

## Are you interested in writing an M.A. thesis in Political Science?

Dr. Karen Bird and Dr. Netina Tan are offering a new **M.A. Thesis Scholarship** to contribute to their research project:

### ETHNIC QUOTAS and POLITICAL REPRESENTATION – A GLOBAL STUDY

#### Project description

Our SSHRC-funded project examines the implementation of so-called “ethnic quotas” – a broad term encompassing a variety of *formal* measures that reserve seats or candidacies for members of designated ethnic or indigenous groups in elected assemblies. Such measures are currently implemented in elections to national parliaments in some three dozen countries around the world; they also apply in many sub-state jurisdictions. We also consider the role of *informal* or less codified measures of ethnic and indigenous inclusion. For full details, see: <https://ethnicquota.mcmaster.ca>

#### What is the M.A. Thesis Scholarship?

- It is a supplementary funding package for students in the M.A. thesis stream in Political Science. Specifically, it consists of a \$2,000 summer stipend (year 1), plus a full RA-ship (year 2). The total value of the scholarship is approximately \$15,000. This is *in addition* to any funding package a student may have received on admission to year 1 of the M.A. program.
- In return, the student is expected to prepare an M.A. thesis in the field of ethnic electoral politics and/or ethnic representation, more particularly on the research project described above.

#### How does the M.A. Thesis Scholarship work?

- Students are admitted into the M.A. thesis stream in December of Term I, based on an approved thesis proposal (see [M.A. Degree in Political Science, Regulations and Course Information](#)). To be considered for this scholarship, the student must show the relevance of their thesis topic to the [Ethnic Quotas and Political Representation](#) research project.
- The decision on admission into the M.A. thesis stream and the decision on the scholarship award will be made independently (admission to thesis stream does not automatically mean a student is awarded a scholarship). Both decisions will be communicated to the student no later than end of Term I (December 31).
- Following a successful thesis proposal, and conditional on satisfactory completion of all course requirements by April of year 1, the selected scholarship recipient is awarded:
  - \$2,000 stipend during the summer of year 1;
  - Full Research Assistantship (266 hours) during year 2.

#### Essential skills and qualifications

- You are a full-time student enrolled in the M.A. degree in Political Science.
- You have outstanding academic results.
- You must be capable of high quality qualitative analysis including an ability to review the literature, apply a range of theoretical frameworks, analyze underlying discourses, undertake content analysis of legal and policy documents, and have affinity for comparative research methods and conducting case studies. You must demonstrate some knowledge of local through to global governance processes.

- You aim to pursue advanced level research on ethnic/Indigenous politics, comparative electoral systems, and political representation.
- You have excellent proficiency in English; good proficiency in another language relevant to the research will be a plus.
- Most of all, you are quality-oriented, conscientious, creative and cooperative.

#### **Applications**

- Students who would like to be considered for the M.A. Thesis Scholarship should consult early with Dr. Bird or Dr. Tan, and follow the standard procedure for admission to the thesis stream. A supervisory committee, which must include no fewer than 3 members (including the supervisor) should be established no later than October 16. A thesis proposal no longer than 3,500 words must be submitted to the Graduate Chair by December 1 during Term I of the program.



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