

EIGHTH NATIONAL STUDENT PAPERCOMPETITION

Submission Guidelines

What is the National Student Paper Competition?

The National Student Paper Competition (NSPC) is an annual competition of academic papers examining key issues impacting Canada, and in particular as they relate to the Public Service of Canada's mission to serve Canadians with excellence. The competition is jointly administered by Canada School of Public Service (CSPS) and Institute of Public Administration of Canada (IPAC), and is implemented by various university coordinators across the country. Each year, Canadian students in Masters and PhD programs are invited to submit their research papers on a range of issues. This year participants are encouraged to address the COVID-19 related challenges in public service of Canada. The competition will also welcome submissions on any other issues of relevant to the Public Service of Canada.

The National Student Paper Competition is open to **all faculties**. Past years of the competition have drawn the interest from students across a variety of disciplines who bring forward ideas that challenge and expand how our government can support Canadians. Historically, disciplines that have shown the greatest interest have been public administration, public policy, political science, and business management. However, any submission focused on challenging and expanding the ways the federal government can support Canadians are welcome. Topics of interest include:

- Public health and associated challenges;
- Artificial intelligence for data analysis or service delivery;
- Climate change adaptation and conservation;
- Energy strategies, renewable energy technology, and environmental research;
- Impact of big science infrastructure on the economy;
- Implications of new and potential federal legislation on the lives of Canadians;
- Increased diversity and inclusion in the Public Service;
- Indigenous relationships in the 21st century and new models of self-government;
- Mental health in the workforce;
- New approaches to national infrastructure, procurement, and project management;
- Organizational design, human resources, recruitment and Public Service renewal;
- The current state of peer-reviewed research, and use of new evidence;
- Managing big data and moving from big data to smart data;
- Regional perspectives within Canadian federalism;
- Regulation, security, privacy, and infrastructure integrity in a digital world;
- Rural verses urban policy implementation;

- Trust in government, transparency, accountability, and new media landscapes; and
- Valuing and communicating scientific literacy.

What are the prizes?

The Grand Prize winner(s) will receive the following:

- An opportunity of employment to work within the federal government on two term assignments in 2 different departments (4 months each, during the period of May 2022 to March 2023) as determined by the CSPA and a second host federal government organization or department¹;
- A certificate signed by the CSPA President to recognize their accomplishment; and
- An invitation to attend the Manion Lecture in the National Capital Region (Ottawa) or another applicable keystone event (if applicable, the round-trip travel costs will be reimbursed to the winner).

And, the top five finalists including the winner will also receive the following:

- Their submissions will be posted on IPAC's website in both official languages.
- They will be invited to attend the 2022 IPAC National Conference.

Finally, at the discretion of the Deputy Ministers participating on the selection panel, finalists may also be offered employment of four months during the period of May 2022 to March 2023.

Who is eligible?

Participants must be enrolled in a Masters or PhD degree program at a publicly funded Canadian university in at least one academic term during the 2020- 2021 academic year, on a full or part-time basis.

Participants in Masters or PhD certificate programs are also eligible.

What are the criteria for submitting a paper?

First of all, the competition is designed to work within academia to build a platform for graduate students to share interesting and innovative ideas on topics related to governance and the Public Service of Canada, and should **focus on a current priorities of the Government of Canada**.

¹ The staffing process will be handled by the department making the offer.

This year's competition encourages participants to explore the challenges involved in different dimensions of public service because of COVID-19 pandemic, but is not limited to this specific priority. Students are encouraged to review documents published on Canada.ca that identify government-wide priorities or objectives, to examine various departmental plans and reports, to peruse Ministerial mandate letters, and to reflect on the Clerk's Annual Report to the Prime Minister on the Public Service of Canada. Additional relevant documents for a Canadian government perspective may be found on the websites of the Privy Council Office and the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat.

Also, while determining a research topic, a student may consider the following questions:

- What are your ideas to help ensure that the Public Service will be ready to meet the needs of the future?
- What are the major social, economic, technological and/or environmental challenges facing Canada in the next decade, and which strategies should Canada pursue to address these?
- Which emerging topics will have a significant impact on the federal public service and service excellence for Canadians?
- What would it take to move your idea from policy approval to implementation?

Each paper should be a forward-looking, think piece that explores innovative ideas and approaches to help position Canada and Canadians for the coming decade through solutions delivered by the Public Service of Canada.

Finally, the submitted papers must also meet the following technical requirements:

- be authored by a single author or co-authored by a maximum of two authors;
- be written in French or in English;
- be new works or adapted from previous original course work;
- be a maximum of 1,500 words (does not include the cover page, bibliography, footnotes/endnotes, appendices or any charts and figures);
- follow an essay format;
- be submitted in **all** of the following **three** formats:
 1. PDF (formatted with cover page including title, author, word count, university and author's university program);
 2. MS Word (identical content to PDF version); and
 3. MS Word (cover page with name of paper and word count only, omitting author's name and university).

[How to submit?](#)

Students interested in submitting a paper should contact the director or dean of their department, school or faculty to seek support and confirm if a university coordinator has been identified for the competition. The list of the university coordinators can also be found on the IPAC website (www.ipac.ca/nspc). If a university coordinator cannot be identified, please contact the NSPC coordinator of CSPS at csps.nspc-cneu.efpc@canada.ca.

Students must **submit their paper to the university coordinators** by the submission deadline as specified by the coordinators. **University Competition coordinators** are requested to register through the IPAC website by April 23, 2021, and submit the top three papers by **June 11, 2021**. Coordinators are encouraged to **identify a deadline for student submission earlier than June 11, 2021** as they are required to review all submissions to identify their top three submissions.

Evaluation process

Adjudicators will review submitted papers through an evaluation matrix. After all submissions are assessed and scores are tallied, authors of five papers with the highest scores are considered finalists. They will be instructed to prepare a presentation about their research paper and will have the opportunity to present their research to a panel of Deputy Ministers. These Deputy Ministers are chosen based on the alignment between the mandate of their departments and the topics covered in the five finalist papers. Papers will be assessed against the following criteria:

Originality of approach	Research	Structure and Writing Style	Relevance to the Federal Civil Service	Relevance to greater Canadian population
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shows a completely novel and well-thought original and feasible approach Understands the topic, proposes innovative approaches and solutions to new and existing challenges for Canada Takes a unique perspective to, or dimension of, an issue for Canadians 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well conducted research to support the arguments Draws from diverse sources of academic research and/or government publications Includes complete citations and follows a consistent references style 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The paper has followed a clear structure Even flow of the paper with a logical sequence of ideas Free from typos or grammatical mistakes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The issue concerns priorities of the federal civil service Identifies the importance of the selected topic as well as the key drivers Demonstrates potential practical application by the federal Public Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The issue concerns the greater Canadian population Offers clear, realistic advice that will benefit the greater Canadian population

To determine the winner, the top five finalists, will be ask to present their research to a Deputy Minister panel, that will rank the presentation to determine the winner(s) based on students:

- presentation skills;
- ability to defend ideas;
- ability to think on their feet;
- and the content and clarity of their presentations.

Contact Us

Should you have any questions about the competition or submission, please contact the NSPC coordinators at the CSPS at the following email:

csps.nspc-cneu.efpc@canada.ca