

SERVICE DE COOPÉRATION ET D'ACTION CULTURELLE

FRANCE EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIPS (BFE) — former BGF
Application file
Explanatory note 2025-2026

This explanatory note is intended to help you with the administrative process of applying for a scholarship.

Please read it carefully and entirely before starting the application process.

1. The France Excellence Scholarship (BFE) — former BGF

The France Excellence Scholarship (BFE) are open to Master and Ph.D. students. There are two types of scholarships:

- The social protection scholarship¹** only covers tuition fees and social security during the stay in France. No allowance is given to the student;
- The full scholarship** covers the followings :
 - Your daily expenses thanks to a monthly allowance (860 € in Master and 1 690 € in Ph. D.);
 - A round-trip airplane ticket from Cambodia to France and back;
 - Your tuition fees in a public French university;
 - Your health insurance (medical expenses reimbursed by the French government if you have a health issue);
 - A priority access to government subsidized student housing²;
 - The “scholarship student status” which will give you many discounts in France;
 - A repatriation insurance.

Applications in any field of studies will be accepted, with a special interest given to the following fields:

- Law ; Economy ; Linguistics ; History and archaeology ; Anthropology ; Tourism
- Agroecology ; Vulnerabilities and inequalities in access to and uses of natural resources ;
- Environment, health
- Engineering sciences : Mechatronics ; Network and Telecommunications ; Energy engineering; Industrial engineering ; Food engineering ; Water and environmental engineering.
- Arts: Art, Design, Fashion, Music, Architecture, 3D.

¹ *The social protection scholarship cannot cover all students' expenses in France. It is best fitted for cofunding.*

² *Being a Frans Excellence Scholarship awardee helps accessing student housing subsidized by the government. Nonetheless, we cannot guarantee to all students their placement in such facilities. Housing remains students' responsibility!*

1. France Excellence Scholarships duration

The France Excellence Scholarships duration is as follows:

Master	10 months a year (September – June)
Ph.D.	18 months over 3 years of thesis

Here is an example of a possible 18 months Ph.D. scholarship management:

D1	6 months (doctoral training)
D2	6 months (field research)
D3	6 months (redaction supervision and defense;)

The 18 months' scholarship repartition must be decided over the 3 years of the Ph.D. by the students together with their thesis supervisors.

Please note that only PhD students under joint supervision can stay in France for less than 6 months. The joint supervision agreement must contain a thesis calendar.

Moreover, 18 months is a maximum duration. If the research topic and/or the research schedule do not justify 18 months of presence in France, awardees may receive a shorter duration (12 months for instance).

2. Eligibility criteria

Before applying, candidates must verify that they meet the BFE eligibility criteria below:

1. To submit a complete application file
2. To be a Cambodian national;
3. To have at least a Bachelor degree at the time of departure (September 2025);
4. For applications in French taught programs, good French language proficiency is required. Students will be asked to provide an official **DEL F B2** diploma, or to have received a French higher education diploma (baccalaureate, bachelor or master taught in French).
ATTENTION: if you are taking the March 2025 DELF exam, you will have up until **June 30 2025** to submit your results to the Embassy;
5. For applications in English taught programs, a good English language proficiency is required. Students will be asked to provide an official English certification, such as the IELTS, or to have received an English-taught higher education diploma (baccalaureate, bachelor or master taught in English). The level required has to be equivalent or superior to the B2 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (see annex 3)
6. To have started the registration and diploma equivalence requests processes with the intended French university;
7. For civil servants,: to have the hierarchy's agreement to pursue a master or a Ph.D. abroad.

Please note : that the eligibility criteria of the chosen study program may require a different language level than the scholarship.

Applications with a co-funding (from a Cambodian ministry or university, a French university, a research laboratory, or a private partner) will be favored.

Note: All candidacies will be reviewed with respect to gender equality.



ATTENTION: The scholarship file is not the same as a university registration file. Each applicant must follow several steps:

- Registration on the Etudes en France platform and application to the connected institutions. Please note that some institutions require a parallel procedure (please check their websites).

- Application for a France Excellence scholarship at the French Embassy in Cambodia: Candidates who have been awarded a BFE and who have not been accepted in their first choice of program in France may request that their scholarship be maintained in order to be reoriented towards their second and third choices. If the student has made only one choice of program in France, no request for reorientation to another program will be considered.

- Administrative registration with one or more French universities;

Applications not meeting the eligibility criteria will not be considered

3. PRELIMINARY CONDITION

YOU MUST CREATE AN ACCOUNT ON THE 'ÉTUDES EN FRANCE' PLATFORM BEFORE SENDING YOUR BFE APPLICATION FORM.

<https://pastel.diplomatie.gouv.fr/etudesenfrance/dyn/public/authentification/login.html>

4. Documents to attach with the application

A complete application file is made of:

0. The application form (a sample, duly completed, is enclosed in annex) ;
1. The applicant's Curriculum Vitae (CV) ;
2. A copy of the candidate's passport or ID card ;
3. A cover letter, in French or in English, depending on the language chosen for the studies in France, clearly stating the applicant's study project in France and their professional project after the completion of their curriculum in France (1 single-sided page maximum) ;
4. The intended program's schedule (including thesis defense date);
5. Certified copies of all diplomas and transcripts since high school graduation;
6. **For French taught programs:** a DELF B2 diploma;
For English taught programs: a English B2 level diploma (annex 3);

7. **For all students:** Certification of current enrollment at their institution for the 2024-2025 academic year;
8. **For Ph.D. applicants:** a 3 to 5 pages research abstract;
9. **For Ph.D. applicants:** a letter from its thesis direction stating and justifying the wished scholarship annual duration over the 3 years of thesis and a certificate of registration or pre-registration in the intended French university and laboratory ;
10. **For civil servants:** a letter from their hierarchy agreeing to their studying abroad.
11. Creation of the Etudes en France file (please create an account and fill in all the requested information) This procedure is not free of charge but is mandatory. <https://pastel.diplomatie.gouv.fr/etudesenfrance/dyn/public/authentication/login.html>

Note: optional recommendation letters can be added to the file.

Applicants will not have to provide a French DELF B2 diploma if:

- they have a French baccalaureate, Bachelor or master degree taught in French and delivered by a French institution;
- they want to follow an English taught program (they will then have to provide an English proficiency certification equivalent to a Common European Framework of Reference for Languages B2 level, or a French bachelor or master degree taught in English).

Incomplete files will not be considered
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5. **File submission**

The form and all the attached documents shall be submitted to the Cooperation and Cultural action department of the Embassy of France in Cambodia.

Submissions have to be made by e-mail at the Embassy of France to : campusfrance@ifcambodge.com

Please note that this procedure does not replace the mandatory registration to the Etudes en France platform. In order to be eligible for this scholarship, you will also have to fill in all the information on the platform and submit the requested documents. To do so, please register here: <https://pastel.diplomatie.gouv.fr/etudesenfrance/dyn/public/authentication/login.html>

The submission deadline is: January 26, 2025 at 6pm
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6. **Applicants assessment process and results proclamation**

Following your registration on the Etudes en France platform, you will be invited to an individual interview at the Espace Campus France in Phnom Penh with the Campus France Manager.

Applications will be screened for admissibility in February 2025 and shortlisted at the beginning of March 2025.

Year of graduation:**2018 (work in progress)**.....

French Diploma : Yes No If yes, which teaching language :

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Student number of Étude en France :

Intended program of studies in France n°1 : 1st year of Master 2nd year of Master • Ph.D.

Name of the program:**Master in Sustainable Food Manufacturing Management**.....

Welcoming university in France:..... **Institut catholique de Lille**.....

Field of Studies : Law, Economics and management • Education, Linguistics, French

• Architecture/Archeology STEM (Sciences, Technologies, Engineering Mathematics)

• Tourism Arts • Other:

Specialty:.....**Food processing**.....

Intended program of studies in France n°2 : Same

Intended program of studies in France n°3 : Same

(Optional) Cofunding:.....**None**.....

Have you been awarded a scholarship in the past? • Yes • No

If yes, which institution funded that scholarship (attach proof)?

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ANNEX 2 : List of the documents to provide with you application

Please attach this page to your application.

	Mandatory documents to attach to your application form	Attached (check the box)
1	Curriculum Vitae	
2	ID card or passport copy	
3	Cover letter in English (1 page recto)	
4	Study / research schedule for the intended study program (including thesis defense dates)	
5	Certified copy and transcripts by a translator certified by the French Embassy of all Khmer diplomas since high school graduation	
6	For French taught programs applicants: a diploma certifying a French proficiency equivalent to DELF B2 (DELF, DALF, TCF) <i>N.B : You don't have to submit this document is you already have a French high school or a French university diploma taught in French</i>	
7	For English taught programs applicants: a diploma certifying an English proficiency equivalent to the IELTS 5,5 (see table below), or the upcoming exam registration receipt <i>N.B : You don't have to submit this document is you already have a French high school or a French university diploma taught in English</i>	
8	For students: a copy of the current university registration certificate	
9	For Ph.D. applicants: a research abstract of 3 to 5 pages	
10	For Ph.D. applicants: a letter from your thesis director stating and justifying the annual number of months of scholarship asked over the 3 years of your Ph.D and certificate of registration or pre-registration in the intended French university and laboratory	
11	For civil servants: a letter from your hierarchy giving you the right to leave office for a Master or a Ph.D. in France	

ANNEX 3: English DELF B2 equivalence diplomas table

TOEIC	785 +
TOEFL iBT	87+
TOEFL CBT	227+
TOEFL PBT/ITP	543+
IELTS	5.5+
CAMBRIDGE	FCE (= B2), CAE (=C1) or CPE (=C2)
BULATS	36+
PTE	59+
BEC	Vantage

ANNEX 4 : List of the translators certified by the French Embassy

SOCIÉTÉS DE TRADUCTION	TRADUCTEURS AGRÉÉS
ALPHA TRANSLATION SERVICES # 632 (One Building, 2nd Floor), rue 70 (Tuol Kork), Phnom Penh Tél. : 012 63 65 74 / 070 65 22 96 / 097 999 6265 Courriel : alphatranslation.kh@gmail.com	YOU Phally SIN Sothea IM Lim
FIRST-CLASS SOLUTIONS # 12, rue 222, Phnom Penh Tél. : 023 21 41 42 / 078 567 863 Courriel : fcmanagement@firstclass.com.kh	HOEUNG Vireak
PARAMOUNT LANGUAGE SERVICE # 09, rue 242 (Oknha Pich), Phnom Penh Tél. : 012 622 250 / 015 966 944 Courriel : paramounttranslation@gmail.com	REATH Panha REATH Panhean
SIMILI CONSULTING CO.,LTD. #20B (1st floor), rue 282, Phnom Penh Tel : 081 612 572 Courriel : pascal.medeville@gmail.com	Pascal MEDEVILLE
THLA TRANSLATION # 5C, rue 230, Phnom Penh Tél. : 012 887 762 Courriel : info@thlatranslation.com	CHHEAV Sopheaktra
TOUT LE MONDE TRANSLATION SERVICE # 92AB (KEY Business Center), rue 289, Phnom Penh Tél. : 092 42 52 12 / 016 42 52 12 Courriel : toutlemondetranslation@gmail.com	KOY Tinno
URPP - CELLULE DE TRADUCTION Université Royale de Phnom Penh (Bâtiment D, IFL) Tél. 012 787 665 / 012 316 846 Courriel : cdtdef@gmail.com	SOK Limsrom