

# NEW DEADLINE: JANUARY 16, 2009

## GRADUATE STUDENT COMPETITION

2009 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences  
Carleton University  
Ottawa, Ontario  
May 23-31, 2009

The Human Resources and Social Development Canada (HRSDC) Graduate Student Competition invites Canadian graduate students to submit proposals for policy-relevant research papers that will be presented at the 2009 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences.

The Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences will be held at Carleton University from May 23 to May 31, 2009, with an expected attendance of approximately 9,000 delegates from more than 70 scholarly associations and universities. This event is an ideal forum to explore ideas, and present and debate research findings with scholars, policy makers and stakeholders from all levels of government, the private sector, and national research institutions dedicated to the advancement and dissemination of humanities and social sciences research.

HRSDC wishes to support the essential link between research and policy making. We are therefore seeking new perspectives and policy-relevant research on a topic that addresses issues closely related to post-secondary education in the Canadian context, for example:

- accessibility to post-secondary education, particularly for under-represented groups
- internationalization of post-secondary education and impacts on quality
- the benefits and limits of alternative approaches to post-secondary education (e.g. e-learning, distance education)
- lessons learned from exemplary university/college partnerships

Research topics should also be relevant to the 2009 Congress theme, "Capital Connections: Nation, Terroir, Territoire".

### The 2009 Graduate Student Competition

**Requirements:** This competition is open to all Canadian graduate students. In order to be considered, applications must include:

1. **Completed cover sheet** (see attached). To include contact details, and confirmation by the applicant's academic advisor and/or Dean or Department Head that the applicant is actively engaged in the research and/or writing of a master's thesis or doctoral dissertation in the humanities or social sciences.
2. **Proposal.** A research proposal written in English or French, between 750 and 1,000 words in length (longer proposals will not be considered) that identifies and demonstrates:
  - The relevance of your research theme to post-secondary education and the Congress theme;
  - The particular set of sub-issues that will constitute the paper's focus;
  - The key questions, assumptions and hypotheses;
  - An understanding of how research may advance thinking in relation to the existing bodies of scientific and scholarly research; and,
  - How the research will be policy-relevant.
3. **A current curriculum vitae.**

**New Deadline:** Electronic submissions will be accepted until **Friday, January 16, 2009** and can be directed to Jessica Harrington (CFHSS) and Sabrina Guerin (HRSDC):

**Jessica Harrington, Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences**  
Email: [jharrington@fedcan.ca](mailto:jharrington@fedcan.ca)

And

**Sabrina Guerin, Human Resources and Social Development Canada**  
Email: [sabrina.guerin@hrsdc-rhdsc.gc.ca](mailto:sabrina.guerin@hrsdc-rhdsc.gc.ca)

**Evaluation:** Research proposals will be evaluated on:

- **Content:** Originality, appropriateness, and relationship to the field of post-secondary education and the Congress theme; and extent to which the author addresses the topic selected.
- **Style:** Adherence to the generally accepted rules of style. Please follow MLA or APA style sheets.
- **Organization:** Clear thesis statement, logic of the content, and coherence.
- **Rigour:** Importance and appropriateness of references, suitability of material used, and accuracy of statements.
- **Policy-relevance:** Clear delineation of implications for policy makers

**Selection Process:** A panel consisting of HRSDC and CFHSS members will review and evaluate the submissions, select up to five (5) proposals for presentation at the Congress, and **inform successful applicants only by January 30, 2009**. The award recipients will be required to finalize and send an electronic copy of their completed conference paper by **May 8, 2009**, and present the paper at the Congress. Final texts of the paper will be due by **August 28, 2009**.

**The Award will include:**

- Congress registration fees (please note that this does not include association conference fees);
- A stipend in the amount of \$1,000 to be awarded in two equal instalments: ½ following the presentation of the paper at Congress; ½ following the submission of the final paper on or before August 28, 2009.

**The Competition Co-Sponsors: HRSDC and CFHSS**

Human Resources and Social Development Canada is the federal department charged with building a stronger and more competitive Canada, supporting Canadians in making choices that help them live productive and rewarding lives, and improving Canadians' quality of life.

*For more information about the Department, its mandate and priorities, please visit the HRSDC website:*  
<http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/home.shtml>

The Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences (CFHSS) is the voice of the human sciences in Canada. With a membership of 66 learned societies and 69 universities and colleges, it represents over 50,000 researchers, scholars, graduate students and practitioners active in the study of languages, sociology, literatures, religion, geography, psychology, anthropology, history, philosophy, classics, law, economics, education, as well as linguistics, women's issues, industrial relations, international development and many more. The CFHSS promotes research, scholarship, and teaching in the humanities and social sciences and a better understanding of the importance of such work for Canada and the world. It works for the advancement and dissemination of knowledge in the humanities and social sciences, and, as a federation of learned societies, provides infrastructure for the Canadian scholarly community.

*To find out more about the Federation and the Congress, please visit the CFHSS website:*  
[www.fedcan.ca](http://www.fedcan.ca).

**APPLICANT COVER SHEET  
GRADUATE STUDENT COMPETITION**

**2009 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences  
Carleton University  
Ottawa, Ontario  
May 23-31, 2009**

This completed cover sheet must be included with all applications.

<b>Name</b>	
<b>Current Post-secondary education institution and Program</b>	
<b>Confirmation by Academic Advisor*</b>	<p>I confirm the applicant is actively engaged in the research and/or writing of a master's thesis or doctoral dissertation in the humanities or social sciences.</p> <hr/> <p><b>Name</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Position</b></p> <p><b>Contact information</b> Phone: Email:</p>
<b>Additional comments by advisor (optional)</b>	<p>Academic advisors are welcome to provide additional comments in support of the applicant:</p>

\*Confirmation by the applicant's academic advisor and/or Dean or Department Head

## FORMAT GUIDE

### GRADUATE STUDENT COMPETITION PROPOSALS\*

*Please note that proposals should be 750-1,000 words in length. Longer proposals will not be considered.*

<b>Context and Relevance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> What is the broad subject and context of your study?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> What is the specific topic of your study?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Why is this research significant, and why is it significant <i>now</i>?</li> </ul>
<b>Thesis/Hypothesis</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> What is your argument?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> If any, what are your supporting or secondary arguments?</li> </ul>
<b>Proposed Methodology</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> How will you conduct your research?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> What are the assumptions of your argument?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> How does your work fit in with the existing literature on this topic? Are there contrary positions to your argument?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Are there potential limitations to your research and how might you overcome them?</li> </ul>
<b>Preliminary Findings/Evidence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Based on your preliminary research, do you have any interim conclusions?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Based on your preliminary research, what evidence supports your thesis/hypothesis?</li> </ul>
<b>Potential Policy-Relevant Implications of Research and/or Provisionary Conclusions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> What are the implications of your study to your audiences?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> How is your research policy-relevant? (See Tools and resources below)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> What conclusions might you be able to draw from your research?</li> </ul>

*\*Please note that while it is not necessary to strictly follow this format, these questions will be taken into consideration when your proposal is being reviewed.*

#### **Presenting Policy-Relevant Research: Tools and Information**

##### **Reader-friendly Writing: 1-3-25**

Canadian Health Services Research Foundation

[http://www.chsrf.ca/knowledge\\_transfer/pdf/cn-1325\\_e.pdf](http://www.chsrf.ca/knowledge_transfer/pdf/cn-1325_e.pdf)

##### **Bridging the Communications Gap Between Researchers and Policy-Makers**

Canadian Institute for Health Information

Canadian Population Health Initiative

[http://secure.cihi.ca/cihiweb/dispPage.jsp?cw\\_page=GR\\_1169\\_E&cw\\_topic=1169](http://secure.cihi.ca/cihiweb/dispPage.jsp?cw_page=GR_1169_E&cw_topic=1169)