Blueprint 2020
National Student Paper Competition on the Future of the Public Service of Canada
Guidelines 2016-2017

I. Background
Like all successful organizations, the Public Service of Canada is seizing opportunities resulting from increasing globalization, rapidly changing technology, shifting demographics, and rising public expectations. Guided by the Blueprint 2020 vision and the actions identified in the Destination 2020 report, the Public Service is undergoing significant transformation to ensure a modern, capable and high-performing Public Service that embraces innovation and continuous renewal.

In support of the BP2020 vision as well as the federal government’s many public policy priorities, the Public Service is looking for diverse perspectives on the transformation required for future success. As such, the National Student Paper Competition is seeking ideas from master’s and doctoral students who are at the forefront of cutting-edge thinking and research.

This competition is designed for graduate and post-graduate students to share their ideas for how to improve the Public Service of Canada or how to improve public-policy making and implementation more generally.

II. Topics for 2016-2017
For 2016-17, the Competition is inviting Master's and PhD students in fields such as public administration, international relations, public policy, business/management, health administration, law and journalism as well as disciplines in the social sciences, humanities and applied sciences to participate. The papers may address one or more of these general themes, or another distinct issue within the federal public service or area of public policy including, but not limited to:

- public policy development and implementation;
- networked governance and collaborative arrangements;
- citizen engagement;
- delivery of public services;
- public management and leadership;
- improving workplace culture;
- communicating and identifying the role of the Federal Public Service to Canadians; and
- private and public sectors working together for the benefit of Canadians.
III. Participation Rules and Process

A. Eligibility

- Participants must either be enrolled in a Canadian university master’s or PhD-level program or be a Canadian citizen enrolled in an international master’s-level or PhD program in at least one academic term during the 2016 calendar year, on either a full or part-time basis.

B. Rules for Papers

- Papers must be in English or French.
- Papers can be sole-authored or group-authored.
- Papers can be new or adapted from previous original work.
- Maximum length of paper: 1,500 words, either following a briefing note format (see attached sample) or another format. Total length does not include the cover page, bibliography, footnotes, charts and figures.
- Papers must be submitted in all three formats:
  i. PDF (formatted with cover page including title, author, word count and university name);
  ii. MS Word (identical content to PDF version); and
  iii. MS Word (Cover page with name of paper and word count only, omitting author’s name and university).

C. University Participation

- A competition coordinator for each participating university department must register via the IPAC website by October 31, 2016, and identify a date in December, 2016, for their departmental student submission.
- Multiple competition coordinators may register for each university (for example, one each from departments of law, policy, economics, business, and public policy and administration, among others).
- The best papers from each university department will be submitted to the National Competition by January 13, 2017.

D. Student Participation

- Professors may assign the paper as part of their graded coursework; alternatively, students are invited to write papers independently.
- Students must submit their papers in December, 2016, to their departmental coordinator by the submission deadline that will be posted on the IPAC website.
- Students interested in participating in the competition should contact their Department, School or Faculty Director or Dean to seek support and ask that a departmental coordinator be identified for the competition, if one hasn’t already been identified.
IV. Assessment

A. Papers will be assessed using the following criteria:

Originality
- Contribution to new knowledge and understanding
- Presentation of views that may not normally be heard within the Public Service

Research
- Thoughtful research (in-depth analysis, looking beyond the obvious)
- Papers should include documentation/citations for ideas and research

Clarity
- Well written and succinctly argued points
- Identification of mechanisms to address the concern identified

Significance
- Identification of ideas, discussion and important issues for Canada and the public service and the implementation of the Blueprint 2020 vision and the Destination 2020 report.

Relevance
- Practices and approaches that are useful and practical for the Public Service and Canada.
- Identification of examples where recommended approaches have been previously employed to demonstrate potential practical application of the idea.

B. Videos
(to be produced only by the top-10 semi-finalists, to be notified in March 2017)
- The videos will be assessed on originality, quality of the content, as well as the student’s presentation skills and clarity of their message.

C. Live presentations via web-conferencing sessions
(during the final component of adjudication to select the Grand Prize Winners)
- Students will be assessed on their presentation skills via webcast, their ability to defend ideas, and their ability to think on their feet.

V. Public Voting Process (for papers and videos)

- The papers and videos of the ten semi-finalists will be featured on IPAC’s National Student Paper Competition website where visitors will be invited to vote for their favourite papers.
VI. The Prizes and Recognition

- The top three papers will be translated and posted on the Canada School of Public Service’s website and highlighted on the IPAC website.
- The submission with the most votes will be highlighted with a “Public Choice Award” on the IPAC site.
- The overall winner of the National Student Paper Competition will be invited to present their paper in person at a national seminar held by the Canada School of Public Service in Ottawa, and reimbursed for their travel costs to the National Capital Region from a location in Canada.
- The Grand Prize Winner’s supervisor or coordinator will also be invited to attend the seminar in Ottawa and be reimbursed for their travel costs to the National Capital Region from their location in Canada.