

**FRENCH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND
DEVELOPMENT (DGCID)
DIRECTORATE FOR SCIENTIFIC AND UNIVERSITY COOPERATION (DCSU)**

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS 2008-2009

"CHARCOT" Grant Programme

for supporting research into medical, pharmaceutical and veterinary science by
awarding one-year grants for a research degree or post-doctoral year

1 – Background

The Charcot Grant Programme is designed to finance a year of pre-doctoral thesis work or a post-doctoral year to conduct research into medical, pharmaceutical and veterinary science. It reflects both the will to make France more attractive to foreign elites who are fully or partially French-speaking and are seeking further training before returning to their home countries, and to help French higher education institutions open up internationally with frequent backing from their local authorities.

2 – Objectives

- Support a one-year training period for medical research by young foreign researchers within a research laboratory approved by bodies like the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), the French Institute of Health and Medical Research (INSERM), and the National Institute for Agronomic Research (INRA) and/or the Ministry for Higher Education and Research as part of the contract with the host institution.

This one-year training programme is intended

- either to conduct pre-doctoral thesis work, *preferably under joint supervision* (i.e. "cotutelle"),
- or to take place as part of a year of post-doctoral training.

In both cases, applicants will be required to prove that they will be able to hold or return to a position either as a teacher-researcher or as a researcher in a public institution on their return to their home countries.

The following countries have been selected:

- Argentina, Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Mexico, Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand, and Sri Lanka.
- The new European Union member States, as well as Moldavia, the Russian Federation, Turkey, and Ukraine.

- **Encourage regional synergies in France for major research priorities**, as defined jointly at local and regional level by universities, university teaching hospitals (CHU – *Centre hospitalier universitaire*) and local authorities, and formalized institutionally through partnership agreements.

- Encourage cooperation and set up sustainable partnerships between French and foreign excellence laboratories in emerging countries.

3 – Main selection criteria

- Situation of applicants:

- applicants should be qualified physicians, pharmacists, odontologists or veterinary surgeons having written a practical thesis or the equivalent and residing in their home countries when filing their application.

- Prerequisites:

- established teaching researcher/researcher status or ability to prove that the applicant is in a position to gain either status on return to his/her home country;
- in the case of an application for a Charcot pre-doctoral thesis grant, the applicant must have worked for at least a year on his/her thesis and be under 35 years of age;
- in the case of an application for a post-doctoral Charcot grant, the applicant must have defended a pre-doctoral thesis in medical, pharmaceutical or veterinary science research less than three years previously and be under 40 years of age.

- **Application file:** it can be downloaded below and should be completed in French by the applicant. It should include at least

- a detailed **curriculum vitae** giving the applicant's civil status, degrees, titles, listing academic writings and activities and responsibilities exercised, and certifying the level of knowledge of French;
- **description of a research project** developed according to international scientific publication criteria and indicating the host institution and research structure in France.

In the case of a thesis grant, the research project corresponding to the thesis subject should be validated by the thesis supervisor (or the two supervisors in the case of joint supervision, i.e. *cotutelle*), or failing that, by the Head of the host laboratory.

In the case of a post-doctoral grant the research project should be validated by the Head of the laboratory in the applicant's home country and the Head of the host laboratory;

- **a certificate from the institution of origin** supporting the application and justifying it by highlighting its relevance for that institution and the selected country, and confirming that a position of teacher-researcher or researcher is reserved for the applicant on return to his/her home country;
- **the opinion of Counsellor for Cooperation and Cultural Action of the French Embassy in the applicant's home country** confirming the validity of the application and the grant award's significance for developing medium- and long-term scientific cooperation, and certifying the applicant's proficiency in French.

- **Preselection:** candidates will be preselected by the **Scientific Council of the host university** (medical and scientific university or multidisciplinary university offering health disciplines).

The applications of preselected candidates, ranked by priority, should be sent to the French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs (MAEE), together with a **letter from the President of the host university** detailing any further resources supplementing a possible Charcot grant from the MAEE and which may be provided

by partners in France, including universities, health training and research units (UFR) in universities, territorial collectivities, private companies, associations, and foundations, and abroad.

- **Selection:** final selection of applicants will be made on the basis of reports by rapporteurs to assess applications (two rapporteurs per application). The rapporteurs are designated every year by the Charcot Grant Programme Steering Committee, on the basis of the themes proposed by applicants.

4 – Grant details

- **Duration:** the Charcot grant is awarded for a **maximum of 12 months** starting at the earliest on 1 September 2008 *and ending at all events on 30 October 2009*. Arrival by a grantholder after 1 November 2008 would therefore reduce the duration of the grant. The MAEE's Charcot grant is non-renewable.

- **Value:** the MAEE grant is **€1,433** net per month, and travelling expenses are borne by the grantholder. A Charcot grant may not be combined with a salary from the host university teaching hospital (CHU) or a grant from another French establishment.

- **Evaluation and monitoring:** the grantholder will produce a detailed report at the end of the grant period. The report will be forwarded to the MAEE by the Head of the research laboratory care of the President of the host university.

5 – Procedure

In 2008-2009, **20** grants are offered by the French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs.

Full applications by candidates supported by participating universities should be sent, ranked by order of preference and by **15 April 2008** at the very latest, to:

Ministère des Affaires étrangères et européennes
DGCID-DCSU/U/PPME
À l'attention de Monsieur Yves MANSUY
244, boulevard Saint Germain
F- 75303 PARIS 07 SP

Applications that are incomplete or received after the above deadline will not be considered.

Further information may be obtained from yves.mansuy@diplomatie.gouv.fr

6 – Award results

Award results will be posted in early June 2008 on the websites of the MAEE and the CNOUS (National Student Support Centre) which is the Charcot Award Operator.