



**MINISTÈRE  
DE L'EUROPE  
ET DES AFFAIRES  
ÉTRANGÈRES**

*Liberté  
Égalité  
Fraternité*



## **EIFFEL PROGRAM GUIDELINES**

**The Eiffel Excellence Scholarship Program (Eiffel Program) has two components:**

- The master's component offers 12 to 36 months of funding to enable scholarship holders to earn a master's-level degree.
- The doctoral component supports up to 12 months of doctoral research in France as part of a joint doctoral program.

### **PRESENTATION OF THE PROGRAM**

#### **1. Objectives**

The Eiffel Program was established by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs to help French institutions of higher education in their efforts to attract top foreign students to their master's and doctoral programs.

Its purposes are (i) to train future foreign decision-makers in the private and public spheres in priority areas of study and (ii) to attract applicants from developing countries to French master's programs level and applicants from developing and industrialized countries to French doctoral programs.

#### **2. Fields of study**

Eiffel scholarships are available in four broad fields:

- Law
- Economics and management
- Engineering at the master's level and the sciences more broadly at the doctoral level (engineering as well as mathematics, physics, chemistry, the life sciences, nano- and biotechnology, earth sciences, space sciences, environmental sciences, and information and communication sciences and technologies)
- Political science

### **3. Levels of study**

French institutions nominating candidates for the Eiffel Program commit to admit them to:

- a master's degree program
- an engineering program
- a joint doctoral program (joint supervision of dissertation and/or dual degree), in partnership with a partner institution abroad.

### **4. Duration of the scholarship**

For both components of the program, the scholarship is awarded for the academic year corresponding to the call for applications.

The funded study period must begin between September 1 and December 31 of the year in which the scholarship is awarded. The start date cannot be postponed.

The scholarship may be used solely for academic work performed in France, except in certain cases involving internships and exchange periods, as detailed further on.

#### **4.1. Master's component**

The scholarship is awarded for:

- a maximum of 12 months for awardees entering the second year of a master's program (M2)
- a maximum of 24 months for awardees entering the first year of a master's program (M1)
- a maximum of 36 months for awardees entering an engineering program.

Each period of the scholarship is contingent upon the awardee meeting the academic requirements of the previous period.

Should the awardee wish to take an intensive language course before beginning academic work, the duration of the Eiffel scholarship may be extended by a maximum of two months, provided the need for the extension is clearly indicated in the application.

The Eiffel scholarship does not cover the cost of such language courses.

#### **4.1.a. Internships and exchanges**

For purposes of these guidelines, "Internship" designates a temporary placement in a professional setting, in the course of which awardees acquire professional competencies and apply what they have learned in their funded academic studies. Interns are assigned one or more missions consistent with the academic project set by their educational institution and endorsed by the entity hosting the internship. All awardees wishing to complete an internship shall enter into an internship agreement with their educational institution.

*Internship.* The internship must be an integral part of the curriculum leading to the degree. Completing it must be a degree requirement. How the internship is assessed for purposes of being counted toward the degree must be spelled out in the description of the degree program. Awardees must obtain permission from their academic adviser to enter the internship, which must be covered by an internship agreement. For purposes of the Eiffel Program scholarship, the agreement must be submitted to Campus France at least one week prior to the start date of the internship.

*Exchange, or international mobility.* For purposes of maintaining benefits under the scholarship, an academic exchange involving travel to another campus, in France or abroad, must be strictly required for receiving the degree and must be identified as such in the degree description. Students on internships must inform Campus France of the dates of their exchange period.

*Mandatory internship or exchange.* Awardees performing an internship/exchange continue to enjoy their scholarship benefits only if the internship/exchange is mandatory, is specified in the description of the degree for which the scholarship was awarded, and does not fall outside the dates specified for the scholarship. In all other cases, the scholarship is suspended for the duration of the internship/exchange.

*Optional internship or exchange.* Optional internships or exchanges are defined as being undertaken at the discretion of the student awardee even though not required for the degree. Scholarship payments are suspended during any such period. The rules that apply in this case are the same as those applicable to gap years (see 4.1.b).

#### *4.1.b. Gap year*

For purposes of the Eiffel Scholarship program, a gap year is understood to be a period during which the awardee suspends his or her studies while remaining enrolled. Students may wish to take this break for various reasons. They may elect to pursue a different academic program, complete an internship with a company or civic organization, work for a firm or other organization, or take the first steps toward starting a business.

A gap is permitted, although it entails suspension of the scholarship benefits, with the possibility of reactivating it later.

Scholarship payments, as well as the student's status as a recipient of a French government scholarship, are suspended during the gap year.

When scholarship payments are suspended, so are all related services. Thus, if the awardee has been living in student housing provided by Campus France, he or she must surrender the lodging as of the day that scholarship payments cease.

Requests for a gap year shall be sent to Campus France no later than two months prior to the start of the proposed gap. Requests shall specify the start and end dates and explain how the gap fits within the awardee's overall study plan.

Awardees taking a gap year shall notify Campus France at least one month before returning from said period, and, in any event, no later than July 31 of the year of return. Resumption of scholarship payments cannot be guaranteed if the required notice is not provided.

A single gap of exactly one year (no more, no less) is permitted during the scholarship period.

Execution by the Eiffel awardee of an apprenticeship or professional training agreement shall result automatically in the cessation of scholarship payments and benefits. When scholarship payments are suspended, so are all related services. Thus, if the awardee has been living in student housing provided by Campus France, he or she must surrender the lodging as of the day that scholarship payments cease.

#### **4.2. Doctoral component**

The Eiffel scholarship is awarded for a maximum of 12 months in France.

With the approval of the Eiffel Program's selection committee, the scholarship may be split into as many as three periods in France, none of which may be for less than 4 months. In no event may the scholarship period extend beyond 24 months, including time spent outside France.

*Splitting of the scholarship.* A timetable of scholarship periods shall be drawn up and submitted to Campus France at the start of the first period. If this timetable is modified after the first period, the awardee shall notify Campus France of the new dates at least two months prior to the start of the next period. Resumption of scholarship payments cannot be guaranteed unless the required notice is provided.

Only student awardees in law may undergo French language training in parallel with their academic work. Permission to do so must be explicitly requested in the application. If permission is not clearly requested in the application, it will not be granted subsequently.

### **5. Benefits**

#### **5.1. Master's component**

The Eiffel scholarship consists of a monthly allowance of €1,181 (a maintenance allowance of €1,031 plus a stipend of €150). In addition, the following benefits are provided:

- *International air travel.* Round-trip international air travel between the awardee's home country and France. The student awardee has one year from the end of the scholarship to take advantage of the return trip benefit.
- *Train travel within France.* Campus France will provide a train ticket to the awardee's first study location and a second ticket from the last study location to the airport from which the awardee will return to his or her home country.

- *Local transportation.* Reimbursement of up to €50 of the cost of travel via taxi or public transportation from the airport or train station to the first study location.
- *Health insurance.* For awardees from outside the European Economic Area, Campus France will provide health insurance coverage until the effective date of the awardee's enrollment in the French Social Security system.
- *Supplemental health insurance ("mutuelle").* Within 2 months of arriving in France, student awardees are required to subscribe to a supplemental health insurance plan, the cost of which is reimbursed upon presentation of proof of enrollment up to a maximum amount set each year by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The maximum is unrelated to the length of enrollment. Campus France may suspend payment of living expenses and related services if the student awardee does not provide proof of enrollment in a supplemental insurance plan within 2 months of his or her arrival in France.
- *Cultural activities.*

Under certain conditions, student awardees may also be entitled to receive assistance to meet the costs of housing outside student residences, upon presentation of proof of payment of the first month's rent, as well as a copy of the rental contract. Said proof must be presented no later than 3 months following signature of the lease.

## **5.2. Doctoral component**

The Eiffel scholarship includes a monthly allowance of €1,400 until 31 December 2020 and €1,700 as of 1 January 2021. In addition, it provides the following direct benefits:

- *International air travel.* Round-trip international air travel between the awardee's home country and France. Just one round-trip ticket will be reimbursed, even for doctoral candidates who specified a split scholarship period in their application.
- *Train travel within France.* Campus France will provide a train ticket to the awardee's first study location and a second ticket from the last study location to the airport from which the awardee will return to his or her home country.
- *Local transportation.* Reimbursement of up to €50 of the cost of travel via taxi or public transportation from the airport or train station to the first study location.
- *Health insurance.* For awardees from outside the European Economic Area, Campus France will provide health insurance coverage until the effective date of the awardee's enrollment in the French Social Security system.

- *Supplemental health insurance* (“mutuelle”). Within 2 months of arriving in France, student awardees are required to subscribe to a supplemental health insurance plan, the cost of which is reimbursed upon presentation of proof of enrollment up to a maximum amount set each year by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The maximum is unrelated to the length of enrollment. Campus France may suspend payment of living expenses and related services if the student awardee does not provide proof of enrollment in a supplemental insurance plan within 2 months of his or her arrival in France.
- *Cultural activities.*

Under certain conditions, student awardees may also be entitled to receive assistance to meet the costs of housing outside student residences, upon presentation of proof of payment of the first month's rent, as well as a copy of the rental contract. Said proof must be presented no later than 3 months following signature of the lease.

### **5.3. Both components**

To receive the first installment of their scholarship, students must have begun their academic program at the host institution in France.

Any suspension of the scholarship payments entails a suspension of all benefits.

Tuition charges are not covered by the Eiffel Program.

The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs expects participating educational institutions, whose international visibility is enhanced by the Eiffel program, to provide awardees with the best possible financial support.

As recipients of French government scholarships, awardees admitted to French universities and other public institutions are exempt from tuition charges.

Awardees will be covered by Campus France's health insurance pending their registration with the French Social Security system, which should be done promptly. Awardees should use the following website to register: <https://etudiant-etranger.ameli.fr/#/>. The website is available in French and English.

European awardees holding a European health insurance card need not take any further steps. They have access to healthcare in France, and their medical expenses are partially reimbursed just as if they were in their home country.

Awardees must claim their return-trip benefit within 12 months of the end of their scholarship. Campus France will purchase the ticket for them, or they may purchase the ticket and be reimbursed by Campus France on the basis of the average cost of airfare between France and the region in which they live.

## **SELECTION PROCESS**

### **6. Eligibility**

*Nationality.* The Eiffel Program is reserved for non-French nationals. Candidates with two nationalities of which one is French are not eligible.

*Age.* Candidates for the master's component must be 25 or under at the time of the 2020 competition—that is, they must have been born after March 1995. Candidates for the doctoral component must be 30 or under at the time of the 2020 competition; they must have been born after March 1990.

*Source of applications.* Only applications submitted by French educational institutions will be accepted. These institutions commit to admitting awardees to the academic program specified in the application. Applications from any other source shall not be considered. Any candidate nominated by more than one institution shall be disqualified.

*Academic levels targeted.* Eiffel Program scholarships are intended for students seeking to enroll in a master's-level program in France (including at a school of engineering) and for doctoral candidates. Only programs recognized by the French government are eligible. The Eiffel Program cannot be used at French-run programs abroad or in connection with apprenticeship contracts or professional training contracts.

*Scholarship conflicts.* Applications nominating students who, at the time of application, have already been awarded another French government scholarship will not be accepted, even if the other scholarship covered only health insurance.

*Master's component.* An application nominating a student rejected in a previous competition will not be accepted, even if the application was submitted by a different institution or in another field of study. Students who have previously received an Eiffel master's scholarship are not eligible to receive another at the master's level.

*Doctoral component.* Institutions may nominate for a doctoral scholarship a candidate previously awarded a scholarship at the master's level. Candidates previously awarded a doctoral scholarship are not eligible to receive another. An applications nominating a candidate rejected in a previous competition will not be accepted, even if the application was submitted by a different institution or in another field of study.

*Language proficiency.* When preselecting non-French-speaking candidates, institutions shall ensure that the candidates' language skills meet the requirements of the academic program.

Students enrolled in academic programs abroad have priority over students already in France.

## **7. Calendar**

- Submission of online applications: week of 28 September 2020.
- Deadline for receipt of applications by Campus France: 8 January 2021.

- Interested students should contact the institution that is to submit their application to determine that institution's deadline for submission of students' application materials.
- Publication of results: week of 22 March 2021.

Results are announced in March so as to allow students applying to other scholarship programs to learn early on whether they have been selected for an Eiffel scholarship.

The Eiffel scholarship cannot be held concurrently with another French government scholarship, Erasmus+ scholarship, or scholarship from the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie. In such cases, selected candidates must give up one of their scholarships. If they decide to give up the Eiffel scholarship, they shall immediately inform Campus France, in its capacity as administrator of the Eiffel program for the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

## **8. Nomination of candidates**

8.1. French higher education institutions shall preselect candidates for Eiffel scholarships from among the best foreign applicants to their academic programs.

8.2. Institutions shall complete and submit the online applications, using the form appropriate for each level of study. They shall ensure that applications meet the criteria of the Eiffel Program. The duration of the academic program, including mandatory internships in France or abroad, must be clearly stated in the application. Each institution may nominate a maximum of 40 candidates per field of study for a master's scholarship. Incomplete applications will be rejected.

8.3. No later than 9 January 2021, institutions must send to Campus France a list of the applications they previously submitted online. This digital document must bear the institution's seal and the signature of the head of the institution (university president or director), or his or her representative. The digitized document is to be e-mailed to [candidatures.eiffel@campusfrance.org](mailto:candidatures.eiffel@campusfrance.org).

## **9. Selection of Eiffel program scholarship recipients**

For the master's component, the aid and cultural relations offices (SCAC) at France's embassies will provide an assessment of candidates from their respective countries.

The selection process will be carried out by a committee composed of four panels of experts, one for each field of study. The members of these panels will not evaluate applications from institutions with which they are affiliated.

The evaluation of applications takes into account the assessment provided by the embassy.

The selection criteria are as follows:



- The candidate's qualifications, as demonstrated by his or her academic achievements, and, for doctoral students, the originality of his or her research topic
- The fit with the international policy of the institution nominating the candidate: The institution should be able to show how the selection of the nominated candidate will advance the institution's priorities, particularly its international strategy (strong existing cooperation with the candidate's home country and institution; relevance to the institution's international excellence initiatives, existence of a system to maintain contact with international alumni and connections with the France Alumni platform [<https://www.francealumni.fr/en>]; quality of the support services offered to international students, notably through the Bienvenue en France seal program; ; its activities in the geographical area in question; the suitability of the host department and the fit with the candidacy presented; efforts to promote the Eiffel Program and French government scholarship recipients in institutional communications).
- The cooperation and partnership policy of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, particularly the priority it assigns to certain countries with respect to this program.

The committee ranks each candidate in light of these three criteria. It then sets a minimum threshold of admissibility and allocates the scholarships as follows, depending on the number of scholarships available:

- At least 70% of the scholarships are awarded to the highest-scoring candidates.
- The remaining scholarships are awarded to admissible candidates at institutions that have not yet received a scholarship.

The applications thus selected constitute the definitive list of awardees.

## **10. Publication of results**

The list of awardees is published on the Campus France website:

<http://www.campusfrance.org/en/eiffel>

Each institution receives a report of the results of the applications it has submitted.

The deliberations of the selection committee are not made public. Its decisions are final.

## **11. Participation of French embassies**

SCAC personnel at France's embassies stand ready to help institutions identify and preselect candidates from particular countries.

For the master degree, the aid and cultural offices offer their opinion on the merits of candidates from the country in which the embassy is located.

## **PRACTICAL INFORMATION**

The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs has assigned the management of the Eiffel Program to Campus France.

For more information, please go to: <http://www.campusfrance.org/en/eiffel>

Questions about practical matters may be addressed to:  
[candidatures.eiffel@campusfrance.org](mailto:candidatures.eiffel@campusfrance.org)