Research Award: Networked Economies

Deadline: August 6, 2015
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 Networked Economies program explores how developing countries can take advantage of the rapid diffusion of networked technologies for economic and social development. Specifically, the program seeks to spur economic growth and create employment opportunities by scaling innovative solutions. For example, open data has great potential for driving innovation. Similarly, big data analytics can offer solutions to a number of health and social problems. Networked Economies also works to build leaders and institutions in developing countries that are capable of advancing policy discussions in the areas of democracy, human rights and economic growth. The program also works to improve the access of marginalized groups, such as women and youth, to new technologies.

Networked Economies is seeking a Research Award Recipient to explore research questions centred on the new opportunities and challenges arising from emerging networked societies in developing countries. The Research Award Recipient may explore one or more of the following questions:
- What are the barriers to scaling digital innovations for economic and social development in developing countries?
- How does digital "openness", defined by shared ownership, collaborative methods, transparency, low cost, and "do-it-ourselves" approaches, make a difference in the development context?
- What roles can international governance mechanisms play in ensuring a secure and open Internet?
- What policies and regulations are needed to support inclusive and innovative digital economies?

The successful candidate will allocate 50% of their time towards a research project relating to the above themes under the guidance of a Senior Program Officer. They will be expected to prepare a research plan, provide progress updates during the year, and present their findings at the end of the year. It is expected that they will finalize their research paper in the form of an internal or external publication with single or joint authorship. The other 50% of the successful candidate's time will include contributions to program operations, which may include synthesizing and disseminating project outcomes and results; participating in program and project development, monitoring,

and evaluation; supporting program communications and research dissemination activities; and preparing internal and external reports. Applicants should clearly outline their qualifications for this position, and explain how this opportunity will advance their career goals.

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; and
• Experience working in a development organization and/or conducting research or working in a developing country is an asset.

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

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

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