

Invitation To Submit Offers for the Production of a Short Film on Highly Skilled Migrants and International Students Decision Making Under Uncertainty

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Deadline for Proposal: 31 May 2023

Remuneration: Ranging between 18,000 - 25,000 CAD, paid in two installments (50% upon signature and 50% upon completion)

Work Period: Film should be delivered by December 2023

Proposals should be submitted to the CERC in Migration and Integration Program by email for the attention of: Dr. Ashika Niraula – ashika.niraula@torontomu.ca

The Canada Excellence Research Chair (CERC) in Migration & Integration Program at Toronto Metropolitan University is looking for **expressions of interest from qualified production companies and/or documentary/film makers to produce a short film of approx. 30-minute duration** on highly skilled migrants' and international students' decision to migrate to Canada and the impacts of the pandemic on their migration decision making processes.

Background:

The [Skilled Migrant Decision Making Under Uncertainty](#) (DEMA) project examines if and how the migration plans and motivations among highly skilled migrants and international students to come to Canada have been shaped by uncertainties and risks related to the global COVID-19 pandemic. The research explores the ways highly skilled migration decisions have been influenced by specific factors such as the socio-demographic and cultural characteristics of a migrant, their psychological and emotional condition, the state of the labour-market, and the effectiveness of policies and services designed to support them. The project focuses on English-speaking and French-speaking highly skilled migrants and international students in Canada as well as English-speaking and French-speaking prospective highly skilled migrants and international students outside Canada. This study has received funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Insight Grant.

The film should focus on highlighting the decision-making process of three different profiles of highly skilled migrants:

- 1) Highly skilled people applying from abroad under a permanent residency program, a study permit, or a temporary work permit to come to Canada.
- 2) Highly skilled foreign workers residing in Canada and holding a temporary work permit.
- 3) International students and post-graduate work permit holders residing in Canada and holding a study or work permit.

We are looking for a talented and innovative filmmaker (whether individual or company) to produce a film of approx. 30 minutes covering the three groups stated above. Ideally, the film will be available to be watched on a digital platform, in separate parts (e.g. separate shorter 'stories') or as a whole. The DEMA research team will assist the selected filmmaker in identifying highly skilled migrants and international students within Canada and abroad that wish to be part of the documentary.

Description of the work:

The film should show migration as a complex phenomenon shaped by different drivers (including socio-economic, cultural, political, demographic, environmental, and health) which interact with one another. Covering the motivations and aspirations of three groups of highly skilled migrants and international students stated above should be presented in a dialogical fashion, opening up to different perspectives, individual trajectories, policy options, and how the participants navigate those options in seeking to fulfill their aspirations. Special attention should be paid, to the extent that it is relevant, to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the aspirations and plans of the people involved.

The film can be based on both in-person interviews and online recordings or materials sent by the participants such as pictures or videos. The selected filmmaker will travel to both Ontario and Quebec to speak with participants in Canada. Proposals that include in-person filming in important countries of origin of the prospective immigrants will be preferred.

This film is intended for a wide non-specialist audience and will be made available through our website, and on social media, will be presented at relevant events, and also be submitted to relevant film festivals (the filmmaker should take the lead for such submissions). We would welcome proposals that would include making the stories available through a specialized platform (example: www.migrantlives.net).

It is likely that people interviewed and included in the film will speak English or French. So, it is expected that the film is subtitled in English (if the interview is in French) and in French (if the interview is in English).

Interested producers should submit their proposal consisting of **two parts**:

- a) The **technical part**: The concept for implementing the above assignment along with the technical expertise, experience, examples of past work, and other relevant details as a part of the technical offer.
- b) The **financial part**: breakdown of costs (i.e. travel, production, translation, subtitling, etc).

For further information and informal queries, please contact Senior Research Fellow - Project Coordinator, Dr. Ashika Niraula – ashika.niraula@torontomu.ca