

EIFFEL EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP – PROGRAM 2026 – PHD LEVEL

The Eiffel Excellence Scholarship Program was established by the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs to enable French higher education institutions to attract top foreign students to enroll in their master's and PhD programs. It gives opportunity to the future foreign decision-makers of the private and public sectors in priority areas of study.

The selection process is in two phases: selection by the institution and selection by the Eiffel committee. **Please send us your application before October 29th, 2025, to relations.internationales@utbm.fr.**

Contents

Presentation of the program	1
Possible scholarship duration	1
Eligibility requirements	2
Scholarship advantages	2
More information	2
How to apply	2
Phase 1: required documents.....	3
Phase 2 : required documents	3

Presentation of the program

Possible scholarship duration

- **12 months** for an enrolment in 2nd or 3rd year of doctoral studies. The duration can be divided into stays of 6 months each, over a maximum of 3 years. The thesis must be in joint supervision (“codirection”: degree in one of the two universities / “cotutelle”: degree in both universities), and can have already started.
- **18 months** for an enrolment in 1st or 2nd year of doctoral studies. The duration can be divided into stays of 6 months each, over a maximum of 3 years. The thesis must be in joint supervision (“codirection”: degree in one of the two universities / “cotutelle”: degree in both universities), and can have already started.
- **36 months** for an enrolment in 1st year of doctoral studies, “cotutelle” forbidden.
For newcomers only (no prior studies or current studies in a French institution).
Number of scholarships limited.

The stay must begin between September 1st and November 30th, 2026.

Eligibility requirements

- Foreign nationality;
- 32 years maximum (birth after March 31st, 1993);
- 12-month and 18-month program: applicants currently studying in France are eligible but don't have the priority. 36-month program: newcomers only.
- Only **first-time applicants at the PhD level** are eligible. Students who have benefited from the scholarship at the master's level can apply for the 12-month or the 18-month program.
- Applicants who are already benefiting from another French governmental scholarship program at the time of the application are ineligible.

Scholarship advantages

- Tuition fees;
- Monthly allowance of 1,800 € (data from 2025);
- Round-trip transportation;
- Insurance;
- Cultural activities.

More information

- [Guide pour les candidats \(version 2025\)](#)
- [Guide pour les établissements \(version 2025\)](#)

How to apply

The selection process for Eiffel is divided into two phases:

1. Admission into the institution, which accepts to present your application to the Eiffel selection committee:
 - a. Application deadline: **Octobre 29th, 2025**
 - b. Publication of results: **November 17th, 2025**
2. Submission of your application by the institution to the Eiffel selection committee:
 - a. Application deadline – applicant's documents: **November 24th, 2025**
 - b. Application deadline – **laboratory's documents**: **December 8th, 2025**
 - c. Publication of results: **mid-April 2026**

Please send all the required documents to relations.internationales@utbm.fr in due time. Please follow the required number of pages. **Any file sent after the deadline will be inadmissible.**

Phase 1: required documents

1. Passport or ID;
2. CV;
3. Cover letter;
4. Draft of a thesis proposal;
5. Transcripts of records from the last three years in higher education.

Phase 2: required documents

1. **Application form** (sent by email);
2. **Passport or ID**;
3. **CV**, one to two pages;
4. **Diploma and ranking** from your high school diploma, with the distinction, specialization, date of graduation, rank inside the promotion, number of students in the promotion;
5. **Transcripts of records** from the last three years in higher education;
6. **Professional project**, of one to two pages, explaining the choice of studies in France with regards to your academic background and your desired professional career;
7. **[Option]** Recommendation letter giving an outside opinion on your professional project;
8. **[Non-French speaker]** Language certificate or diploma;
9. **[Applicants who have started their thesis]** Proof of at least one communication in a seminar;
10. **[To be established with the laboratory]** **Thesis proposal**, of one to five pages, explaining in detail the thesis subject, the research objectives and hypotheses – the innovative nature, impacts and outcomes of the project. For applicants who have already started their thesis, please specify the progress of your research.
11. **[To be established with the laboratory]** **Assessment by the thesis supervisor** of the applicant's excellence, the coherence, relevance and innovative nature of the thesis proposal;
12. **[To be established with the laboratory]** Reasoned opinion of the **director of the laboratory**;
13. **[To be established with the laboratory]** Reasoned opinion of the **director of the doctoral school**;
14. **[To be established with the laboratory]** **Overall financing plan of the thesis** (non-mandatory for the 36-month program);
15. **[To be established with the laboratory]** **Joint supervision agreement (cotutelle, codirection)** (non-mandatory for the 36-month program);

16. **[To be established with the laboratory] [12-month and 18-month program]**
Calendar of stays of the PhD student in France (stays of 6 months minimum over a period of 3 years maximum);
17. **[To be established with the laboratory] Opinion of an external expert** on the scientific quality of the thesis subject. The expert must be a university professor, a research director, or a teacher and/or researcher with accreditation to supervise research (HDR), in accordance with the rules of professional ethics. The expert must be external to the institution submitting the application. The expert must be from the same CNU section or field of research as the thesis proposal. The expert must not have carried out any joint work or publications with the prospective thesis supervisor. Please attach the **expert's CV**, of two pages maximum.