



Centre de recherche en
reproduction, développement
santé intergénérationnelle

MÉLANIE-HAMEL AND J.J. GIRARD SCHOLARSHIP – 2026

The CRDSI and the Mélanie-Hamel Foundation are offering one scholarship valued at \$5,000 for CRDSI students enrolled in a PhD program at Université Laval.

The Mélanie-Hamel and J.J. Girard Scholarship is a merit-based award aimed at recognizing the excellence of candidates' academic records. The evaluation criteria are similar to those used by major funding agencies such as NSERC, CIHR, FRQ, with an added emphasis on the values upheld by the CRDSI. These scholarships are exclusively available to doctoral students enrolled at Université Laval, with no restrictions regarding the stage of their academic progress. Students nearing the end of their program are therefore welcome to apply.

These scholarships are distinct from the "In Pursuit of Excellence" awards also offered by the CRDSI. Consequently, it is possible for the same individual to receive both types of scholarships. Recipients of scholarships from provincial or federal funding agencies, as well as previous CRDSI scholarship recipients, are therefore eligible to apply for this year's Mélanie-Hamel Fund Scholarship competition.

Deadline: Applications must be submitted no later than **May 31, 2026**.

Submission Procedure: Applications must be submitted electronically. The application package, including the completed form and all required supporting documents, must be sent as a single PDF file to the following address: comitedesboursescrdsi@gmail.com.



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MÉLANIE HAMEL

Mélanie Hamel was born in Québec City in 1974. Despite her short life, she achieved most of her dreams in a short time. She studied piano at the Conservatoire de musique de Québec and then at Université Laval (10th degree). She held two undergraduate degrees—a Bachelor’s in Biology (1997) and a Bachelor’s in Agronomy (1999), both from Université Laval. She earned her Master’s degree in Veterinary Sciences (Reproduction option) from Université de Montréal in 2001, and her PhD in Animal Science (on oocyte quality assessment in humans) from Université Laval in 2008. After graduating, she worked at the UETMIS for the CHUQ at the Saint-François d’Assise Hospital in Québec City. Mélanie passed away on April 26, 2012, at the age of 37, after battling cancer.

Mélanie was a passionate individual who dedicated herself fully to everything she undertook throughout her life. A devoted enthusiast of high-performance dressage horses—particularly of the Trakehner breed—she fulfilled a lifelong dream in 2010 by acquiring her own stable and founding a sport horse breeding operation, “Les Écuries FH.” During her time at the CRBR (now CRDSI), Mélanie showed remarkable determination and commitment to her doctoral research project, as well as deep empathy and compassion for women going through the stages of assisted reproductive technologies. In agreement with Mélanie’s family, the Mélanie-Hamel Fund was created in that same spirit of passion and dedication to improving infertility treatment care, in support of research in reproductive biology.



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JEAN-JOSEPH GIRARD

Jean-Joseph Girard was born in Chicoutimi in 1904. A notary graduate from the Faculty of Law at Université Laval, he settled in the Québec City area. He married Olivine Villeneuve, and although the couple had no children, they always held a deep affection for them, as many nieces and nephews can attest. This likely explains Maître Girard's natural inclination to become involved in organizations supporting underprivileged children, such as Club Richelieu Québec.

After the passing of Madame Girard, he decided to bequeath part of his fortune to several charitable causes and to establish the J.-J. Girard Foundation. Inspired by the work of one of his grandnephews, who had begun a career in reproductive endocrinology, the J.-J. Girard Foundation began to take shape. Jean-Joseph Girard passed away in 1992. His donation enabled the creation of the Procréa Québec clinic, which opened its doors in 1998. Since then, the foundation has made numerous contributions to help infertile couples achieve their dream of starting a family.

Following the untimely passing of Mélanie Hamel, a researcher in reproductive biology, the executive committee of the J.-J. Girard Foundation became interested in collaborating with Université Laval to help establish a fund supporting a research scholarship in reproductive biology—an initiative fully aligned with the foundation's mission. This contribution reflects the foundation's core purpose. We wish great success to the recipients of this scholarship and hope to honor the spirit in which the J.-J. Girard Foundation was created in 1999.



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ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS:

- Be a CRDSI student enrolled in a doctoral program at Université Laval.
- Be supervised by a regular member of the CRDSI at the time the scholarship is awarded.



EVALUATION CRITERIA:

1. Academic excellence

- Academic record
- Scholarships and other funding received
- Duration of previous studies

2. Research ability or potential: quality of contributions to research and development, relevance of the candidate's work experience and academic background to the proposed research field, significance, feasibility, and merit of the proposed research, and justification for the location where the scholarship would be held; critical thinking, ability to use skills and apply knowledge, judgment and originality, initiative and autonomy, enthusiasm for research, determination, and ability to complete projects within reasonable timeframes.

3. Communication, leadership, and interpersonal skills:

- **Ability or potential to clearly and logically communicate scientific concepts**, both in writing and orally. This may include: the quality of the application presentation; involvement in writing publications; awards received for oral presentations or written articles.
- **Relevant professional and extracurricular interactions and collaborations**, which may include: mentoring; teaching; supervisory experience; project management; chairing a committee; organizing conferences and meetings; being elected to positions.

4. Reasons for choosing the CRDSI to pursue graduate studies

5. Participation in CRDSI scientific and social activities

Bourses Fonds Mélanie Hamel		
Criteria	Weighting Ph.D.	Presentation
Academic Record	10 %	Transcripts
Scholarships and Awards	15 %	Award notifications
Publications and Communications	20 %	Letters of acceptance, references
Personal, Community, and Social Achievements	5 %	Text of maximum 1,250 characters (including spaces).
Scientific Experience, Internships, or Previous Research Projects	5 %	Text of maximum 1,250 characters (including spaces).
Motivation for Choosing CRDSI for Graduate Studies	10 %	Text of maximum 1,250 characters (including spaces).
Research Project Summary	15 %	Text of maximum 2000 characters (including spaces).
Anticipated or Encountered Difficulties in Research and Planned Solutions	10 %	Text of maximum 3000 characters (including spaces).
Participation in CRDSI Scientific and Social Activities	10 %	Text of maximum 1000 characters (including spaces).