

DOCTORAL CONTRACTS – 2026–2029

Procedure for allocation in accordance with the decisions of the Doctoral School of 18
February 2026

APPLICATION GUIDE

Competition requirements:

The number of doctoral contracts allocated to the Doctoral School (ED – *École Doctorale*) will be communicated to candidates at a later date on the School's website (<http://www.ed-despeg-univ-cotedazur.fr/>).

Prior to the competition, candidates must have submitted a pre-application to a research laboratory of Université Côte d'Azur expected to host the thesis. This step is mandatory. Any application submitted directly to the Doctoral School without first being reviewed by a research laboratory will not be eligible for the competition. Deadlines and procedures for pre-applications are published on the websites of the research laboratories: CERDCAFF, CERDP, ERMES, GREDEG, GRM, LADIE.

Each research laboratory submits its reasoned opinions to the Doctoral School no later than Tuesday, June 30. When several applications from the same discipline are supported by a laboratory, the heads of the units rank the applications in order of priority.

Applicants for doctoral contracts must meet the criteria defined by the Doctoral School as part of its doctoral recruitment policy. These criteria are available on its website. Prior to the competition, the selection committee for doctoral contracts, whose composition is specified below, may carry out a pre-selection among eligible applications that have received a favorable opinion from their laboratory, in order to determine those authorized to compete, in particular to ensure a balance between laboratories and disciplines. Candidates selected for the interview will be notified by email, which will serve as an official summons, on Friday, July 3, 2026.

The selection committee interviews the shortlisted candidates: the presentation of the thesis project, for a maximum duration of 5 minutes, is followed by a discussion lasting up to 10 minutes. No video presentation is planned. The purpose of the interview is to assess the relevance of the thesis project and the candidate's ability to carry it out. At the end of the interviews, the committee establishes a ranking of candidates, possibly accompanied by a waiting list, and the Doctoral School proposes to the President of the University the allocation of contracts according to this ranking.

The interviews for the competition will take place on Friday, July 10, 2026.

Composition of the selection committee and conduct of the competition:

The Doctoral School's selection committee for the allocation of doctoral contracts is an emanation of the Doctoral School Council and is composed of representatives of research laboratories and University Research Schools (EUR). It is chaired by the Director of the Doctoral School, who ensures the proper conduct of the competition and the voting procedures.

Its composition is made public by posting prior to the start of the competition. Members of the committee may be replaced by a representative from the same laboratory or the same EUR, holding an HDR (*Habilitation to Supervise Research*), whose name must be communicated to the Doctoral School administration before the beginning of the competition. This replacement applies for the entire duration of the competition. Votes are organized by the chair of the committee, who proposes, following discussions and intermediate votes, a ranked list of candidates. The vote on the list and on any supplementary list must receive at least two-thirds of the votes cast in order to be validated.

Openness to mobility:

The Doctoral School pays particular attention, based on their quality and consistency with the scientific policy of the Doctoral School and the relevant laboratory, to applications from universities other than Université Côte d'Azur. Students from external universities who wish to apply must first have identified, within the Doctoral School, a prospective thesis supervisor and a host laboratory.

Submission of complete application files on the ADUM platform: June 24, 2026 at midnight
PLATFORM LINK: <https://adum.fr/candidature/>

Warning: Applications from candidates who have not completed the pre-application process with a research laboratory will not be considered eligible for the competition, even if they have submitted a complete application file by June 24, 2026. Deadlines and procedures for pre-applications are published on the websites of the research laboratories: CERDCAFF, CERDP, ERMES, GREDEG, GRM, LADIE.

Documents to be submitted on ADUM to apply for a doctoral contract

Submit a single PDF file, arranging the documents in the order indicated below.

1. A detailed CV including the following mandatory information:
 - a) the university awarding the Master's degree,
 - b) overall grades for L3, M1, and M2, including any distinctions or honors,
 - c) the title of the research dissertation or internship report and the grade obtained, as well as the class ranking in the Master's program (if available)
2. Full academic transcripts for the third year of the Bachelor's degree (L3), Master 1, and Master 2
3. A copy of the Master 2 dissertation or internship report (or, failing that, a copy of the Master 1 dissertation), or a download link to these documents
4. A 5-page thesis proposal (excluding references). This proposal must include a title, a list of keywords situating the intended research, a state of the art, the research methodology, and a provisional research timeline
5. A letter of support from the thesis supervisor
6. For candidates wishing to obtain a teaching assignment in addition to their doctoral contract (DCME), a cover letter specifying the department in which you wish to teach