

DESPEG PhD Grants – 2026–2029

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

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Competition requirements:

The number of doctoral contracts allocated by 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 and further described in the [call for applications](#). Prior to the competition, the selection committee for doctoral contracts, whose composition is specified below, carry out a selection among eligible applications in order to determine those short-listed for the interview step. 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.

For pre-selected candidates, interviews 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

<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 specifying obligatorily :
 - a) A summary of your academic background with the following details: Overall grades for Bachelor and Master degrees, including any distinctions or honors, and 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). [Use the templates available on our website](#)
 - b) A description of your past scientific activities and/or your professional experience
 - c) A brief presentation of your career orientation project
2. Official documents with the 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 from the PhD supervisor validating the thesis project and confirming its alignment with the laboratory's research axes. The letter should also specify the role of any co-supervision or joint supervision (cotutelle).
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