

TAKE YOUR PLACE

EXCELLENCE

in science

Competition
2011-2012

Application Guide

TO BE WON:

Cash 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 in Québec

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

February 2, 2012

For more information, go to www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/chapeau.



Marie-Lise Pilote, humorist
traditionally male-dominated occupation



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 showcase their ideas, dreams and differences by taking part in the **Excellence in Science Competition**.

EXCELLENCE in science

THE EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE COMPETITION:

- **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 in Québec

HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COMPETITION

It's easy! Just click and participate. Answer the general questions as well as the specific questions related to each prize and then submit your application online.

You will receive a message confirming the receipt of your application along with a file number.

Please note that you must send your application package to a staff member at your educational institution for endorsement of your candidacy. This person will not be able to access your personal information but must send his or her recommendation, which will become part of your file to be evaluated, no later than February 2, 2012.

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)

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:
FEBRUARY 2, 2012**

APPLICATION

The tools and interactive application forms to be completed are available at 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 and to the specific (thematic) questions pertaining to each prize
4. a résumé
5. a recommendation form, completed by a member of the educational institution attended

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

TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COMPETITION

Please answer the following general questions:

- 1 What are the highlights of your personal, academic or working life?
- 2 What motivated you to choose a traditionally male-dominated occupation?
- 3 Describe your chosen occupation, the duties involved and the physical and social working conditions.
- 4 What does the slogan *Take your place* mean to you? Describe, for example, the personal aptitudes you have for carrying out a traditionally male-dominated occupation, your strategies for making a place for yourself in a predominantly male environment, your plans for the future, etc.
- 5 Apart from financial considerations, what motivated you to take part in the Competition?

After answering these questions, you must answer the specific questions pertaining to each prize (see the section on prizes grouped by theme).

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

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

PLEASE NOTE:

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

“Apart from the recognition it brings, the competition has a positive impact on student retention and sociovocational integration.”

SELECTION CRITERIA AND AWARDING OF PRIZES

Applications will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- submission of a complete application package in accordance with the formatting standards
- 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 Competition
- recommendation by a member of the educational institution

“The competition is not so much about showcasing women as such, but more about generating awareness of a situation that deserves to be more widely known.”

Source: *Sortir des sentiers battus*, a research report produced by the Ministère de l’Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport.

The Ministère de l’Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) will forward applications for the *Excellence in Science* Competition 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 2012, candidates will be sent a letter stating whether or not their application was successful.

The awards will be given out by the competition sponsors during a gala ceremony for winners of the *Excellence in Science* Competition and provincial winners of the *Hats Off to You!* Competition in May 2012 in Montréal.



VERY IMPORTANT

You will be sent an automated e-mail message once your portfolio has been received, and another one confirming reception of the recommendation sent by the person you designated when registering.

You will also receive a third e-mail confirming your eligibility (provided your portfolio is complete). Please note that the person you designated will not have access to the personal information (your date of birth, social insurance number, contact information) that appears on your registration form.



FORMATTING STANDARDS

Your answers must not be more than two pages long, typed with one-and-a-half line spacing. Please use 11-point Arial font, margins of 1.5 cm and letter-sized paper.

HELP WITH WRITING

A mentor can help you prepare your application. It may be someone from the school staff or a cybermentor from the competition. For more information, go to www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/cybermentores.

For inspiration, read the covering letters of previous years' winners at the following address: www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/chapeau.

FOR SCHOOL STAFF: MENTORSHIP PRIZE

Competition candidates who receive help in preparing their application from the school mentor may nominate this person for the Mentorship Prize. To do so, students must complete the appropriate section in the application form. The winner's name will be drawn at random and presented with the \$500 prize at the provincial awards ceremony in May 2012.

A mentor or school mentor could be a member of the administration or of the teaching or nonteaching staff of the educational institution attended who has helped the candidate prepare for the Competition or at some other point during her school studies. The assistance provided could be in the form of tips on writing, moral support or any other encouragement conducive to student retention and academic success or useful to the candidate in preparing her application.

TRANSMISSION OF THE CANDIDATE'S PORTFOLIO

1. Candidates must submit their portfolio online and ask a school mentor to support their candidacy. To do so, they must provide the e-mail address of this person, who will use an online form to send his or her recommendation.
2. All the required documents (complete candidate's portfolio sent by the candidate and the recommendation sent by a staff member of the educational institution attended by the candidate) must be submitted by midnight on February 2, 2012, to the following address: www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/chapeau.

Category 1 : cash prizes

Excellence in Science

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 one prize of \$2000.

CONDITIONS

In addition to answering the general questions on the application form, the candidate must answer the following questions (a maximum of one page):

What do you think about the fact that women are underrepresented in scientific and 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 have in society today?

For more information about the MDEIE and its former prizewinners, go to www.mdeie.gouv.qc.ca/chapeau.
For more information about the MELS and its former prizewinners, go to www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/chapeau.
For more information about the CREPUQ and its former prizewinners, go to www.crepuq.qc.ca.

Next Generation

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 an eligible program.



"I dream of a world without stereotyped roles, one where women and men can work together side by side."

Marie-Lise Pilote

CONDITIONS

In addition to answering the general questions on the application form, the candidate must answer the following questions (a maximum of one page):

In your opinion, what obstacles prevent large numbers of women from going into science and technology?

What measures should be taken from the time they began their training to encourage women who have opted for a career in science and technology?

Agriculture and Agri-Food

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:

- Agroecconomics
- Agroenvironment
- Agricultural and Rural Engineering
- Food Engineering

CONDITIONS

In addition to answering the general questions on the application form, the candidate must answer the following questions (a maximum of one page):

How will the skills acquired in your training prepare you to work in the field of agriculture or agri-foods?

How are you currently involved in the field?

Environment

DEDICATED TO SAVING THE PLANET

The **Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs (MDDEP)** awards one 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

CONDITIONS

In addition to answering the general questions on the application form, the candidate must answer the following questions (a maximum of one page):

How will the skills acquired in your training help you become professionally involved in the field of the environment?

How are you currently involved in the field?

Transportation

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:

- Aerspatial, Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering
- Civil, Construction and Transportation Engineering
- Engineering
- Surveying



"I developed my skills as a businesswoman by deciding to manage my career myself. Then I started my own business . . . a line of work clothing for women. Ladies, you've just got to go for it!"

Marie-Lise Pilote

CONDITIONS

In addition to answering the general questions on the application form, the candidate must answer the following questions (a maximum of one page):

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?

Equity

KNOW ALL ABOUT 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).

CONDITIONS

In addition to answering the general questions on the application form, the candidate must answer the following questions (a maximum of one page):

Why did you choose to train or retrain for a traditionally male-dominated occupation? Describe your experience in an unstable job or jobs.

How will your training and work experience or your 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 to take to improve the working conditions for women in generally male-dominated trades?

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

To find out more about the FTQ and its previous prizewinners, go to www.femmes.ftq.qc.ca.

Cultural

Communities

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 nationale 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.

CONDITIONS

In addition to answering the general questions on the application form, the candidate must answer the following questions (a maximum of one page):

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 traditionally male-dominated occupation?

To find out more about the CSN and its previous prizewinners, go to www.csn.qc.ca.

Perseverance

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 intended 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 an education or training.

CONDITIONS

In addition to answering the general questions on the application form, the candidate must answer the following questions (a maximum of one page):

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.

Work Placement in a Laboratory in France

CNRS/LOJIQ

EXPLORE RESEARCH AT THE CNRS

The **Mission pour la place des femmes 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.

The winner will be offered a work placement in a CNRS laboratory specializing in her field of study. This work placement in the lab of the student's choice will last two to three months and must begin and end between September 2012 and August 2013.

A practicum allowance will be provided by the CNRS. LOJIQ will provide round-trip air transportation to France and a \$500 living allowance as well as medical and civil liability insurance.

The CNRS is the largest public research organization in Europe. It comprises more than 1100 laboratories throughout France and employs more than 34 000 technicians, engineers and researchers working in various capacities.

CONDITIONS

All students register in programs which are included in the competition can submit their candidacy for the prize.

In order to be eligible for this prize, candidates must:

- 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

In addition to answering the general questions on the application form, the candidate must answer the following questions (a maximum of one page):

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.

To find out more about the CNRS and its Mission pour la place des femmes, go to www.cnrs.fr and www.cnrs.fr/mission-femmes. To find out more about the LOJIQ and its former prizewinners, go to www.lojiq.org.

Work Placement in a University Lab

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 2012.

Note: This bursary cannot be combined with any other merit fellowship for the same work placement.



**"My participation in the
Hats Off to You! awards gala
made me realize how much
I wanted to tell other women
that anything is possible."**

Marie-Lise Pilote

CONDITIONS

In addition to answering the general questions on the application form, the candidate must answer 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, visit www.chaire-crsng-inal.fsg.ulaval.ca; and for the Chaire Marianne-Mareschal (École Polytechnique de Montréal), go to www.chairemm.polymtl.ca.