQ)** offer a work placement in a CNRS lab in France. The work placement is awarded to the best candidate pursuing a traditionally male-dominated university program in the pure or applied sciences.

This prize is specifically for female students in the programs of study eligible for the Contest. (See the list at [www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/chapeau](http://www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/chapeau).)

The winner will be offered a work placement in a CNRS laboratory specializing in her field of study. This work placement will take place in the laboratory of the student's choice and will extend over a period of two to three months between September 2011 and August 2012.

A cash allowance or free services (accommodation, for example) will be provided by the CNRS. Meetings with people working for professional equality between men and women or other such activities could also be organized.

LOJIQ will provide round-trip air transportation to France and a \$500 living allowance as well as medical and civil liability insurance.



*"I enjoy research and would love the opportunity to do experiments, analyze data and really challenge myself. This is what prompted me to apply for a work placement in a CNRS lab in France."*

**Mireille Sayad**, 2009-2010 winner of a work placement in a laboratory in France, *Chemical Engineering*, École Polytechnique de Montréal

### REQUIREMENTS

#### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

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

#### THE CANDIDATE'S APPLICATION MUST INCLUDE HER ANSWERS TO 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 steps would you take to prepare for this opportunity (e.g. making contacts, obtaining information on the area)? Describe the ideal work placement for you.*

The CNRS is the largest public scientific research organization in Europe. It has over 1 100 laboratories throughout France and employs more than 30 000 technicians, engineers and researchers working in various capacities.

To learn more about the CNRS and the Mission for the Place of Women, go to [www.cnrs.fr](http://www.cnrs.fr) and [www.cnrs.fr/mission-femmes](http://www.cnrs.fr/mission-femmes).

For more information about LOGIQ and its former prizewinners, go to [www.lojiq.org](http://www.lojiq.org).



## WORK PLACEMENT IN A UNIVERSITY LAB PRIZE

### On a silver platter

The **Chaire CRSNG/Industrielle-Alliance pour les femmes en sciences et génie au Québec** and the **Chaire Marianne-Mareschal (École Polytechnique de Montréal)** offer a paid work placement worth \$4000 in a research lab.

The prizewinner will be offered a placement in a lab specializing in her field at Université Laval in Québec City or at the École Polytechnique in Montréal, to be carried out during the summer semester of 2011.

This bursary may not be combined with any other merit fellowship for the same work placement.



*"Even though I've always been interested in the sciences, I didn't think I could succeed in engineering. Women have more trouble than men believing in themselves and persevering when they have setbacks."*

**Evelyne Brown-Dussault,**  
2009-2010 winner of a work placement in a university lab,  
Physical Engineering,  
Université Laval

### REQUIREMENTS

THE CANDIDATE'S APPLICATION MUST INCLUDE HER ANSWER TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTION:

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

To find out more about the Chaire CRSNG/Industrielle Alliance pour les femmes en sciences et génie au Québec, go to [www.chaire-crsng-inal.fsg.ulaval.ca](http://www.chaire-crsng-inal.fsg.ulaval.ca).

To learn more about the Chaire Marianne-Mareschal (École Polytechnique de Montréal), go to [www.chairemm.polymtl.ca](http://www.chairemm.polymtl.ca).