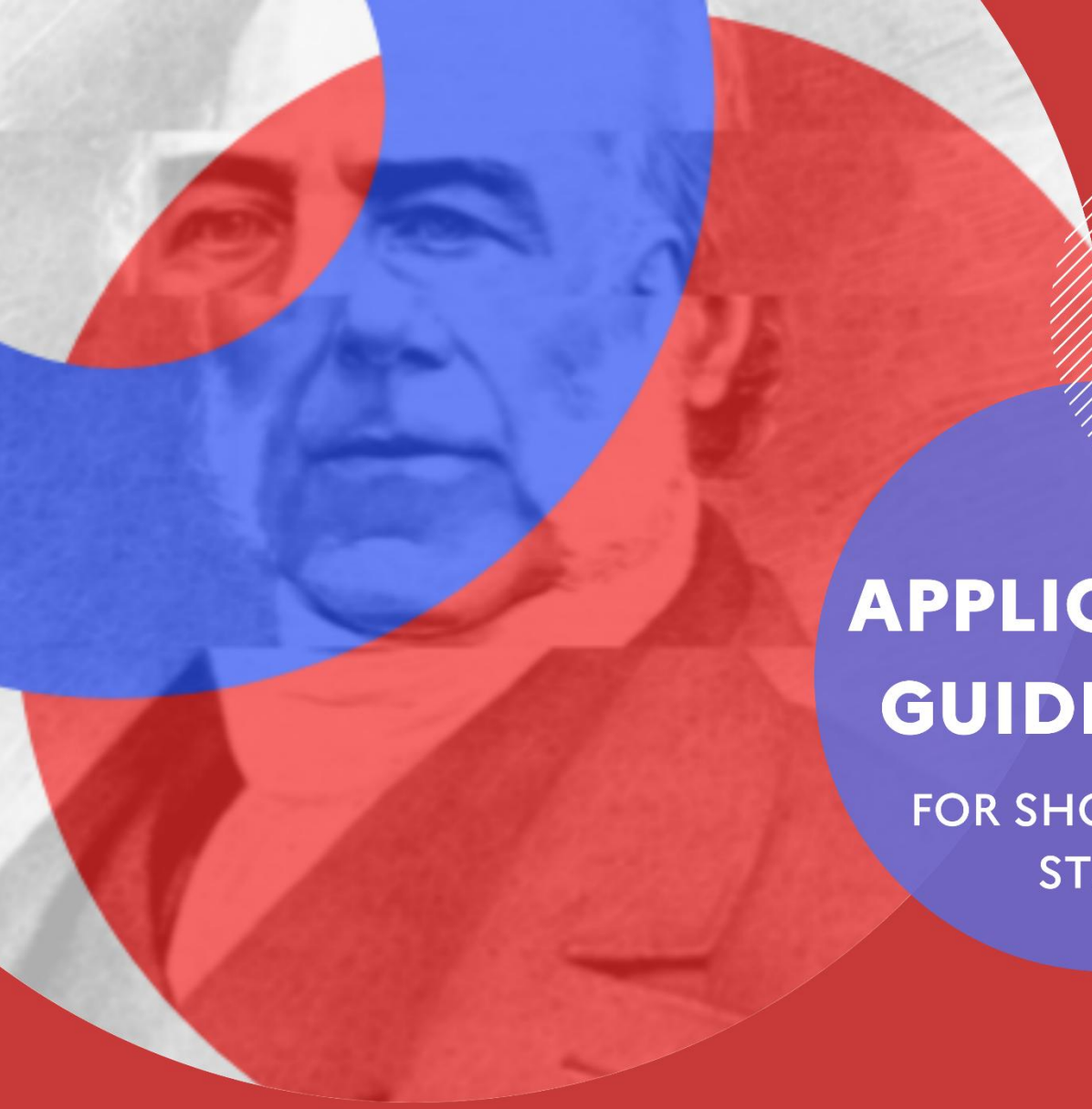

2027

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

FOR SHORT-TERM STAYS

BARRANDE FELLOWSHIPS

CZECH-FRENCH DOCTORAL MOBILITY PROGRAMME

Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic

CZECH NATIONAL AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

AMBASSADE DE FRANCE EN RÉPUBLIQUE TCHÈQUE
Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité

INSTITUT FRANÇAIS Prague

CAMPUS FRANCE — RÉP. TCHÈQUE —

FRANCE EXCELLENCE

Programme objectives

The French Institute in Prague (IFP) and the Czech Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MŠMT) jointly coordinate the Barrande fellowship programme, an exchange mobility programme for Ph.D. students between the Czech Republic and France. The programme provides Ph.D. students in the Czech Republic with opportunities to study in France, and Ph.D. students in France with opportunities to study in the Czech Republic.
The primary goal of the programme is to enhance international education exchange while encouraging scientific cooperation between French and Czech research teams. Students from both countries are encouraged to pursue research abroad and acquire new skills that they can further develop in their home countries. These students will play a key role in strengthening French-Czech bilateral relations. To support this objective, **the programme supports "cotutelles" and short-term research stays.** The programme is open to all scientific fields.

Eligibility

1. Nationality

The programme is open to all Ph.D. students registered at a Czech higher education institution for studies in France (excluding French citizens) and to all Ph.D. students registered at a French higher education institution for studies in the Czech Republic.

2. Degree requirements

Students must be enrolled in a doctoral study programme at the time they begin their research stay abroad.

3. Faculty requirements

- **In the Czech Republic.** The research stay takes place at a public university or at a research centre affiliated with a public university (scholarships are awarded by the ministry but facilitated by the university). Applicants are required to find a supervisor at a Czech public university, obtain approval and apply for the research stay. Applicants from French universities can find a list of public higher education institutions in the Czech Republic under the following links: MŠMT, Study in Czechia.
- **In France.** Research stays may be conducted at a university, research centre (public or private), or university hospital. Applicants from Czech universities seeking information on research opportunities in France can find it on the Campus France website (which includes a mapping of French research across all scientific fields and a list of French research labs). Applicants must contact their academic supervisor in France and obtain approval.

4. Language requirements

The programme is open to English speakers, provided that the thesis supervisor from the French or Czech institution agrees to English being the language of the Ph.D.

Fellowship

The programme offers grants to Ph.D. students for short-term research stay in France or the Czech Republic. The duration of the stay is between 1 and 3 consecutive months.
The fellowship recipient receives a monthly stipend of approximately **1,850 EUR** in France or **35 000 CZK** in the Czech Republic.

Research stays abroad should ideally begin on **October 1st, 2026.**

Transport between France and the Czech Republic is the expense of the fellowship holder.

Supervision

Applicants should contact their chosen academic supervisor or faculty/department, introduce themselves, present their academic achievements, specify the programme they wish to pursue and indicate the intended period of stay. They should also mention that they are applying for the Barrande Fellowship.
It is advisable for applicants to first inquire about any existing French-Czech partnerships at their home university. If no such connections align with their research theme, they are encouraged to take the initiative in establishing them.

Application package

- **Academic CV** (maximum 2 pages) in English
  Include the applicant's contact details (personal and professional e-mail addresses and phone numbers).

- **Cover letter** (maximum 2 pages) in English
  Outline the applicant's motivation for applying for the fellowship, present the research subject, and explain why the applicant wishes to conduct research at the specific foreign university.

- **Project Description** (maximum 2 pages, with references on a 3rd page) in English
  Provide an overview of the research topic, outlining the research objectives, methodology, and expected outcomes. Include a detailed study plan with a timeline. Provide the names and contact details of both the Czech and French supervisors, as well as the expected dates of the stay abroad.
  ➔ Please note that the header must include the following information: Applicant's last and first name - Thesis subject – Supervisors' last and first names and university addresses.

- **Signed Recommendation Letter from the Supervisor at the Home University (on institutional letterhead)**
  The letter should confirm the supervisor's support for the research project and their agreement to joint supervision. Written in English, it should specify the expected dates of the student's stay at the foreign institution and highlight the student's academic qualities and research work. The letter should also explain the benefit of conducting the research under the cotutelle framework.
  ➔ Appendix 1 may be used as a template.

- **Signed Recommendation Letter from the Supervisor at the Foreign University (on institutional letterhead)**
  This letter should confirm the supervisor's agreement with the student's research project, their willingness to host the student, and their commitment to joint supervision. It should be written in English and include and the expected dates of the student's stay at the foreign institution.
  ➔ Appendix 2 may be used as a template.
  Where necessary, the supervisor may state that the invitation to the foreign institution is conditional upon the student's completion of their Master's programme at the home university.
  By signing the letter, the supervisor agrees to inform the faculty, doctoral school, or higher education institution about the student's intention to apply for the Barrande Fellowship and provide the applicant with contact details for staff responsible for practical matters once selected.
- **Transcript of the Most Recent Academic Achievements**

Provide a transcript of records or a copy of the Diploma Supplement issued by the university, covering the most recently completed degree programme.

How to apply

The online application process takes place on the website studyin.gov.cz/scholarships, managed by DZS. Please follow these application steps:

1. Select the appropriate call:
   1. You are a student registered in France, apply here:
   https://studyin.gov.cz/en/scholarships/scholarship-detail/?id=100
   2. You are a student registered in the Czech Republic, apply here:
   https://studyin.gov.cz/en/scholarships/scholarship-detail/?id=98

2. Click on "submit" under the appropriate call

3. Log in or create an account

4. Create a new application, complete all mandatory fields, and upload the required documents before the deadline on January 29th, 2027.

All materials should be submitted in PDF format, following these rules:
Each document should be named using the following template: LAST NAME First name – Document title *(Example: SMITH John – CV)*
Please note that all documents (without any exception) must be uploaded in order to submit your application.
The online application form requires selecting one of the following academic fields to ensure your application is reviewed by the appropriate selection committee:

- Human Life Sciences and Health (LSH)
- Biology & Environment (B&E)
- Social Sciences & Economics (SSE)
- Humanities (H)
- Chemistry (CH)
- Physics/Engineering (PE)
- Maths/IT/Systems Engineering (MITSE)

Selection procedure

1. The **Czech National Agency for International Education and Research (DZS)** will verify the eligibility of each applicant and ensure the formal completeness of their application.

2. Based on the quality of the written applications, interviews will be held **from the end of February, until March.**

The interviews will last 20 minutes, consisting of a 10-minute presentation by the applicant followed by a 10-minute discussion with the jury.

Applicants will be evaluated according to the criteria listed below, using a 5-point scale to assess each criterion:

- Quality of the application, written and oral
- Quality and scientific relevance of the applicant's research project
- Added value of the research stay abroad for the successful completion of the research project
- Value of the academic support provided by the applicant's thesis supervisor(s)
- Applicant's professional competence to successfully complete the research project

Candidates whose research projects score less than 70% of the maximum possible points will be eliminated from the competition.
Note: Achieving a score above 70% does not automatically guarantee the award of the fellowship.

Awarding ceremony

The awarding ceremony for the Barrande Fellowship laureates will take place in May or June 2026, at either the French Embassy or the French Institute in Prague, in the presence of the French Ambassador to the Czech Republic. All awarded students registered in the Czech Republic are expected to attend.

Other important notes

Accommodation

- **In France.** Finding accommodation in France can be challenging, particularly in larger cities. It is highly recommended that students begin their search early and contact the doctoral school at their host university. Depending on their status, students may be eligible for assistance from Campus France in finding accommodation in a university residence. Additionally, students can apply for state housing benefits ("Aide pour le logement – APL") once they arrive in France. Applications are processed through the Caisse d'Allocation Familiale (CAF), in the host city.
- **In the Czech Republic.** Affordable accommodation in student dormitories is available as well as access to meals at student catering facilities. Fellowship holders must apply for accommodation at the receiving faculty well in advance of their arrival. Students staying in university dormitories are responsible for covering their lodging expenses. Applicants research stays in the Czech Republic should contact the host higher education institutions or faculties regarding accommodation options.

Calendar

Thursday, November 26th, 2026	**Information webinars**
Friday, January 29th, 2027	**Application deadline**
February/March 2027	**Evaluation Committees (oral presentations)**
April 2027	**Announcement of results**
May or June 2027	**Awarding ceremony**

Please note that this schedule is provisional and may be subject to change.

Contacts

For applicants from the Czech Republic	For applicants from France
Capucine Martin capucine.martin@ifp.cz **Science officer** **Institut français de Prague** Štěpánská 35 - PO BOX 850 - 111 21 Prague 1 Phone: (+420) 221 40 10 03 Website: www.ifp.cz and cz.ambafrance.org	Pavel Rybář pavel.rybar@dzs.cz **Bilateral and Multilateral Programmes Unit** **DZS I Czech National Agency for International Education and Research** Na Poříčí 1035/4 - 110 00 Prague 1 Phone: (+420) 221 850 505 Website: dzs.cz

Appendix 1: Letter from the Supervisor at the Home University

[Insert institution letterhead]

At [place], on [date],

Subject: Letter of Recommendation for the Barrande Fellowship

To the Barrande Fellowship Committee,

I, [First Name – Last Name – Position] in my role as the supervisor at [Institution's name], am pleased to recommend [First Name – Last Name of the applicant], a [Ph.D. student/prospective Ph.D. student] at [home institution's name], for the Barrande Fellowship as part of a [short-term research stay] in the framework of the Barrande Fellowship Programme 2027.

[Provide an introduction to the Applicant, highlighting their research work and academic achievements.]

[Explain the significance of the applicant's research and the benefits of their collaboration with the foreign institution, including how this aligns with the expertise of both institutions. — Include references to relevant publications, projects, or joint initiatives between the home and foreign institutions, if applicable.]

In summary, I strongly and unreservedly recommend [First Name – Last Name of the applicant] as an outstanding candidate for the Barrande Fellowship Programme.

I fully support the proposed research project and agree to jointly supervise the research with [First Name – Last Name –Position of the supervisor at the foreign institution] at [Foreign institution's name]. The expected dates for the research stays are as follows:
[List the expected dates of the stays at the foreign institution.]

Sincerely,

Signature

[First Name – Last Name
Position
Institution
E-mail
Telephone number]

Appendix 2: Letter from the Supervisor at the Foreign University

[Insert institution letterhead]

At [place], on [date],

Subject: Letter of Recommendation for the Barrande Fellowship

To the Barrande Fellowship Committee,

I, [First Name – Last Name –Position] in my role as the supervisor at [Institution's name], am pleased to invite [First Name – Last Name of the applicant], [a Ph.D. student/prospective Ph.D. student] to participate in in a [short-term research stay] at [Institution's name] in the framework of the Barrande Fellowship Programme 2027.

[Provide an introduction to the Applicant, including an overview of their research work.]

[Explain the interest in hosting the applicant, emphasizing the relevance of their research and the relationship between the home and host institutions. Highlight the expertise of the host laboratories/research centres with references to publications, projects, etc.]

In short, I strongly and without reservations recommend [First Name – Last Name of the applicant] as a candidate for the Barrande Fellowship Programme.

In summary, I strongly and without reservation recommend [First Name – Last Name of the applicant] as a candidate for the Barrande Fellowship Programme. I fully support their proposed research project and agree to jointly supervise the research with [First Name – Last Name – Position of the supervisor at the home institution] at [home institution's name]. The expected dates for the research stays are as follows:
[List the expected dates of the stays at the foreign institution.]
Sincerely,

Signature

[First Name – Last Name
Position
Institution
E-mail
Telephone number]