



SERVICE DE COOPÉRATION ET D'ACTION CULTURELLE

**FRANCE EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIPS (BFE) — former BGF**  
Co-funded by  
**THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION YOUTH AND SPORTS**  
**OR**  
**CAMBODIA ACADEMY OF DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY (CADT)**

**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 co-funded by the ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MoYES) and the Cambodia Academy of Digital Technology (CADT)**

This program is open to Ph.D. students.

**The co-funded scholarship** covers the followings:

- Your daily expenses thanks to a monthly allowance (1690 € in Ph. D.);
- A round-trip airplane ticket from Cambodia to France;
- 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 housing<sup>1</sup>;
- The “scholarship older student status” which will give you many discounts in France;
- A repatriation insurance.

**Applications in Sciences, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields will be prioritized as well as the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and Data Sciences fields**

**This program is for students wishing to come back to work in Cambodia as university teachers and researchers after their PhD.**

**2. France Excellence Scholarships duration cofunded by the MoEYS or CADT**

The France Excellence Scholarships duration is as following:

Ph.D.	6 months per year over 3 years of thesis (18 months total)
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<sup>1</sup> *Being a France 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!*

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

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

### 3. 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 master's 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 **DELFB2** 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, good English language proficiency is required. Students will be asked to provide an official English certification, such as the IELTS, or to have received a French 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 the table in the next section);
6. Have a research project and a research supervisor in France.
7. To have started the registration and diploma equivalence requests processes with the intended French university;
8. To be willing to come back working for a university in Cambodia after the PhD.
  - **Candidates can provide a commitment letter from a Cambodian higher education institution for employment after PhD;**
  - **Once awardees are selected: commitment will be formalized with the MoYES or the CADT;**
9. For a civil servant: to have the hierarchy's agreement to pursue a Ph.D. abroad.

*Note: for equal marks, female applicants will be encouraged to apply*



**ATTENTION:** *The France Excellence Scholarship application and the application to a French university are two different processes. Each applicant is responsible for :*

- *their administrative registration in the French university they wish to join and finding a thesis director;*
- *their France Excellence Scholarship (BFE) application;*
- *their registration on the Etudes en France platform.*

**Applications not meeting the eligibility criteria will not be considered**

**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 applicant's registration certificate in their intended French university and laboratory (or, if not possible, an email exchange with the French university explaining the current state of the application process);
5. The PhD schedule with the planned periods for work in France and in Cambodia (including thesis defense date);
6. Certified copies of all diplomas and transcripts since high school graduation;
7. a 3 to 5 pages research abstract;
8. a letter from its thesis supervisors stating and justifying the wished scholarship annual duration over the 3 years of thesis;
9. **For French taught programs:** a DELF B2 diploma;
10. **For English taught programs:** an English B2 level diploma<sup>2</sup>;
11. Commitment letter from a Cambodian higher education institution for employment after PhD;
12. **For all students:** the current Cambodian university's registration certificate;
13. **For civil servants:** a letter from their hierarchy agreeing to their studying abroad.
14. 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 for the registration process: <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;

- 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**

#### **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**

[campusfrance@ifcambodge.com](mailto: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/authentification/login.html>

**The submission deadline is: January 26, 2025 at 6pm**

#### **5. 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.

After reviewing all the applications, the best candidates will be invited at the Embassy (or via skype) for an interview.

If you're not invited to an interview at the end of March 2025, you can consider that your application hasn't been selected.

Then, the final selection of the 2025 France Excellence Scholarship awardees shall be made by a jury of scholars and specialists of the candidates' fields of study. This jury will gather in April, 2025. Its decision will be based both on the quality of the application file and on the applicant's oral performance on the day of the interview.

Results shall be published in May, 2025, on the Embassy's website: [www.ambafrance-kh.org](http://www.ambafrance-kh.org) and on Campus France Cambodge's website: [www.cambodge.campusfrance.org](http://www.cambodge.campusfrance.org)

 **ATTENTION:** Please note that no scholarship will be considered as definitively awarded so long as all documents and certifications have not been submitted. In particular: bachelors, masters, French university registrations and language certifications obtained after the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March will have to be submitted to the Embassy before the launch of the scholarship.

**Contact :**

Alexandra KASEL  
Higher Education Project Officer  
Embassy of France in Cambodia  
1, Bd Monivong - BP18 - Phnom Penh  
Phone: +33 (0)681835882  
Email: [campusfrance@ifcambodge.com](mailto:campusfrance@ifcambodge.com)

**ANNEX 1: Scholarship application form**

The first document to complete in the application file is the application form, including the list of all the attached documents needed (in annex 2).

Here is a sample complete form:

Last name: .....**SOK**.....

First name: .....**Bernadette**.....

Sex:   • Male                    **X Female**   Date of birth : ...**01**.../...**01**.../...**1995**.....

Status:           • Student           **X Professor**   • Civil servant • Other:.....

Address in Cambodia: .....**# 218, street 184, Daun Penh, Phnom Penh**.....

Email address:..... **sok.bernadette@yahoo.com** .....

Phone number:..... **023 430 032**.....

English level :   **X IELTS**   • TOEIC   • TOEFL (iBT / CBT / PBT) • Other (.....)   Score: .....**5.5**.....

University of origin in Cambodia:.... .....**Institute of Technology in Cambodia**.....

Last diploma: .....**Civil Engineering**.....

Year of graduation: .....**2015**.....

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

Student number of Étude en France : .....

Intended program of studies in France :                                    Ph.D.

Specialty of the PhD: .....**Civil Engineering** .....

Subject : **A Thermodynamic Approach to Constitutive Modelling of Concrete using Damage Mechanics and Plasticity Theory**.....

Welcoming university in France:.....**INSA Rennes**.....

(Optional) Co-funding:.....**INSA Rennes (six other month in France)**.....

(NB. Co-funded scholarship projects receive a bonus point in the application gradation)

Have you been awarded a scholarship in the past? • Yes **X** 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	X
2	ID card or passport copy	X
3	Cover letter in English (1 page recto)	X
4	Certificate of registration or pre-registration in the intended French university and laboratory (or, an email exchange with the French university explaining the current state of application the process);	X
5	Research schedule for the PhD, with the planned periods for work in France and in Cambodia (including thesis defense dates)	X
6	Certified copy and transcripts by a translator certified by the French Embassy of all Khmer diplomas since high school graduation	X
7	Research abstract of 3 to 5 pages	X
8	Letter from your thesis director stating and justifying the number of months of scholarship asked over the 3 years of your Ph.D.	X
9	<b>For French taught programs applicants:</b> 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 university diploma taught in French</i>	
10	<b>For English taught programs applicants:</b> 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 university diploma taught in English</i>	X
11	Commitment letter from a Cambodian higher education institution for employment after PhD	X
12	<b>For students:</b> a copy of the current Cambodian university registration certificate	X
13	<b>For civil servants:</b> 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