

2024

**APPLICATION
GUIDELINES**

FOR COTUTELLE GRANTS

BARRANDE FELLOWSHIPS

CZECH-FRENCH DOCTORAL MOBILITY
PROGRAMME

Programme objectives

The French Institute in Prague (IFP) and the Czech Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MYES) coordinate the Barrande fellowship programme, the exchange mobility programme for Ph.D. students between the Czech Republic and France. The programme is designed to provide Ph.D. students in the Czech Republic with opportunities to study in France and Ph.D. students in France with opportunities to study in the Czech Republic.

The aim of the programme is to enhance international education exchange while encouraging scientific cooperation between French and Czech research teams. Students from France and the Czech Republic are encouraged to extend their research abroad and learn new skills they will be able to develop further in their home countries. They are to become the spearheads of French-Czech bilateral relations. In pursuit of this aim, **the programme supports “cotutelles” and short-term research stays.**

While the call is open to all scientific fields, it particularly welcomes applications in the fields of environmental sciences, energy, mathematics and information technologies.

What is a “cotutelle”?

The scheme called “cotutelle” is a doctoral degree programme which is undertaken jointly at two partner higher education institutions, one in France and the other in the Czech Republic. **Research is conducted under the joint supervision of the Czech and the French supervisors**, both providing the full measure of supervision for the student. The student undergoes multiple stays abroad, under the terms of the agreement co-signed by the Czech and the French higher education institution, the “Convention de cotutelle”, for a maximum of three years. On its completion, **the student is awarded two diplomas, one from each institution.**

Applicants should launch the process of finalising the “cotutelle” agreement as soon as possible, since this is one of the prerequisites for receiving the scholarship.

Eligibility

1. Nationality

The programme is open to all Ph.D. students registered at a Czech higher education institution for studies in France (except for French citizens) and to all Ph.D. students registered at a French higher education institution for studies in the Czech Republic.

2. Degree requirements

Students in their second year of master’s studies at the time of the call may apply. However, the applicants will need to hold a higher education degree before their first stay abroad.

- **In France**, in order to register as a Ph.D. student, it is necessary to hold either a Master's degree or to get an equivalence certificate for this diploma. Such equivalence is delivered by the French university. Applicants for the Barrande fellowship should ask their French supervisor about the procedure to receive this equivalence certificate.
- **In the Czech Republic**, access to a doctoral study programme is conditional on graduating from a master's study programme. See [the diagram of the education system](#) in the Czech Republic.

It is necessary to be enrolled in a doctoral study programme both at a Czech and a French university.

3. Faculty requirements

- **In the Czech Republic.** Applicants from French universities are advised to thoroughly read Application Procedure and Admission Requirements for the academic year 2024/2025 published by their target faculty in the Czech Republic and check the deadline for the application submission. Thereafter, applicants need to apply for a full-time doctoral study programme through the faculty's registration system. Please find official information on the website of the target public Higher Education Institution in the Czech Republic ([MEYS](#), [Study In](#)).
- **In France.** Applicants from Czech universities will find general information on enrolment in a Ph.D. programme in France on the [Campus France website](#). Registration procedures can be found on the website of the targeted doctoral school ([list and website of all French doctoral schools](#)).

4. Language requirements

The programme is open to all English speakers on the condition that the French or Czech thesis supervisor from the foreign institution agrees with English as the language used for the Ph.D.

Fellowship

The programme offers grants to Ph.D. students studying in the frame of a "cotutelle" between France and the Czech Republic. The fellowship is awarded for each research stay abroad. The fellowship-holder **registered in a Czech or a French university** undertakes a 5-month stay abroad every calendar year for a maximum of 3 years and a maximum of 15 months.

The fellowship-holder receives a monthly stipend of about **1 500 EUR** in France / **35 000 CZK** in the Czech Republic.

Stays abroad should ideally start on **October 1st or November 1st, 2024** and therefore follow the scheme presented below:

Stay 1: October 1st, 2024 – February 28th, 2025

Stay 2: October 1st, 2025 – February 28th, 2026

Stay 3: October 1st, 2026 – February 28th, 2027



or

Stay 1: November 1st, 2024 – March 31st, 2025

Stay 2: November 1st, 2025 – March 31st, 2026

Stay 3: November 1st, 2026 – March 31st, 2027

Transport from France to the Czech Republic and from the Czech Republic to France is at the expense of the fellowship-holder.

NB:

- The programme supports the mobility of students to their host institution. It does not provide for a research contract for the full duration of a Ph.D.
- Taking into account the organisation of doctoral studies in France, flexibility in the organisation of the mobility scheme may be granted. The maximum number of supported months will remain the same (15).

Supervision

The applicant should contact the academic supervisor or the faculty/department he/she has chosen, introduce himself/herself, present his/her academic results, then specify the programme in which he/she wants to study and indicate the period of his/her planned stay. A mention about applying for the Barrande Fellowship should be made as well.

Applicants are advised to inquire first about the existing French-Czech relations at the applicant's home university. If there are none in keeping with the applicant's research theme, the applicant is encouraged to take his/her own initiative in this respect.

Application package

- **Academic CV** (2 pages max) in English
Specify the applicant's contact details (personal and professional e-mail address and phone numbers).
- **Cover letter** (2 pages max) in English
Explain the applicant's motivation for applying for the fellowship, present the subject of research, explain the reasons for wishing to do research at the particular foreign university.
- **Description of the project** (2 pages max, with references on the 3rd page) in English
Explain the research topic, specify the research objectives, methodology and expected research results. Develop a detailed study plan with a timeline. State the names and

contact information of the Czech and French supervisors and include the expected dates of each stay abroad.

→ Please note that the header must include the following information: Name/first name of the applicant - Subject of thesis - Name/first name of supervisors/addresses of universities.

- **Signed recommendation letter from the supervisor at the home university with the letterhead of the institution**

It should contain the supervisor's agreement with the research project and with it being conducted under the joint supervision. It should be written in English and contain the expected dates of each stay at the foreign institution. The letter should also highlight the student's qualities, his/her research work and explain the benefit of conducting the research project in the framework of the co-tutelle.

→ Appendix 1 may be used as a template.

- **Signed recommendation letter from the supervisor at the foreign university with the letterhead of the institution**

It should contain his/her agreement with the student's research project, willingness to welcome him/her at the foreign university and the commitment to conduct his/her research under the joint supervision. It should be written in English and contain the expected dates of each stay at the foreign institution. The letter should also explain the reasons for implementing the co-tutelle (i.e. complementarity of expertise) as well as potential success factors.

→ Appendix 2 may be used as a template.

Where necessary, the supervisor may state that the student is invited to the foreign institution on the condition that he/she has graduated from the master's study programme at his/her home university.

By signing the letter, the supervisor commits himself/herself to inform the faculty / doctoral school / higher education institution about the intention of the student to apply for the Barrande Fellowship and provide him/her with the contacts on the staff responsible for practical issues at the higher education institution after the applicant is selected.

- **Transcript of the most recent academic achievements**

Transcript of records or a copy of the Diploma Supplement issued by the university and covering the previous finished degree program.

How to apply

1. Submit the on-line [registration form](#).
2. Download and fill in the [scholarship application form](#) (see document in appendix 3).
3. Prepare all the required documents (see above).
4. Send the signed and completed application form along with all the required documents by e-mail to aia@dzs.cz. All the documents must be submitted by **January 28th, 2024** at the very latest.

The materials should be submitted in a PDF version with respect to these rules:

Each file in the folder should be named using the following template: LAST NAME First name – Document title (Example: SMITH John – CV)

The application package should be in a compressed folder titled LAST NAME First name – Cotutelle – Category (Example: SMITH John – Cotutelle – LSM)

The folder name contains the initials of one of these 6 categories in keeping with the academic field of the applicant's research:

- Human Life Sciences and Health (LSH)
- Biology & Environment (B&E)
- Human & Social Sciences, Economics (SHSE)
- Chemistry (CH)
- Physics/Engineering (PE)
- Maths/IT/Systems Engineering (MITSE)

Selection procedure

1. The **Czech National Agency for International Education and Research (DZS)** will check the eligibility of every applicant as well as the formal completeness of his/her application.
2. Based on the quality of the written applications, auditions will be organized **in February and early March 2024**.

The auditions will last 20 minutes and will include a 10-minute presentation by the applicant followed by a 10-minute discussion with the jury.

Applicants will be evaluated according to the criteria presented below, using a 10-point scale to assess their degree of fulfilment.

- Quality and soundness of the written application
- Quality and scientific relevance of the applicant's research project
- Organisation and added value of the co-tutelle project

- Importance and relevance of the applicant's research project for his/her professional development
- Value of academic support provided by the applicant's thesis supervisor(s)
- Professional competence of the applicant to successfully complete his/her research project
- Quality of the oral presentation
- Overall assessment of the application

Candidates whose research projects receive fewer than 70% of the maximum score will be eliminated from the competition. NB: Receiving a score higher than 70% does not automatically entitle the applicant to the fellowship.

Awarding ceremony

The awarding ceremony for the Barrande Fellowships laureates will take place during the month of June, at the French Embassy or the French Institute in Prague, in presence of the Ambassador of France to the Czech Republic. The ceremony shall be attended by all awarded students registered in the Czech Republic.

Other important notes

Accommodation

- **In France.** Finding accommodation in France can prove difficult, especially in larger cities; it is, therefore, strongly advised that students start their inquiries early on and get in touch with their host university's doctoral school.

Depending on their status, students may benefit from the Campus France support in searching for appropriate housing in a university residence. In addition, students may ask for state housing benefit ("Aide pour le logement – APL") once they are in France. Applications are submitted to the Caisse d'Allocation Familiale – CAF, in their host city.

- **In the Czech Republic.** Inexpensive accommodation at student dormitories is offered as well as the possibility to have meals at student catering facilities. The fellowship-holder has to apply for accommodation at the receiving faculty well before his/her arrival. Students accommodated at university dormitories reimburse the related lodging expenses themselves. The applicants for research stays in the Czech Republic should contact the hosting higher education institutions/ faculties regarding accommodation.

Calendar

Sunday, January 28th, 2024	Application deadline
February - March, 2024	Evaluation Committees (oral presentations)
April 2024	Announcement of results
May 2024	Awarding ceremony

Contacts

For applicants from the Czech Republic	For applicants from France
<p>Louis Augendre louis.augendre@ifp.cz Science programmes officer Institut français de Prague Štěpánská 35 - PO BOX 850 - 111 21 Prague 1 Phone: (+420) 221 40 10 03 Website: www.ifp.cz and cz.ambafrance.org</p>	<p>Pavel Rybář pavel.rybar@dzs.cz Bilateral and Multilateral Programmes Unit DZS Czech National Agency for International Education and Research Na Poříčí 1035/4 - 110 00 Prague 1 Phone: (+420) 221 850 505 Website: dzs.cz</p>

Appendix 1: Letter from the supervisor at the home university

[Insert letterhead of the institution]

At [place], on [date],

Object: Letter from the supervisor at the home university

To the Barrande Fellowship Committee,

I, [First Name – Name – Position] in the role of the supervisor at [Institution's name], gladly recommend [First Name – Name of the applicant], [Ph.D./future Ph.D. student] at [home institution's name] to be awarded a Barrande Fellowship for a [cotutelle].

[Presentation of the Applicant, his/her research work and academic achievements]

[Explanation of the interest in sending him/her to the foreign university in regard to his/her research and to the relations between the home and foreign institutions—the expertise of both laboratories/research centres should be demonstrated by references (publications, projects, etc.)]

In short, I strongly and without reservations recommend [First Name – Name of the applicant] as a candidate for the Barrande Fellowship Programme.

I fully agree with his/her proposed project and to conduct the supervision of his/her research jointly with [First Name – Name –Position of the supervisor at the foreign institution] at [Foreign institution's name], and with the expected dates of the stays:

[List of the expected dates of the stays at the foreign institution]

Sincerely,

Signature

[First Name – Name

Position

Institution

E-mail

Telephone number]

Appendix 2: Letter from the supervisor at the foreign university

[Insert letterhead of the institution]

At [place], on [date],

Object: Letter from the supervisor at the foreign university

To the Barrande Fellowship Committee,

I, [First Name – Name –Position] in the role of the supervisor at [Institution's name], am pleased to invite [First Name – Name of the applicant], [Ph.D./future Ph.D. student] for a [cotutelle] at [Institution's name].

[Presentation of the Applicant and his/her research work]

[Explanation of the interest in receiving him/her in regards to his/her research and to the relations between the home and foreign institutions—the expertise of host laboratories/research centres should be demonstrated by references (publications, projects, etc.)]

In short, I strongly and without reservations recommend [First Name – Name of the applicant] as a candidate for the Barrande Fellowship Programme.

I fully agree with his/her proposed project and to conduct the supervision of his/her research jointly with [First Name – Name –Position of the supervisor at home institution] at [home institution's name], and with the expected dates of the stays:

[List of the expected dates of the stays at the foreign institution]

Sincerely,

Signature

[First Name – Name

Position

Institution

E-mail

Telephone number]

Appendix 3 – Barrande Fellowship application form

ID number*		Date of submission*	
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* Applicants leave these fields blank

Host country	<input type="checkbox"/> Czech Republic <input type="checkbox"/> France	Academic year	2024/2025
Type of mobility	<input type="checkbox"/> cotutelle (double degree) <input type="checkbox"/> short stay	Length of study/research stay (in months)	
Host institution	<input type="checkbox"/> university*		
	<input type="checkbox"/> R&D center		

* Please note that the specification of a university and a faculty is necessary if applying for a cotutelle/short-term stay in the Czech Republic.

APPLICANT'S DATA			
Family name		First name(s)	
Date of birth (DD/MM/YYYY)		Academic degree	
Gender		Citizenship	
Mailing address			
E-mail		Phone number	
Home university		Faculty	
Address of the home university			
Year of study		Level of study	Ph.D.
Field of study			
Thesis title			
Language proficiency			

PLEASE SELECT THE AREA THAT MATCHES YOUR THESIS SUBJECT:

- Human Life Sciences & Health
- Biology & Environment
- Social & Human Sciences, Economics
- Chemistry
- Physics/Engineering
- Maths/IT/Systems Engineering

I ATTACH THE FOLLOWING REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Academic CV | <input type="checkbox"/> Letter from my original supervisor accepting a cotutelle or a short stay in the other country |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cover letter | <input type="checkbox"/> Letter from the supervisor from the other country declaring willingness to supervise me for a cotutelle or invite me for a short stay |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Description of the research project | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transcript of records or a copy of the Diploma Supplement issued by the university and covering the previous finished degree program | |

All the application documents must be in English.

- In order to apply, please fill in the on-line [REGISTRATION FORM](#).
- Print this PDF application form, complete the appropriate sections, sign the form and send it along with the required documents by e-mail to aia@dzs.cz.

- I understand that this programme only provides support for mobility periods in the host country.
- I hereby acknowledge that my personal data provided in the application form and in the attachments and submitted for the purpose of selection proceedings as well as for the purpose of my possible later nomination will be processed by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic, by the Czech National Agency for International Education and Research and by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs represented by the French Embassy in the Czech Republic, in compliance with the Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation). I also hereby acknowledge the fact that my aforementioned personal data will be forwarded to the appropriate host university in the Czech Republic and to Campus France, the French mobility agency for students, since this is necessary for the processing of my fellowship application. I also acknowledge that my personal data will be stored in analogue documents as well as the digital form by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic and by the Czech National Agency for International Education and Research for a period of 1 year following their submission in the application form in case the application is not selected for support and 5 years in case it is selected for support.

Date	
Handwritten signature	