

Embassy of France in South Africa

Masters Scholarships

2018 – 2019



The Embassy of France invites students who wish to continue their tertiary education at Masters level in France for the academic year **September 2018 – 2019** to apply for its bursary program.

This program forms part of the commitment between France and South Africa to establish fruitful partnerships between their universities while building a vast network of academic and professional contacts.

Students can apply for the first year of a Master's degree (M1) if they have already obtained a three year degree or for the second year of a Master's degree (M2) if they have a four year / honours degree. The duration of the grant is **one year, once renewable** should a student originally admitted in M1 continue with the M2 program.

Eligibility:

- **Citizenship of South Africa or Lesotho.** International students may apply if they have a previous degree from a South African university **which was completed in partnership with a French institution.**
- **Bachelor's or Honour's degree** (depending on academic year the student is enrolling for), completed or to be completed by the time the student would depart for France.
- **Acceptance from three selected French institutions** of the candidate's choice. Students should apply for admission to these universities concurrently to the bursary application (admission letters or at least correspondence with the institutions will be required for complete applications).
- **No knowledge of French language required**, depending on the availability of study course in English. Courses relating to the **French Language** (i.e. translation, interpreting or French language teaching) must follow a different application process. Please contact Mr. Damien Guyard.

Applications from all academic disciplines will be considered, with preference given to the fields of **science and technology** (eg. Energy, transport, environment and biodiversity, social and political sciences, space and earth science, materials & nuclear physics and chemistry, as well as food security).

Applications to French public universities are recommended since they have French government subsidised fees.

Applications deadline: 20 March 2018 at 17h00.

No late applications will be accepted.

Shortlisted candidates will be contacted by mid-April 2018. Interviews will be held in April 2018 in Pretoria (students unable to attend in person will be interviewed either telephonically or via video-conference).

Application procedure:

Submit applications via e-mail: pretoria.bourses@campusfrance.org

Application format:

7 attachments in PDF format clearly marked (i.e. Name Surname CV). Jpeg, Word, or any other format will not be accepted.

1. Fully completed and signed application form.
2. Certified copy of passport.
3. Certified copies of all degree certificates and academic transcripts, chronological according to date of completion (both for complete and incomplete qualifications).
4. Curriculum vitae (no longer than two pages).
5. Motivation letter (no longer than two pages).
6. Acceptance letters from 3 academic institutions in France (if you have not yet been accepted, proof of correspondence with the institutions will be required indicating that you have commenced the application process).
7. The internet links of the three academic institutions indicating the tuition fees of the three selected courses.

Note: It remains the student's responsibility to ensure that all of these documents are submitted correctly. If any of the above documents are not received, the student's application may be considered as incomplete. **Please follow these guidelines strictly, and do not submit any other documents than those required, as these will be discarded.**

Full bursaries include:

- annual tuition fees
 - special permission required if above 10 000 euro
- round-trip airfare
- health insurance
- a monthly stipend towards living expenses
- Schengen visa fees

*(Please note that partial bursaries may be awarded to allow for as many students as possible to obtain funding. **The Embassy strongly encourages co-funding opportunities:** If a student is able to obtain additional funding and declares this openly and honestly, it may improve the student's chances of obtaining funding through this program).*

Selection criteria:

- Academic achievement
- Coherence of motivation and career plan
 - motivation letter reflecting academic, professional and personal objectives and experiences with reasons for academic program and institution choice
- Nationality: South Africa or Lesotho. International students might be considered if they have a SA academic degree completed in partnership with a French institution.

Terms and conditions:

Please note that we try to accommodate as many students as possible in this program, but that we have to insist on the following terms and conditions due to an increasing number of applications. Requests for exceptions can unfortunately not be entertained:

- **Nationality requirement:** Students from South Africa or Lesotho. International students may apply if they have a previous degree from a South African university which was completed in partnership with a French institution.
- **Limited number of scholarships:** Even though we try to award scholarships to as many students as possible, an application for this scholarship or admission to a French institution does not guarantee that you will receive funding through this program.
- **Allocation of funds:** The allocation of funds and the offer of full or partial scholarships remain at the discretion of the selection panel and once an offer is made no negotiations will be entered into.
- **Incomplete applications:** Incomplete, incorrect or late applications may be discarded. Please read and follow the instructions on the application procedure very carefully.
- **Decision is final:** The decision of the selection panel is final and it will not be possible to consider any further requests or ad hoc applications outside of this program as the funds will have been allocated for the year.
- **Admission to a French institution of higher education (i.e. public universities, schools and private institutions):**
 - Students are expected to apply for admission to at least three French institutions in France. The institution may not be a foreign university based in France and the course must be based in France (funding may not be provided for studies at a French institution where its campus is outside of France).
 - Students are expected to apply for admission to the French institutions before submission of their scholarship application. The Campus France office will assist them as far as possible to obtain contact with French institutions but, it remains the student's responsibility to ensure that admission applications are completed and submitted on time, according to the institution's requirements.
 - A student does not need to be admitted to an institution in France by the time of applying for this scholarship, but should they receive the scholarship, they have to be admitted to a French university in order to benefit from the funding. If the student is successful in obtaining a scholarship, he / she will be offered the funding and will be expected to obtain admission before mid June 2019. If the student is unable to confirm admission by this date, the offer will be withdrawn and will be presented to the next student on the waiting list (provided that he / she has been admitted to a French institution at that time).
 - If a student is offered a scholarship but is unable to obtain admission to any institution by the stated deadline, the student forfeits the scholarship for that year and will not be placed on a waiting list or receive a preferential evaluation or automatic offer in the following year. The student may however submit a new application for the same scholarship in subsequent years.

To request application forms or any additional information regarding the scholarship program and studies in France, contact:

Narine van den Berg
University Cooperation Officer
E-mail : pretoria.bourses@campusfrance.org