



INTERNATIONAL INTERSHIP PROGRAM OF FONDS NATURE ET TECHNOLOGIES 2011-2012

Last update: April 8nd, 2011

1. Foreword
2. Objectives
3. Applicants
4. Eligibility conditions
 - 4.1 Citizenship and residency
 - 4.2 Location of the internship
 - 4.3 Duration of the internship
 - 4.4 Start date of the internship
 - 4.5 Restrictions
5. Application process
 - 5.1 Application deadlines
 - 5.2 Number limits of applications
6. Value of the scholarship
 - 6.1 Admissible expenses
 - 6.2 Non admissible expenses
7. Review process
 - 7.1 Criteria
8. Scholarship attribution and announcement of results
9. Internship report
10. For information

1. FOREWORD

Within the framework of the Quebec Research and Innovation Strategy 2010-2013 (“QRIS 2010-2013”), the ministère du Développement économique de l'Innovation et de l'Exportation (“MDEIE”) made available additional funds to the Fonds québécois de recherche in order to contribute to the development and consolidation of the international actions of the research centres, strategic clusters, and networks of excellence that they support. The Fonds québécois de la recherche sur la nature et les technologies (“FQRNT”) has therefore funds to support international mobility of Master's and PhD students member of a strategic cluster. This three-year program provides strategic clusters (or “regroupement stratégique” in French) with the necessary funds to award financial compensation to concerned students.

2. OBJECTIVES

FQRNT's international internship aims to foster international mobility of students whose research activities are part of the scientific program of a strategic cluster. The internship is a supplementary tool available to a strategic cluster to strengthen its position at the international level through research projects and partnerships that have already been established or which are under development.

3. APPLICANTS

The international internship are meant for full-time Master's or doctoral students enrolled in a Quebec university and who have satisfied the requirements of their studies program.

The research outlined in the application as part of the internship must fall within the program or research priorities of the strategic cluster.

4. ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS

All of the strategic clusters supported by the FQRNT may submit an application to this program. The applicant must meet all of the eligibility requirements listed here.

4.1 Citizenship and residency

4.1.1 For Canadian students and permanent resident of Canada

- The applicant must be a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident of Canada according to the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (2001, ch. 27);
- The applicant must have lived in Quebec for at least the past year;
- The applicant must be a resident of Quebec according to the Act respecting the Quebec Health Insurance Act (L.R.Q.c.A-29) and the Quebec income tax act.

The applicant who remains a Quebec resident according to the Health Insurance Act and who travels outside of Quebec for the sole purpose of continuing his or her education is deemed to be a resident of Quebec.

The applicant who does not remain a Quebec resident according to the Health Insurance Act and who has lived outside of Quebec for less than two years after having resided in Quebec for at least five years according to the aforementioned act is exempt from the requirements pertaining to Quebec residency when submitting his\her application.

The scholarship holder must meet the citizenship and residency requirements stipulated in the Health Insurance Act and the Quebec income tax act during the entire duration of his\her internship.

4.1.2 For foreign students

- The applicant must be enrolled in a university outside Canada;
- The applicant can't be enrolled in a co-degree from more than one institution including a Quebec university.

4.2 Location of the internship

The internship must be carried out in one of the high-priority countries or regions identified by the Quebec Government in Quebec's International Policy (MRI, 2006: Brazil, Catalonia, China, Flanders, France, Germany, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, United Kingdom, United States, Wallonia – Brussels). The internships may also take place as part of existing multilateral projects or the European Union's 7th Framework Program.

4.3 Duration of the internship

The internship must be of a minimum duration of 2 months and a maximal duration of 12 months.

4.4 Start date of the internship

The internship must start no later than March 31, 2012.

4.5 Restrictions

Students who are jointly supervised by a researcher in a foreign university (co-degree) are not eligible to apply for an international internship scholarship to visit one of their home universities.

5. APPLICATION PROCESS

Candidates interested within this program must file their application within their strategic cluster. Validate the list of documents required for this application with the specific strategic cluster.

The strategic clusters which recommend a candidate must fill the specific form available on FQRNT's web site as well as transmit it electronically. The form includes the complete addresses of the student, the director, and the internship supervisor. A brief description of the nature of the internship is also required. The strategic clusters must also submit the selection committee report that states the results for each of the three criteria in effect, the assessment process and the names of the committee members. The strategic cluster must justify the amounts requested for the internship by detailing the estimated expenses to be incurred.

5.1 Application deadlines

Each strategic cluster may submit applications at all time from **April 9, 2011 until March 31, 2012.**

5.2 Number limits of applications

Each strategic cluster may submit up to four (4) applications in the SQRI period which covers the period from April 1st, 2010 up to March 31st, 2013. This limit can be re-examined and increased at the end of the second year of operation on March 31st, 2012.

Each strategic cluster can propose the application of no more than one (1) foreign student so he/she can pursue its internship within its own strategic cluster. All the same rules of evaluation of the applicants, duration of the internship and value of the scholarship applies to this application. The application of a foreign student doesn't modify the total limit of four (4) candidates per cluster.

6. VALUE OF THE SCHOLARSHIP

The scholarship for internship is of a maximum value of \$15,000. However, the FQRNT will allow no more than the equivalent of \$2,500/month in living expenses.

6.1 Admissible expenses

The scholarship will cover the student's travel and living expenses (transportation, housing, etc). Expenses from insurance as well as visa are accepted.

6.2 Non admissible expenses

The scholarship will not cover any expenses related to the research project such as expenses for the use of equipment or for indirect materials.

7. REVIEW PROCESS

7.1 Criteria

Applications are assessed by the strategic clusters according to the process that they themselves have set and based on the following criteria:

- The excellence of the candidate's academic record and his/her research skills (50 points);
- The degree to which the internship project matches the cluster's research program and/or priorities (25 points);
- The degree to which the internship project fits into the international actions of the strategic cluster (25 points).

The process and evaluation criteria are the sole responsibility of the FQRNT. Therefore, the FQRNT will make the final decision regarding the scholarships to be awarded as part of the international internship program.

8. SCHOLARSHIP ATTRIBUTION AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS

Candidates are selected by the strategic clusters which recommend them to the FQRNT. The strategic cluster will proceed to the announcement of the results to the candidates.

The FQRNT reserves itself the right to refuse any application that does not meet eligibility requirements or for which the selection committee report is not sufficiently detailed. Moreover, the FQRNT allows itself to terminate the program at any given time when available funds are exhausted.

9. INTERNSHIP REPORT

A report detailing the activities carried out during the internship must be submitted to the FQRNT no later than one month after the end of the internship. This report is done in an open format of about one page.

The clusters, whose student will be in default of having submitted the internship report according to the rules, will be restrained from filing new applications to the international internship program as long as the situation is not rectify.

10. FOR INFORMATION

Program administrator: Annik Brosseau
Phone: 418 643-3463
For students outside the Québec city area:
1 888 653-6512 ext.3463
Fax: 418 643-1451
E-mail: annik.brosseau@fqrnt.gouv.qc.ca

The FQRNT'S offices are open from Monday through Friday from 8:30 to 17:00 (Coordinated universal time UTC-5/ Eastern Standard time).

Note that FQRNT does not accept collect call.

Candidates who contact us by e-mail must provide a phone number where they can be reached. Priority is given to e-mailed information requests.

Fonds québécois de la recherche sur la nature et les technologies
Programmes de bourses
140, Grande Allée Est
4th floor, Office 450
Québec (Québec) G1R 5M8