Research Award: Information and Networks

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.

IDRC's Information and Networks (I&N) program explores the positive and negative impacts of widespread access to mobile telephones and the Internet in developing countries. I&N works to promote positive social and economic change, particularly in the areas of creative industries, governance, learning, and science.

I&N is seeking a Research Awardee for 2015.

The growth of networked technologies has created new opportunities for advancing human development in developing countries. Greater access to the Internet and mobile phones has led to a series of unique and potentially transformative development opportunities such as open models in governance, education, entrepreneurship, as well as collaborative models for participation and organization. At the same time, changes brought on through a networked society can also lead to digital exclusion, censorship, and erosion of privacy.

The I&N Research Awardee will ideally explore research questions centred on these new opportunities and challenges of the emerging networked societies in the South. Examples of questions include:

- What is the development potential of "openness" models, defined by shared ownership, collaborative methods, transparency, low cost, and a "do-it-ourselves" approach?
- What are the limitations of openness models in reducing poverty or achieving networked societies?
- What role do collaborative technologies (e.g., social media) play in social innovation and change?
- Which policies and regulations are needed to sustain inclusive and innovative network societies?

The Research Awardee is expected to be able to present her/his research plan and progress during the year during team meetings at IDRC, in regional offices, or any other academic or professional forum. She/he is expected to finalize her/his research paper in the form of an internal or external 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 a developing country.

The research awardee should have the following qualifications:

- Master's degree in social sciences, media studies, development studies or technical fields such as engineering or computer/information science;
- Strong writing and editing skills in English;
- Knowledge of French or Spanish would be an asset;
- Experience working in a development organization and/or conducting research or working in a developing country are also considered assets.

The successful candidate will contribute to a variety of other tasks in addition to his/her research work as part of the I&N team.

The position is based at IDRC's head office in Ottawa.

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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

150 Kent • PO Box 8500 • Ottawa ON Canada K1G 3H9
Phone: +1 613 236 6163

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