



**DIRECTORATE-GENERAL OF GLOBAL AFFAIRS,  
DEVELOPMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS**

Cultural, Academic and Research Cooperation Directorate  
Higher Education Department

## **EIFFEL PROGRAMME VADE MECUM 2015**

**The Eiffel Excellence Scholarship Programme has two branches:**

- **a master's branch, which funds master's courses lasting between 12 and 36 months;**
- **a PhD branch, which offers funding for PhD students to spend ten months in France, through joint supervision or dual enrolment (preferably in the second year of their PhD).**

### **PRESENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME**

#### **1. Objectives of the Eiffel Programme**

The Eiffel Excellence Scholarship Programme was established by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development to enable French higher education establishments to attract top foreign students to enrol in their master's and PhD courses. It helps to shape the future foreign decision-makers of the private and public sectors, in priority areas of study, and encourages applications from emerging countries at master's level, and from emerging and industrialized countries at PhD level.

#### **2. Areas of study**

Eiffel scholarships are available in three main fields:

- engineering science at master's level, science in the broadest sense at PhD level (engineering science; exact sciences: mathematics, physics, chemistry and life sciences, nano- and biotechnology, earth sciences, sciences of the universe, environmental sciences, information and communication science and technology);
- economics and management;
- law and political sciences.

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

French higher education establishments nominating candidates for the Eiffel Programme undertake to enrol them:

- either in a master's degree course;
- or in a PhD programme, under joint supervision or dual enrolment, in partnership with a foreign higher education establishment.

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

#### **4.1. Master's level**

The scholarship is awarded for a maximum of 12 months for entry at M2 level (equivalent: second year of a two-year master's course), for a maximum of 24 months for entry at M1 level (equivalent: first year of a two-year master's course), and for a maximum of 36 months for an engineering degree. It is awarded on the condition that the student fulfils the academic requirements of each year of the course.

Should the student wish to take an intensive language course beforehand, the Eiffel scholarship duration can be extended by a maximum of two months, if this is clearly indicated in the application. The Eiffel scholarship does not cover the cost of such language courses.

The scholarship can cover a period of training or a work placement outside the host establishment, lasting for no more than 25% of the total duration of the course, if such a training period or work placement forms an integral part of the course. Optional work placements are not covered.

If the course includes an international academic exchange, the scholarship shall be suspended during the period spent abroad, without any possibility of extension.

If the scholarship holder signs an apprenticeship contract or a professional training contract, the scholarship shall be automatically terminated.

#### **4.2. PhD level**

The Eiffel scholarship is awarded for a maximum of ten months.

For scientific and economic disciplines, no language course is provided for and the scholarship duration cannot be divided up.

For law students, the ten-month scholarship can, with the consent of the selection committee, be split into two or three stays in France, of three or four months each. These stays must take place over a maximum of three calendar years.

Only law students have the option of taking French lessons alongside their studies. This must be clearly requested in the application.

### **5. Benefits provided**

#### **5.1. Master's level**

The Eiffel scholarship includes a monthly allowance of €1,181 (a maintenance allowance of €1,031 and a monthly stipend of €150). In addition, the following expenses are directly covered:

- one international return journey;
- social security cover;

- cultural activities.

Scholarship holders may also receive an additional housing allowance, under certain conditions.

### 5.2. PhD level

The Eiffel scholarship includes a monthly allowance of €1,400. In addition, the following expenses are directly covered:

- one international return journey (for students in law or political sciences who may make several trips, only one return journey shall be covered);
- social security cover;
- cultural activities.

Scholarship holders may also receive an additional housing allowance, under certain conditions.

### 5.3. For both master's and PhD levels

In order to receive the first instalment of the monthly allowance, scholarship holders must have started their course of studies at the host establishment in France.

Tuition fees are not covered by the Eiffel Programme.

The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development expects the educational establishments, which gain greater international influence through this programme, to ensure scholarship holders benefit from the best financial conditions, in accordance with the Quality Charter.

Students admitted to state-run educational establishments are reminded that, as French government scholarship holders, they are exempt from enrolment fees.

## SELECTION PROCESS

### 6. Eligibility

- **Nationality:** this programme is reserved for candidates of non-French nationality. Candidates with two nationalities, one of which is French, are not eligible.
- **Age:** for master's courses, candidates must be no older than 30 on the date of the selection committee meeting, i.e. born after 11/03/1984; at PhD level, candidates must be no older than 35 on the date of the selection committee meeting, i.e. born after 11/03/1979.
- **Origin of applications:** only applications submitted by French educational establishments are accepted. These establishments undertake to enrol scholarship holders on the course for which they have been selected. Applications submitted by any other means shall not be considered. Furthermore, any candidate nominated by more than one establishment shall be disqualified.
- **Courses of study:** scholarships are for students wishing to enrol on a master's course, including at an engineering school, and for PhD students. The Eiffel Programme does not apply to French-run master's courses abroad, as non-PhD scholarship holders must complete at least 75% of their course in France. It does not apply to training under an apprenticeship contract or a professional training contract either.

- **Combination with other scholarships:** foreign students who, at the time of application, have already been awarded a French government scholarship under another programme are not eligible, even if the scholarship in question does not include social security cover.
- **Eiffel PhD scholarships:** Establishments may nominate a candidate who was previously awarded an Eiffel scholarship at master's level for a scholarship at PhD level. Candidates who have already been awarded an Eiffel scholarship once during their PhD cannot be awarded it for a second time. No application will be accepted for any student who applied previously but was rejected, even if the application is submitted by a different establishment or in another field of study.
- **Eiffel master's scholarships:** no application will be accepted for any student who applied previously but was rejected, even if the application is submitted by a different establishment or in another field of study. Students who have already been awarded an Eiffel scholarship at master's level are not eligible to re-apply at master's level.
- **Language skills:** when pre-selecting non-French-speaking candidates, establishments must make sure that their language skills meet the requirements of the relevant course of study.

Students undertaking a course of study abroad take **priority** over those already living in France.

## 7. Calendar

- Application forms available online: week starting 20 October 2014.
- Deadline for receipt of applications by Campus France: 9 January 2015.
- Announcement of results: week starting 23 March 2015.

The results are announced in March to allow students who are applying to other scholarship programmes to know whether they have been offered an Eiffel scholarship and to decide where they wish to study.

The Eiffel scholarship cannot be held alongside another French government scholarship or an Erasmus + grant. Any selected candidates who find themselves in this position must give up one of the two scholarships. If they decide to give up the Eiffel scholarship, they must inform Campus France, an operator of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development, by letter.

## 8. Nomination of candidates

- 8.1. French higher education establishments pre-select candidates for the Eiffel Programme from among the foreign students to whom they have offered a place on a course of study.
- 8.2. The establishments complete and submit applications for these candidates online.<sup>1</sup> They must make sure that the applications fulfil the Programme criteria. The total length of the course and any compulsory work placements in France

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<sup>1</sup> There is a different application form for each branch of the Programme.

or abroad must be clearly mentioned in the application. Each establishment can nominate no more than 40 candidates for a master's scholarship. Incomplete applications will be rejected.

- 8.3.** The establishments must send to Campus France, by 9 January 2015, by recorded post with acknowledgement of receipt, a list of the applications submitted online. This document must bear the establishment's stamp and the signature of the head of the establishment (university president or principal), or his or her representative.

The establishments must be familiar with the Quality Charter on hosting French government scholarship holders (<http://www.campusfrance.org/en/eiffel>).

## **9. Selection of successful candidates**

The cooperation and cultural action services of the French embassies are consulted and give their opinion on the applications of candidates from their respective countries.

The selection procedure is carried out by a committee made up of three groups of experts (one per field of study). The members of these groups cannot evaluate applications submitted by establishments to which they are institutionally linked.

The applications are evaluated in light of the feedback from the diplomatic posts. The experts consult the diplomatic posts if their opinions differ.

The selection criteria are as follows:

- the excellence of the candidate, as demonstrated by his or her university career so far and the originality of his or her research subject (mark out of 10, weighted by a factor of 3);
- the international policy of the establishment nominating the candidate<sup>2</sup>, its action in the geographical area in question, the excellence of the host department, the establishment's compatibility with the candidate being nominated, its efforts to publicize the Eiffel Programme and its continued support of scholarship holders (mark out of 5, weighted by a factor of 3);
- the cooperation and partnership policy of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development, and in particular, the priority given to certain countries for this Programme (mark out of 5, weighted by a factor of 1).

The committee marks each candidate for these three criteria and calculates a total score out of 50. It sets a minimum threshold for admissibility and distributes the scholarships as follows, depending on the number available:

- at least 70% of the scholarships are awarded to the highest-scoring candidates;
- the remaining scholarships are distributed among the establishments that have not received one, for candidates who achieved scores above the minimum threshold.

These selected applications represent the definitive list of successful candidates.

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<sup>2</sup>The international policy of the establishment, not of the individual department concerned.

## **10. Announcement of results**

The list of successful candidates is published on the Campus France website:

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

Each establishment receives the results for all the applications that it submitted.

The deliberations of the selection committee are not communicated. Its decisions are final and no explanation is provided.

## **11. Involvement of French embassies**

The cooperation and cultural action services of the French embassies may be requested by the establishments to help identify and select the best candidates from their respective countries.

They give their opinion on the applications of candidates from the country in which they are located.

## **PRACTICAL INFORMATION**

The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development has assigned the management of the Eiffel Programme to Campus France.

All information can be found at: <http://www.campusfrance.org/en/eiffel>

Any questions on practical issues can be addressed to:  
[candidatures.eiffel@campusfrance.org](mailto:candidatures.eiffel@campusfrance.org)