

CAMBODIA Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport	FRANCE Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs Ministry for Higher Education and Research
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CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Cooperation Programme in Higher Education and Research

PHC TONLÉ SAP – 2026/2027

Tonlé Sap is the Franco-Cambodian Hubert Curien Partnership. It is implemented in France by the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE) and the Ministry for Higher Education and Research (MESR), and in Cambodia by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MEJS).

Calls for applications for this program are launched on an annual basis.

Deadline for submitting application files: **29/12/2025** (December 29th)

Types of projects concerned

- The objective of this program is to develop exchanges of scientific and technological excellence between research laboratories of the two countries, by promoting **new cooperation and the participation of young researchers and doctoral students**
- **All scientific fields** are concerned by this program

The priority themes can be specified as follows:

- 1) Digital Technology and Economy
- 2) Contemporary and emerging issues related to climate change
- 3) Innovative Pedagogy

Team eligibility conditions

- The call for applications is open to researchers belonging to research laboratories attached to higher education institutions or research organizations.
- Companies can participate in the project, as long as they are associated with an academic partner.
- Projects which have already received support under this program are not eligible for a new application immediately after their completion. New collaborations are always a priority.
- **Only application files co-submitted** by partner researchers to the bodies responsible for the program in their respective countries are declared admissible. French researchers must make sure of this with their partner.

Projects evaluation criteria

- Scientific quality of the project and the teams.
- Active participation of young researchers, in particular doctoral and post-doctoral students.
- Interest of cooperation and complementarity of French and Cambodian teams.
- Reciprocity in the importance of the mobility envisaged.
- Prospects for structuring or promoting the project. Network projects with a European or Asian opening will be positively considered. Researchers thus have the possibility of submitting an application within the framework of another PHC, on the same research topic.

Project selection committee

- Eligible projects are subject to a separate scientific assessment by each of the two parties. The authorities of the two countries then meet to compare the evaluations and jointly decide on the support granted to the selected projects.
- For the French part, the MESR delegation for European and international affairs (DAEI) ensures the scientific evaluation of the projects.

Operational Modalities

- The duration of projects is **two years maximum**.
- Funding is granted on **an annual basis**, for two consecutive years.
- The allocated budget must imperatively be used between January 1 and December 31 of the year concerned and **cannot be carried over** to the following year.
- The mobility of researchers from the French and Cambodian team must be organized over the **two years** of the project.
- The allocated budget concerns only the support of the mobility between the two countries of the researchers engaged in the program.
- Any other funding necessary for the implementation of joint projects must be provided by the own resources of the partner laboratories or by other sources.
- The renewal of credits for a second year is subject to:
 - Optimal consumption of funding granted for the 1st year.
 - The submission of a progress and financial report mentioning the scientific results obtained (1 page in free format), the mobility carried out and the actions carried out or planned before the end of the current (or civil) year.

The progress report and the financial statement must be sent before November 30 of the 1st year to the French Embassy (see contact for the program below).

Eligible Expenses

- The maximum amount for one project is 10,000 euros per year: 5,000 Euro from the French side, and 5,000 Euro from the Cambodian side.
- The resources granted by France and Cambodia cover exclusively the payment of subsistence allowances and travel for researchers (see Table below).
- The budget granted by France exclusively covers the payment of subsistence allowances and travel for researchers of the French team:
 - Subsistence allowances: 125 € / day for researchers, 60 € / day for PhD students and post-doctoral students
 - Travel: reimbursement on actual costs up to a limit of € 1,500 per round trip.
- The budget granted by Cambodia exclusively covers the payment of subsistence allowances and the trips of the researchers of the Cambodian team:
 - Subsistence allowance: maximum of 230 USD / day for a maximum of 10 days, or 2300 USD per month,
 - Travel: reimbursement on actual costs up to a limit of € 1,500 per round trip.

STAY				
Type of people	per diem in €	Funding country	Departure Country → Arrival Country	Duration and Additional Information
French team researcher	125 € / day	France	France → Cambodia	7 to 14 days maximum
French Junior researchers (PhD student and post-doctoral student)	60 € / day	France	France → Cambodia	14 to 60 days maximum
Cambodian team researcher	Maximum 230 USD / day	Cambodia	Cambodia → France	10 days maximum or USD 2300 for one month
Cambodian Junior Researchers (PhD student and post-doctoral student)	Maximum 230 USD/ day	Cambodia	Cambodia → France	10 days maximum or USD 2300 for one month
ROUND TRIP				
Travel amount of the Round Trip in €		Funding country	Departure Country → Arrival Country	
1 500 €		France	France → Cambodia	
1 500 €		Cambodia	Cambodia → France	

Intellectual property and National Security

- The Project Investigators (or heads of project) are responsible for their projects' intellectual property. They must take all necessary measures to protect it.
- Carefully read the [attached document¹](#), relating to best practices relating in particular to intellectual property rules. The deposit of the project includes, in fact, the adhesion, by all the parties, to these rules.
- On the French side, the projects submitted may be subject to review under the PPST (Protection of Scientific and Technical Potential and Economic Intelligence). For more information on this system <https://www.eechesup-recherche.gouv.fr/cid27031/protection-du-potentiel-scientifique-et-technique-et-intelligence-economique-p.p.s.t.html>

Projects monitoring

- A final scientific and financial report is required no later than three months after the end of the projects.
- The project leaders of the French team must imperatively use the [downloadable report template²](#) and attach it to their online file within this period.
- This report should also be sent to the French Embassy within the same time limit (see contact for the program below).
- The publications drafted within the framework of this project must mention the support granted by the MEAE and the MESR.

Practical procedures for submitting the project

Before any request for information, we invite you to consult the page of the most frequently asked questions "**FAQ and contact³**".

- Publication date of the call for proposals: **06/10/2025** (October 6th)
- Deadline for submitting application files: **29/12/2025** (December 29th)
- Date of dissemination of results: **April 2026**
- Project starting date: **April 2026**

Submission of Project

- A complete joint proposal must be submitted by both Cambodian and French partnering universities/agencies within the given deadline. Failing to fulfil this requirement, the proposal will be disqualified.

¹ https://www.campusfrance.org/system/files/medias/documents/2021-10/guide_bonnes_pratiques_tonle_sap.pdf

² https://www.campusfrance.org/sites/default/files/medias/documents/2017-11/rapport_final_phc.doc

³ <https://www.campusfrance.org/fr/phc-faq>

- The proposal submission procedure is:
 - Cambodian Principal Investigator (or head of project) must submit the proposal in English to MEJS via email.
 - The French partner has to submit the similar version in English or French online following the process described at <https://www.campusfrance.org/fr/phc-candidater>

Contacts

For the French part

- **Mrs TRAN Thi Anh-Dao (ACSU)**
French Embassy
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- **Campus France / Gestion PHC**
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For the Cambodian part

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