

United Nations Entity for
Gender Equality and the Advancement of Women

**56th session of the Commission on the Status of Women
February 27 – March 9, 2012**

International Relations Students' Association of McGill (IRSAM)
Participant Applications

Dear Applicant,

Since 2006, the International Relations Students' Association of McGill (IRSAM) has been accredited special consultative status to the Economic and Social Council of United Nations as a non-governmental organization. Part of this accreditation includes observational participation in several conferences that take place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, New York.

The Commission on the Status of Women is dedicated exclusively to gender equality and advancement of women. It is the principal global policy-making body. Every year, representatives of Member States gather at United Nations Headquarters in New York to evaluate progress on gender equality, identify challenges, set global standards and formulate concrete policies to promote gender equality and advancement of women worldwide. In February-March 2012, the [Commission on the Status of Women](#) (CSW) will examine the empowerment of rural women and girls, poverty and hunger eradication, rural development and current challenges. Furthermore, it will evaluate the progress of the 55th session on “financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women.” For more information, please visit their website at:
<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/56sess.htm>.

IRSAM has been invited to attend this conference along with other NGOs that are parties to the ECOSOC to observe the discussion surrounding these issues and the formulation of international policy to address them. Tentatively, we will be sending a delegation of approximately 8 McGill students to New York in the first week of March.

If you are interested in attending this conference, please write a cover letter addressing the following questions and return them with your CV to external@irsam.ca by **Thursday 24 November 2011**:

- Why are you interested in attending the 56th UNCSW?
- What involvement, if any, have you had with IRSAM or model United Nations?
- What work or volunteer experience do you have relating to foreign affairs?

Thank you very much!

Best,

Zara Ansari
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