Doctoral research, Business thinking

Doctoral fellowships program in France for foreign students
For graduated students

Boost your future with a PhD abroad

CIFRE stands for Industrial Agreement of Training through Research.

If scientific research, industrial and R&D experience and travel interest you, if you are Master degree graduate, become a full-time PhD student in the framework of French Cifre fellowships.

Fellowship benefits

- The CIFRE fellow signs a 3 years full time work contract with a French company with a good salary: minimum gross annual salary of € 23,484 (average of € 28,000 in 2012).

- The CIFRE fellow is enrolled in a doctoral course in the French laboratory and attends all the relevant courses. He/She is monitored by a thesis supervisor.

- An important benefit is that the fellow works in the company as well as the laboratory, thereby gaining valuable experience in both worlds and understanding their different research aims and approaches.

How the doctoral research working is managed?

The research undertaken by a CIFRE fellow is within the framework of a public and private partnership between a French company and a laboratory and is formulated by both parties.

The work undertaken by the fellow in the French company is his/her thesis.

The fellow is jointly supervised by both, the academic thesis supervisor and the monitor in the company.

He/She submits an annual progress report signed by both the supervisors to ANRT (National Association for Research and Technology).

Duration and completing of PhD

The CIFRE fellowship process lasts 3 years like the working contract and the enrolment at the French doctoral school.

The PhD can be completed before or after the stipulated time frame of three years but the grant is not extendable.

The success rate

The success rate of the fellowship is pretty high – 90% CIFRE fellows have completed their PhDs.

More details of the process of Cifre fellowships

For the past 30 years, the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research has been funding this specific doctoral programme within a public-private partnership framework.

More than 20,000 PhD students have already benefited from the CIFRE fellowships to complete their doctoral studies. Today they are academic researchers or industrial managers in various academic fields and business sectors.

Each year, 25% of the fellows selected for the programme are foreign students from all parts of the world.

Apply now!
The research can be implemented in all academic branches. There is no condition for the French company activities, but the company must be involved in the research process.

CIFRE fellowships scheme

ANRT on the behalf of the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research

- Assesses the doctoral research project
- Assesses the involvement of company
- Grants to the company €14,000 per year (+ CIR)

3 years contract with minimum gross annual salary of €23,484
Average 2012: €28,000

Advantage for French company: train future employees for its French or foreign office.
Advantage for academic laboratory: train doctoral students as per industrial needs.
Advantage for PhD student: gain valuable an academic and industrial research ability in France.
To apply

Eligibility:

- The applicant must be a master degree graduate or equivalent at the time of application.
- He/She must not have been employed by the French company for more than 9 months while applying for the programme, except for an internship.
- All nationalities are accepted.
- Applicable for all academic fields.
- The French company can be a big, medium or small size company.
- Prior knowledge of French is not mandatory.

Some questions?

Please address your queries to cifre@anrt.asso.fr. (English spoken)

Application form

The application form is on the website www.anrt.asso.fr, please click on CIFRE on the overhead tabs and then on «Dépôt en ligne».

Within three months, the applicant will receive a reply.

How to find the right laboratory?

- Browse through the directory of the French academic laboratories on the website www.anrt.asso.fr, clicking on «Annuaire laboratoires».

How to find the French company?

- You may through the existing offers on the website www.anrt.asso.fr, section «Offres entreprises».
- Send your candidacy on the website www.anrt.asso.fr, section «Propositions candidatures».
- You may search for a French company on your own.

- CIFRE fellowships are funded by the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research.
- About 1300 new fellowships per year.
- 4500 ongoing fellowships.