OUTSTANDING UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AWARD

2020

Purpose: This prize has been created to:

• Recognize students who show outstanding research potential in an area of Sociology.
• Stimulate interest in research in the social sciences.
• Teach sociology through research methods and the completion of actual projects.
• Support the involvement of students in research activities.
• Help students gain research experience that complements their academic studies.

Description of the Award:

• This award will consist of a monetary prize of $250.
• The award winner’s name will be engraved on a plaque (which will be displayed in the Sociology Department) and an announcement will be made at a Sociology-sponsored event (e.g., the Speaker’s Series).

Eligibility:
The student submitting the research report must:

• Be a full-time student majoring in Sociology who is enrolled at MacEwan University.
• Have completed an independent study with a basic research component, a research-based honours, a field placement where a research project was carried out at a community organization, or a basic research project as part of a research methods course requirement (e.g., Sociology 315, 418). Reports created as part of a paid research project (e.g., a research assistantship or employment internship) are not eligible.
• Be the sole author of the submitted report. Only one submission per student is allowed.

The report must:

• Be a minimum of 12 pages, and include a title page and an abstract of not more than 200 words, an introduction that includes an overview of the research interest and relevant academic literature, a method section that describes participants and how they were recruited (if applicable), the setting and materials needed to conduct the study, procedures for carrying out the study, a summary of ethical considerations, and how the data was analyzed, a results section, a discussion/conclusion, and references.
• Be double-spaced; include a standard font (e.g. Times New Roman); have standard margins/indents (of 5 spaces); and will use APA or ASA referencing throughout.
• Not be jointly under review for the Sociology Paper of Excellence Prize.
Judging criteria will include (but is not limited to):

- Overall contribution to the area of research interest.
- Evidence that the student has examined the relevant literature and appropriately framed the current study so that it contributes to the area.
- Development and support for the thesis statement/research question.
- Design complexity, innovation and appropriateness given the course level, existing literature, and topic.
- Details provided in the method section (e.g., description of selection and recruitment of participants or sample selection, coding scheme and procedures for undertaken to analyze the data).
- Discussion of critical assumptions, alternative explanations, and suggestions for future research.
- Writing style and expression, as well as structural, organizational and technical aspects (e.g., grammar and mechanics, referencing style and communication).

Students will also be required to agree to the Adjudication Process as set out below by completing an Adjudication Process Agreement Form. This Form must be submitted at the same time as the paper. (Email Symbalukd@macewan.ca for an Agreement form.)

Deadline Date:
Student reports from the last two academic years are eligible for the competition.

- The deadline for the competition is Thursday, April 30 at 4:30 pm.
- Reports should be submitted as a single file (not several attachments). The reports will contain a title page which includes the student’s name, mailing address, email address, and phone number along with any accompanying documents (e.g., a consent form, a certificate of completion of the TCPS 2: CORE).
- The report should be emailed (as an attachment in Word format) to symbalukd@macewan.ca

Adjudication Process:
- Reports will be adjudicated through a committee review process.
- The Student Prize Committee consists of a minimum of three full-time Sociology faculty members.
- All reports will be evaluated as per MacEwan University’s Academic Integrity Policy, particularly with regard to plagiarism.
- Reports submitted in prior competitions are not eligible.
- The winning report will be declared by a majority decision of the Committee.
- The Committee is not bound to declare a winner if no research report merits the award.
- The Committee’s decision is final and cannot be appealed.

For more information contact: Dr. Diane Symbaluk
Department of Sociology

Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award Prize Agreement Form

By submitting my research report, (insert title “_______________________________”), I am agreeing to the following Adjudication Process:

- The report will be adjudicated through a committee review process.
- Student Prize Committee is made up of a minimum of three full-time Sociology faculty members.
- All reports will be evaluated as per MacEwan University’s Academic Integrity Policy, particularly with regard to plagiarism.
- The winner of the prize will be declared by a majority decision of the Committee.
- The Committee is not bound to declare a winner if no paper merits the award.
- The Committee’s decision is final and cannot be appealed.
- The winner will be notified within 5 days of the Committee’s decision.

___________________________________________
Signature of the Student

___________________________________________
Date