Call for thesis projects
Launching of the 2023 campaign of the doctoral scholarship program
ENS Group - China Scholarship Council (CSC)

All fields in correlation with the teaching and research departments at the Ecole normale supérieure de Rennes.

The framework agreement between the ENS France group (Ulm, Paris-Saclay, Lyon, Rennes) and the China Scholarship Council allows for the funding of up to 20 thesis scholarships per year. The objective of this program is to encourage the best Chinese students to come and do a thesis or a research stay in one of the laboratories of the ENS group.

There are two scholarship schemes:
- Thesis grant (36 to 48 months): single degree in France or co-directed joint thesis.
- Research residency grant (6 to 24 months): single degree in China with an international component (co-direction for example) and an invitation to carry out a research residency in a French institution.

Thesis director:
- must be a member of a doctoral school attached to ENS Rennes,
- must direct a maximum of 4 PhD students at the time of application.

Schedule for the 2023 campaign

Step 1: Call for proposals until November 25, 2022
- The scientific teams send their thesis proposals to the International Relations Department (SRI) at the following address: international@ens-rennes.fr.

Step 2: Publication of thesis proposals and call for applications from December 01, 2022 – February 01, 2023.
- The collected thesis topic proposals will be forwarded to the CSC (and Chinese partners) for Chinese students to apply. They will be posted jointly on the CSC and ENS Rennes websites.
- The Chinese student will contact directly the thesis director to establish his/her application file.
- Response to the potential candidates and constitution of the files by the scientific teams.
- The scientific teams are invited to disseminate, in parallel, the thesis proposals via the laboratory websites and networks.

Step 3: Pre-selection of candidates in France
- The scientific leader sends the complete application to the SRI of the ENS Rennes before February 18, 2022.
- The ENS will establish a common list of applications that they will send to the CSC.
- The final list of applications is sent to the CSC on February 28, 2022.
- Candidates pre-selected by the ENS jury apply on the CSC application platform: http://apply.csc.edu.cn
- Candidates must specify that they are applying under the specific ENS-CSC agreement.

Step 4: final selection of the candidates by the CSC in China from the middle of March to the end of March 2023. Attention: the platform will be open only during a very defined period. The dates are still to be specified for 2023.

Step 5: Announcement of the results of the 2022 campaign in June/July.
- Announcement of the results by the CSC.
- Communication of the results to the project leaders.
- Each ENS prepares the reception of the selected PhD student at the beginning of the academic year.
- The selected doctoral students must register at the doctoral school concerned and at ENS Rennes.

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General Information

Applicant Eligibility Requirements:

- The scholarship is for a maximum of 4 years. Its amount is 1350 €/month.
- Co-supervision and co-direction of a thesis are preferred. In the case of a cotutelle, the scholarship is paid for the periods when the Chinese doctoral student is in France.
- Applicants must be of Chinese nationality, reside in China and not have a job outside China at the time of application.
- Candidates who have been awarded the CSC scholarship are committed to return to China after the defense of the thesis or after a post-doctoral stay abroad (after agreement from the CSC).
- Candidates must meet the admission and selection requirements of ENS Rennes and of the relevant doctoral school; they must demonstrate a very good level of English and, for candidates in the humanities and social sciences, a very good level of French (B2 minimum, C1 recommended).
- Candidates must be hosted in a doctoral school attached to ENS Rennes.

Application file to be compiled:

- Detailed CV of the candidate (with level of English and/or French),
- Letter of motivation from the candidate in English or French,
- Copy of the candidate's passport,
- CV of the French thesis director signed,
- Thesis proposal signed by the thesis director (form),
- Letter of acceptance signed by the thesis director with a description of the proposed thesis topic and the context of the cooperation. This letter must be approved by the Director of the laboratory and the Director of the Graduate School.

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