

International Internship Scholarship offered by the QICSS and the FQRSC

CONTEXT

The **Quebec Inter-University Centre for Social Statistics (QICSS)** offers access to **detailed microdata** from large-scale surveys carried out by Statistics Canada and the *Institut de la statistique du Québec*. The QICSS has three main goals: 1) Support and develop cutting-edge research in the field of social statistics; 2) expand the pool of social statistics researchers and train the next generation; and 3) make research findings and their implications known to a wide audience.

The QICSS is a strategic group supported by the *Fonds de recherche sur la société et la culture* (FQRSC).

As part of the *Stratégie québécoise de la recherche et de l'innovation*, the *Ministère du développement économique, de l'innovation et de l'exportation* makes available additional money for the Quebec Research Fund to help develop or strengthen international equity of research centers, including the QICSS.

The QICSS, along with the FQRSC, offers international internship scholarships in order to facilitate the international mobility of doctoral students whose research is part of the objectives pursued by the QICSS.

Students enrolled in joint supervision cannot benefit from this program to travel and stay in either of their home university.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

a) FQRSC Requirements

Candidates who are Canadian citizens or permanent residents must:

- Be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (2001, ch. 27). A permanent resident is an individual who has been granted landing in Canada without Canadian citizenship;
- Have been living in Québec for at least one year;
- Be a resident of Québec under the Act respecting the *Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec* (L.R.Q.c.A-29) and the Taxation Act.

An individual who remains a resident of Québec under the Act respecting the *Régie de l'assurance maladie* and is living outside the province while pursuing his/her studies is deemed to be a resident of Québec.

An individual who does not remain a resident of Québec under the Act respecting the *Régie de l'assurance maladie* and has lived outside Québec for less than two years after having resided in Québec for at least five years according to the aforementioned act is exempt from the requirements pertaining to Québec residency when submitting his/her application.

A *Fonds québécois de la recherche sur la société et la culture* scholarship holder must meet the citizenship and residency requirements stipulated in the Act respecting the *Régie de l'assurance*

maladie du Québec and the Taxation Act during the entire duration of his/her scholarship.

Place of tenure

The internships must be carried out in a high-priority country or region, as set out in Québec's International Policy (MRI, 2006): France, Germany, United Kingdom, United States, Mexico, Brazil, China, Japan, India, Italy, Wallonia-Brussels, Flanders, Israel and Catalonia. The internships may also be carried out as part of multilateral projects or the European Union's 6th or 7th Framework Program.

Candidates who are international students must:

- Be registered in a university located outside of Canada;
- Not be registered in a joint program with a Québec university;
- Carry out an internship as a member of one of Québec's strategic clusters.

b) QICSS Requirements

1. Have an **active** project at the QICSS at the time of filing the application (no later than February 15, 2012).

2. *Canadian citizens and permanent residents* must be enrolled full time in a doctoral program in one of the QICSS' seven member universities, (Université Laval, Concordia University, INRS-Urbanisation, culture et société, McGill University, Université du Québec à Montréal, Université de Sherbrooke or Université de Montréal) ; *International students* must do a thesis using data similar to those available at the QICSS.

3. Have an internship project which is part of one the following priorities of the QICSS:

- i. The promotion of comparative research on important social issues based on large databases of detailed microdata (poverty and social exclusion, family transformations, child development, determinants of health, transition from school to workplace, training, etc.)
- ii. The development and use of cutting-edge methods in the analysis of complex data (longitudinal analysis, multilevel analysis, spatial analysis, etc.)
- iii. The use of research results for the evaluation and formulation of public policies (knowledge transfer in the field of social statistics).

EVALUATION CRITERIA (FQRSC)

The applications will be assessed by the strategic clusters according to an internal process based on these criteria:

- Academic excellence and the applicant's research skills;
- Relevance of the project to the research program or priorities set out by the strategic cluster;
- Relevance of the internship project to the strategic cluster's international initiatives.

SELECTION PROCESS

All eligible applications that are fully completed by the required date will be evaluated by a committee chaired by the Director of the QICSS. The results will be announced no later than March 15, 2012.

The dossiers will be judged on the following criteria:

1. Academic excellence;
2. The quality of the scientific project (relevance of the objectives, adequacy of the proposed methodology for those objectives, clarity of presentation);
3. The reason why the project requires access to the QICSS;
4. The quality of the supporting letter from the director or the director of research.

SCHOLARSHIP PERIOD

The scholarship period must have begun by March 31, 2013.

VALUE OF THE SCHOLARSHIP

A lump sum to cover six (6) months of internship, which may be awarded as one or several scholarships, will be granted to each of the strategic clusters funded by the FQRSC. The value of each scholarship will be based on the length of the proposed internship: \$2 500/month will be given to each scholarship recipient to cover travel and living expenses in whole or in part. Each internship must last at least two months. The strategic cluster may supplement the amount provided by the FQRSC.

Each cluster may submit one application by an international student. The same assessment, internship period and scholarship value rules apply to this application.

FINAL REPORT

A final report on the activities carried out during the internship must be submitted to the FQRSC within the six months following the end of the internship.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Students wishing to apply must provide:

- A description of the research project requiring access to the QICSS, specifying the stage reached in the research. The project description should include the research question and methodology and identify the database(s) to be used at the QICSS. The description of the research project should be no more than 5 pages;

- A description of the internship:

A) nature of the internship: the candidate must specify the internship objectives and the strategy to achieve them. The candidate must demonstrate the relevance of the internship in relation to 1) the doctoral research in progress and 2) the three QICSS priorities listed above;

B) location: the candidate must demonstrate that the welcoming institution is suitable in regards to the QICSS priorities.

- A copy of all university transcripts (photocopies accepted);
- A letter of support from the doctoral supervisor;
- A letter of support from the welcoming institution (university, center, group, etc.).

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF THE APPLICATION

February 15th 2012