



Eiffel Programme

An element of French policy for the reception of foreign students

The Bourses d'excellence Eiffel (Eiffel Excellence Scholarships) programme is one of the components of the new policy for welcoming foreign students adopted by France (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of National Education, Higher Education and Research), given that training should now be regarded as a market in a competitive international environment. Advertising higher education courses, simplifying administrative steps, welcoming students, training them under good conditions are all challenges that four principal decisions have helped take up by stressing the priority given to the training of the most promising foreign talents in France:

The priority given to the training of the most promising foreign talents in France

- modification of the criteria and the procedure for allocating visas to foreign students. Formalities were simplified by the texts implementing the law on the residence of foreigners and right to asylum;
- additionally, French government scholars benefit from priority and simplified procedures in countries where Centres for promoting education in France (CEF) have been established;
- the usability of French degrees as recognized qualifications as part of the creation of a European Higher Education Area (EHEA) in

order to develop student exchanges in Europe and enhance the transparency of our education system worldwide for all foreigners wishing to attend academic courses in France;

- the promotion abroad of French higher education and the reception of foreign students.

The EduFrance Agency, set up in November 1998, fulfils three main missions in this connection:

- it promotes French higher education worldwide,
- helps provide comprehensive French higher education and support services for foreign students in France,
- coordinates and helps draw up French responses to international calls for applications.

- Restructuring of scholarship programmes (19,375 scholarships per year) to coordinate the supply and demand of higher education for foreign students, notably by creating the Eiffel Programme.

- Eiffel scholars are the future policymakers in their countries of origin. The very many and diverse ties forged during their stay in France contribute to creating a Francophone and Francophile network for the partnerships of tomorrow.





Eiffel Programme

Clear objectives for training the most promising foreign talents

The Eiffel Excellence Scholarships Programme, launched in January 1999, was designed to help French higher education institutions implement their international policy for supporting and recruiting the best foreign students.

Support for the French institutions' international action

In implementing their international action, the Eiffel Programme's partner schools and universities have an attractive tool to search for and select the best students who will sign up for their courses of study.



Those students' applications are submitted to the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs by the institutions themselves in accordance with their outreach policy.

The applicants' excellence is assessed by boards of university teachers specializing in the fields concerned.

The Programme's three fields of study

The Eiffel Programme concerns three fields of study (law/political science, economics/business administration, engineering sciences) for

training foreign public or private sector policymakers that are the future architects of their countries' development and partners of France. Preferred applicants are those aiming to take master's degrees in engineering and business administration, MBAs, or the former French one-year postgraduate DESS diploma.

The Eiffel Programme caters for priority countries

Priority is given to emerging countries, particularly in Asia, Latin America and eastern Europe or to new members of the European Union and Middle Eastern countries, currently poorly represented in the foreign student population in France.

So as not to penalize non French-speaking applicants, Eiffel scholars can attend French language courses before the start of their studies and during their stay, in liaison with the host institutions. Since 2005, institutions presenting applications are committed to seeking quality in terms of their capacity to attract and welcome foreign students. A Quality Charter signed by institution heads is attached to applications.

Eiffel, a name, a symbol

In addition to the world symbol he gave France, Gustave Eiffel, a former engineering student, was also a scientist, an entrepreneur, and an aesthete who looked to the outside world. It is for all these reasons that his name was chosen for the Programme whose ambition is to train "shapers of the future" of his calibre.





Eiffel Programme

A prestige programme based on rigorous selection

Student applications are presented by the educational institutions concerned

The Eiffel Programme is intended to support student recruitment internationally by educational institutions amid growing competition among developed countries to attract emerging countries' most promising talents wishing to continue their higher education abroad.

Carefully preselected applicants among foreign students about to enrol or possibly attending a French university are thus presented directly by the grandes écoles (competitive higher education institutions) and universities.

The Programme relies on several selection criteria

Applicants are selected by three boards made up of specialists in each of the Programme's fields of study (law/political science, economics/business administration, engineering sciences). The applications presented by the institutions concerned are assessed according to three criteria. First, the student's "excellence" is assessed on the basis of his previous university record, this being an essential criterion. The policy outreach of educational institutions and universities is also assessed: this criterion is intended to support those educational institutions which are genuinely dynamic in terms of international development. Finally, the geographical priorities of French coope-

ration policy, notably that relating to "emerging countries", are also taken into account. A perfect command of the French language was not chosen as a selection criterion, in order to increase international student



recruitment based on academic excellence. Selected applicants can learn French rapidly as it is possible for them to attend French language courses before beginning at the educational institution of their choice or during their first year there.

Around 400 student candidates are now selected per academic year.

The Eiffel Programme's substantial scholarship money

Eiffel scholars receive a monthly allowance of 1,031 euros in addition to which other expenses are borne directly under the Programme (travel, insurance, cultural activities, etc.). This substantial amount enables our higher education institutions to compete with foreign educational institutions, Anglo-Saxon ones in particular, and to enable Eiffel Programme students to study in France under proper conditions.



Eiffel Programme



Stocktaking of the Eiffel Programme's first years

Since the initial, experimental year with 153 students in January 1999, and until that of 2005, eight years have been selected: a total of 2,603 applicants were admitted out of 8,084 students who submitted admissible applications.

Growing mobilization on the part of higher education institutions

French higher education institutions showed great interest in the Eiffel Programme from its very first year: 92 grandes écoles and universities presented applications during the January 1999 selection process. This figure rose to 160 in 2005, out of which 80 institutions had at least one successful candidate.

This success was confirmed by the increasing number of applications received which rose from 378 in January 1999 to 1,106 in 2005.

Applications were presented chiefly by schools/colleges and institutes who welcomed 76% of successful applicants in the last year as against 24% by universities.

Eiffel Programme's patchy geographical and academic distribution area

Out of the 2,603 successful applicants in the first eight years, Asian students account for 51% of Eiffel scholars, followed by nationals of Latin and Central American countries (19.5%) whose participation has increased sharply in the past few years, non-EU and non-CIS European students (13.4%), and students from Middle Eastern countries (8%).

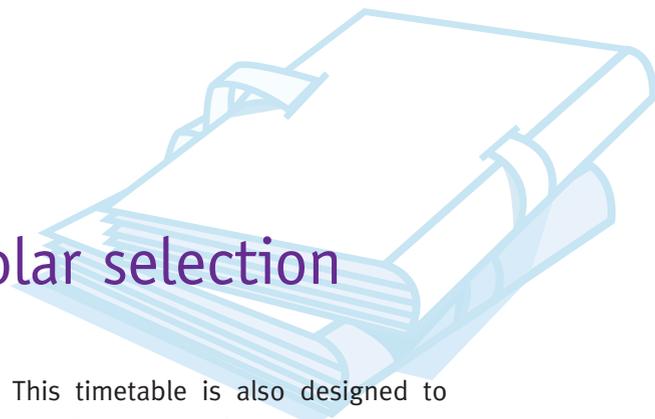
The remainder of students are from the European Union (3.6%), sub-Saharan Africa and North Africa (2% respectively). North America accounts for less than 0.5% of scholars.

Out of those scholars, 50% have opted for engineering sciences, 35% for courses in economics-business administration, and 15% for law or political science.



Eiffel Programme

Practical information on applications and scholar selection



Presentation of applications

- The applications to be completed are available in September on the Égide website at www.egide.asso.fr/eiffel.

Applications (in 5 copies) should reach Égide at the start of the calendar year, at the latest on the date given on the website.

- Applicants are preselected and presented by the French higher education institutions to which students are admitted to continue their studies.
- Applications submitted directly by students, diplomatic posts or foreign institutions shall be rejected.
- French diplomatic posts can help French educational institutions to look for students studying abroad who seem eligible under the Eiffel Programme.

Ineligible applicants

The Programme is only intended for foreign students aged thirty at the most during the selection year. It does not concern students who are planning to join the teaching profession or to become researchers. • Students who are already French government scholars (BGF) cannot apply for an Eiffel scholarship. • Applications can only be presented by a single French higher education institution. • Applications from candidates who were assessed and rejected during a previous session cannot be resubmitted.

Student selection and communication of results

- The selection board holds an annual session as early as possible in the year in order to give students abroad who receive other proposals from competing countries their results soon enough for them to choose

France. This timetable is also designed to enable non-French-speaking applicants to attend language training prior to the start of the academic year.

- The list of successful applicants is put online on the Égide website.

Organizational arrangements

- Management of the Eiffel Programme has been entrusted to Égide (see separate information sheet).
- An Eiffel scholarship is awarded for the period of time required to get the degree for which the scholarship was applied subject to the student's meeting the academic requirements for each year of the course, the duration of which may include, in addition, a French language precourse.
- The same selection conditions will apply to scholarship applications submitted by students taking a further degree at the end of their course.
- Scholars will be sent an Égide information sheet detailing all application procedures.

Tuition fees are not borne by the Programme. As stipulated in the Quality Charter, host educational institutions are invited to apply the best possible financial terms to the tuition of Eiffel scholars.



Eiffel Programme



Égide - Eiffel Programme operator

The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who wanted to entrust management tasks to a professional hosting operator, has entrusted Eiffel Programme management to Égide who is thus in charge of:

- submitting calls for applications to higher education institutions,
- publishing scholarship results and the final listing of successful applicants,
- direct contacts with scholars for organizing their arrival and taking care of the material aspects of their stay in France, such as travel arrangements, accommodation, insurance, payment of scholarship, and cultural activities.



Égide

Created in 1960, Égide organizes every year the reception and stays of more than 30,000 students, professionals, scientists and guest personalities from the world over, who have come to train, collect information or stay in France. Égide also sends 10,000 French experts, students and researchers abroad. As the leading French Foreign Ministry operator in charge of managing French government scholarships, Égide has been closely involved for over 40 years in the framing of government policy guidelines for international cooperation.

Égide is a non-profit association with a salaried staff of 216. It acts on behalf of 800 widely different bodies such as international organizations, foreign States, regional or local authorities, businesses, universities and research laboratories and manages funds of up to 152 million euros per annum.

Égide

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