

# Research Award: Communications Division

**Deadline: August 7, 2013**

*Please note that all applications must be sent electronically.*

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 Communications Research Award focuses on corporate and research communication within the Communications Division. This Division works actively with the Centre's thematic program areas and regional offices to help promote IDRC and turn research results into action. It has undertaken a number of initiatives to promote research results to key stakeholders. These initiatives include a very active book publishing program, media relations, and Web and social media strategies, as well as other outreach programs.

As a Communications Research Award recipient, you will undertake a half-year program of research on the topic you submitted when competing for the award. As a member of the Division's team, you will also contribute for half a year to a variety of other communication tasks.

Your research proposal should address one or more aspects of successful communication. For example:

- How can the outcomes and impacts of communication initiatives be measured (branding, website, media campaigns, social media, research communication to influence policy and practice)?
- What strategies, tools, and techniques are most effective in reaching various stakeholders in Canada and developing countries?
- What strategies, tools, and techniques do researchers use to communicate their findings to policymakers in developing countries? When (and why) do they work?
- How can new social media channels be used more effectively to promote research results, especially to stakeholders in developing regions with limited access to these outlets?
- How are new technologies changing the face of publishing and how can development agencies benefit?
- How can training programs, coaching, and mentoring effectively boost researchers' communication skills?

The award holder is expected to report on his or her research plan and progress during the year during team meetings, IDRC events, or other academic or professional forums. You are expected to finalize your research paper in the form of an internal or external publication with single or joint authorship.

## Who can apply

The program is aimed at candidates who, through demonstrated achievements in academic studies, work, or research, have shown interest in creating and using knowledge to improve communication initiatives.

### 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 and/or Canada.

### Candidates should have the following qualifications:

- Be enrolled in or hold a master's in communication, public policy, publishing, journalism, development studies, or other related field;
- Experience researching or working in a developing country or a strong demonstrated interest in development and development issues;
- Familiarity with practices used in communication and research communication;
- Strong verbal and written communication skills.

This position is located 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.

#### **International Development Research Centre**

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