



Canadian Centennial Scholarship Fund

DONIA HEIDER

CCSF SCHOLAR

After completing her undergraduate degree in Canada, a family holiday to England sparked Donia's interest to study abroad and she was thrilled to secure a place at the distinguished Anna Freud Centre. Here, in conjunction with University College London (UCL), Donia completed her MSc in Psychoanalytic Developmental Psychology. A particularly innovative thesis, addressing an area of child psychoanalysis with little known research, led to further studies. Donia is currently in the second year of her PhD at UCL.



Working together with a London based couples-therapy clinic, Donia is currently analyzing divorced/separated co-parents in conflict and their capacity for parental reflection functioning. Through interviews with both parents and children, her unique study aims to highlight the severity of the loss of the parental couple. There is little research on the topic and Donia's goal is to raise awareness and increase the amount of support, funding and care for affected children during the aftermath of divorce and separation.

Donia's passion for the subject is evident and she hopes her research will make a difference both in the UK and abroad. Her outside interests do not stray far from the task at hand with time spent volunteering for 'Action for Children' as well as babysitting on a regular basis. She is also passionate about raising awareness for animal rights and spreading news on charities and fundraising for animals and the environment via various social networks.

Donia enjoys traveling in the UK and Europe and she has immersed herself in British culture. She thrives on the international nature of her university and has loved meeting so many people from different walks of life. Home is, however, never out of mind and Donia hopes to take back both academic findings and practical experience to Canada once her PhD is complete. With an ever-increasing divorce rate, Canada is fortunate to have someone dedicated to the young victims of broken families.

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The CCSF helps outstanding students from across Canada who are enrolled in postgraduate programmes at UK universities, colleges, institutes or conservatories. It is a UK registered charity (no. 313966) and is funded by the Maple Leaf Trust.

www.canadianscholarshipfund.co.uk