

Research Award: IDRC Challenge Fund

Deadline: August 6, 2014

Please note that all applications must be submitted online.

IDRC is one of the world's leaders in generating new knowledge to meet global challenges. We offer a number of research awards providing a unique opportunity to enhance research skills and gain a fresh perspective on crucial development issues. These one-year, paid, in-house programs of training and mentorship allow award holders to pursue their research goals and work in one of IDRC's dynamic program or division teams.

The [IDRC Challenge Fund](#) responds to the growing demand for international collaborative research. To catalyze international consortia, we partner with research granting councils in Canada and internationally. The projects we fund facilitate the generation and sharing of knowledge across countries and disciplines to address global challenges. We support research in IDRC's existing program areas (i.e., Agriculture and Environment, Global Health Policy, Social and Economic Policy, and Science and Innovation).

In 2015, the Challenge Fund is seeking a Research Awardee to undertake research seeking to analyze science, technology, and innovation (STI) strategies in low- and middle-income countries, as well as the role of international collaboration in enhancing STI to address local and international challenges.

The Research Awardee will contribute to this effort through research on the following topics and illustrative questions:

- **Identifying strategies to strengthen STI:** Where, how, and why have some countries been more successful than others in developing their scientific capacity? What are the political, economic, and social dynamics that influence the direction and support for STI?
- **Understanding the performance of innovation strategies:** How effective have efforts been to encourage closer links between science and industry through large infrastructure projects, science parks, or innovation hubs? What are the critical success factors? What further research might be required to better use STI for competitiveness and economic development?
- **Analyzing the role International cooperation, trade and/or diplomacy in supporting STI:** How, why, and to what effect have high- income countries used trade, aid, or diplomacy to support low- and middle-income countries to promote the generation and application of science to social, economic, or environmental challenges?

The Research Awardee is expected to develop a research project on one of the above topics and report on his/her progress at IDRC, its regional offices, or other academic and professional forums. The Awardee is expected to finalize their research paper in the form of a publication with single or joint authorship.

Who can apply?

To be eligible, you must meet the following requirements:

- Be a citizen or permanent resident of Canada, or a citizen of a developing country.
- Be either currently enrolled at a recognized university at the master's or doctoral level or have completed a master's or doctoral degree at a recognized university. These awards may be part of an academic requirement.
- Your proposed research must focus on one or more developing countries.

Candidates should have the following qualifications:

- A graduate degree in management, science/public policy, economics, political studies or other relevant disciplines;
- Some relevant work experience and/or research on the suggested research topics;
- An understanding of social science methodologies;
- Independent field research experience; and
- Strong verbal and written communications skills.

This position is located at IDRC's head office in Ottawa.

APPLY NOW

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A key part of Canada's foreign policy efforts, IDRC supports research in developing countries to promote growth and development.

International Development Research Centre

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