



# PROGRAMME OF EXCELLENCE - SCHOLARSHIPS FOR RELIGIOUS STUDIES 2022 APPLICATION GUIDELINES

# 1. Presentation of the programme:

The scholarship programme for religious studies is designed for students and religious officers who wish to benefit from theological instruction (or relevant subjects such as history, philosophy, etc.) offered by higher education institutions in France. It is open both to future religious leaders who will take on responsibilities within a religious institution and to students with a project in the social sciences and humanities with a direct and obvious link to the religious sciences. Candidates can apply from all over the world, with the exception of the European Union and North America.

The priority is set on master and doctorate levels. Candidates at bachelor level may be eligible, depending on the quality of the application.

This global programme is financed by the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs.

#### 2. Who can apply?

The programme concerns:

- Students / Religious officers with a B2 level of French (and above)<sup>1</sup>;
- Nationals of all countries, except those of the European Union and North America;
- All religions without exception are included;
- Applications from students who are studying abroad and who never received a grant from the French government will have priority over those living in France.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The program does not include any prior language training.

Students who would like to spend a preparatory period in France in order to improve their French must apply to this scholarship before their departure. It will have to be justified by the religious authority of the candidate. The scholarship will not cover this preparatory period.

#### 3. Terms and conditions:

- The scholarship is awarded for a course of study (or for part of it in the case of short scholarships) by a selection committee at the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs.

It is therefore up to the student to provide the financial means necessary for the possible continuation of his or her studies in France beyond the period covered by the scholarship.

- If the candidate depends on a religious authority or community, a commitment of co-financing from this authority or community will be an advantage for the candidate's application.
- The allowance for a bachelor's or master's level scholarship is €700 per month. At Doctorate level, the allowance is €1,500 per month.
- Return travel or any prior language training is not covered.
- If the student's accommodation is paid for by a religious institution or association, it must be mentioned in the application.

# 4. **Duration of the scholarship:**

Candidates may apply for long or short scholarships.

• Long scholarships:

They cover a period of study ranging from 12 to 36 months for all or part of a course of study in France (levels eligible: Master's, Doctorate, possibly Bachelor's degree depending on the quality of the applications).

Short scholarships:

They cover a study period of 6 months and primarily finance stays in France that are part of a PhD, with or without co-supervision, or a post-doctorate. Other levels may nevertheless benefit from a short grant.

## 5. How to apply?

Candidates residing in Malaysia must send their application to the Malaysia-France University Centre (MFUC – see contact below) before **May 6<sup>th</sup>**, **2022**.

Applications sent to the MEAE directly by a student or an institution are not eligible.

The required documents are the following:

- Scholarship form (available upon request to scholarship@mfuc.org);
- Secondary school diploma and its certified translation, approved by the French Embassy;
- Other diplomas and their certified translations, approved by the French Embassy;
- Certificate issued by the French higher education institution certifying that the candidate has been accepted (the certificate must indicate the training program and the name of the diploma);

- Detailed plan of studies in France indicating the professional objective after obtaining the diploma. For PhD applicants, a detailed presentation of the thesis project is required;
- A French language certificate (either a TCF (issued less than 2 years ago), DELF B2, DALF C1 or C2). No certificate is required for candidates from countries where French is the official language.

For candidates who depends on a religious authority or community:

- Certificate(s) of religious status issued by the authority or by the religious representative, approved by the French Embassy;
- Recommendation of the religious authority or representative. In the case of multiple applications, a ranking of the candidates must be added;
- Documents certifying co-funding issued by the religious authority or community.

### 6. What is the application schedule?

Launch of the call: April 2022

Deadline for submission: **May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022** Communication of results: mid-June

#### 7. Contacts

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