



COMPETITIONS
2025
RESEARCHERS

Candidate's guide

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CANDIDATE'S GUIDE RESEARCHERS 2025

STEPS OF THE COMPETITION

PREPARE THE DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED IN YOUR APPLICATION FILE (see page 7), including:

- Report on the work
- Translation non french speaking diplomas
- List of productions

Dates	Action
From décembre 11, 2024 13 :00	OPENING OF ACCESS TO CONSULT THE COMPETITION OFFERS Carrieres.cnrs.fr
Until January 10 2025 13 :00	SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION FILE
February 2025	JURY OF ADMISSIBILITY ON FILE
February – May 2025	HEARINGS
May – July 2025	ADMISSION PANEL
Starting from October 2025	TAKING UP A POSITION

Editorial

The CNRS is a public scientific and technological institution. Its mission is to identify, conduct or organize any and all research which presents an interest in the advancement of science, as well as for economic, social and cultural progress, either on its own or with its partners. The CNRS is internationally recognized for the excellence of its scientific work and serves as a role model, both for the world of research and development and for the general public.

To fulfil its duties, the CNRS recruits a large number of permanent research scientists each year by means of competitive examinations based on criteria of excellence.

These competitions cover every field of research: human and social sciences, mathematics, physics, chemistry, nuclear and high energy physics, engineering and systems sciences, biology, information science, universe sciences, ecology and environmental science. The available positions are therefore characterized by a wide diversity of scientific themes.

The purpose of this guide is to present the practical terms and conditions of application, the competition process itself and the recruitment procedure for the winners.

To fulfil its duties, the CNRS recruits a large number of permanent research scientists each year by means of competitions based on criteria of excellence.

Antoine Petit, President & CEO of the CNRS

Everything you need to know to apply

When recruitment begin, how to be informed?

The competitions for available positions open each year by means of decrees published in the Journal officiel de la République française (JORF). There is a separate decree for each vacancy grade.

These opening decrees set out:

- the application procedure and calendar;
- the number of positions to be filled by theme, discipline and group of disciplines.

The publication of these decrees in the JORF marks the official launch of the competitions. No information may be communicated until they are published. Each decree that opens a competition is published at least one day before applications open.

When opened, the competitions are advertised on the CNRS website along with all the key information, such as the number of positions by scientific theme, the calendar for applications and the provisional dates for the various competitions.

To learn more about the different competitions, please visit the website carrieres.cnrs.fr.

Choosing the right competition for your profile

The competitions are organized by scientific discipline or by group of disciplines. In some cases, scientific themes are specified.

The competitions may be attached to one or more CNRS scientific institutes, depending on the disciplinary or interdisciplinary nature of each theme. There is no limit to the number of applications which may be submitted, even within the same recruitment campaign. You may apply for more than one competition. We do however recommend that your choice of competition be based on your qualifications, work experience and research proposal.

DUTIES

CNRS research scientists

The research scientists at the CNRS are divided into two occupational categories: researchers and senior researchers, both of which fall within the French civil service category A.

The research scientists employed by the CNRS fulfil a variety of functions. They are often involved in group projects and aim for excellence in every scientific discipline.

In the performance of their duties, research scientists work for the development and transfer of knowledge, and its practical application within companies, in all domains which contribute to the advancement of society.

Their functions include the dissemination of both information and scientific and technical culture.

Within the laboratories, research scientists help in the training of doctoral students, post-doctoral fellows and junior researchers.

The most experienced research scientists may also lead units, supervise teams, run national and international scientific projects, teach and be responsible for technology transfer.

In some instances, their work may also involve managing and administrating research.

Required criteria for application

Unlike most recruitment competitions, there is no criterion of nationality for research scientists. Each year, nearly a third of the successful candidates are foreign nationals representing more than 90 different nationalities.

There is no age criterion for applicants, so long as you have not reach the legal working age limit.

There is no limit on the number of applications you may submit.

Standard grade researcher (CR)

1 - Hold one of the following qualifications:

- doctorate,
- State or third cycle doctorate,
- engineering doctorate,
- research diploma in odontology (DERSO),
- research diploma in human biology (DERBH);

Or

2 - Hold a foreign university qualification deemed to be equivalent to one of the above qualifications;

Or

3 - Have scientific qualifications and work experience deemed to be equivalent to the above qualifications.

For researcher (CR) recruitment competitions, if you do not hold a doctorate (because you have not yet defended your thesis, you do not have the required qualification but have scientific work experience, etc.) or if you hold a foreign qualification, you may still be eligible for the competition if so approved by the competent evaluation body under the National Committee for Scientific Research, that will rule on the equivalence of your work experience.

Senior researcher grade 2 (DR2)

You may be eligible for the competition if you meet either of the following criteria:

- You belong to a research body at a public scientific and technological institution (EPST) with at least 3 years' experience in that capacity.
- If you do not belong to a body of research but you meet one of the aforementioned criteria in terms of qualifications or work experience and have at least 8 years' experience working in research after obtaining one of the required qualifications.

Senior researcher grade 1 (DR1)

You must meet one of the aforementioned criteria concerning your qualifications and work experience

and have at least 12 years' experience working in research.

Civil service researchers working at a public scientific and technological institution other than the CNRS are not eligible to apply.

Further, the President & CEO may, as an exception and after consulting with the CNRS's Scientific Board, authorize a special dispensation from these criteria for noteworthy contributions to research:

- for candidates applying for senior researcher grade 2 (DR2) competitions who have been working with the status of researcher for less than 3 years;
- for candidates applying for senior researcher grade 1 (DR1) competitions whose current status is that of a civil servant in an institution other than the CNRS.

IN ADDITION

The number of years of work in research required for eligibility for the researcher (CR) and senior researcher (DR1 and DR2) competitions must have been completed in a research institution or a public or private higher education institution, either in France or abroad. These years refer to paid research work performed under a public or private employment contract or as a civil servant. Only the years of work completed after the date on which the required qualification was obtained are considered. The years of research work may be either continuous or with interruptions, at one or several institutions. Years spent working on a thesis are not taken into account.

If you have not spent the required number of years working in research, you may still be eligible for the competition. In this case your application will be reviewed by the relevant section of the National Committee for Scientific Research, which will advise the President & CEO on the equivalence of your scientific work.

If you have a disability or benefit from the French employment obligation, you may also apply under the contractual recruitment procedure held each year by the CNRS.

Application

Applications must include all the documents required for to all the competitions, as well as those specific to each individual competition.

Your application

Qualifications

You must indicate the date on which you were awarded your doctorate. If you have not yet received it, you should indicate the date of your viva voce.

If you do not have a copy of your qualification, you must attach either the certification or report from your viva voce or your authorization to defend your thesis, issued by your doctoral school.

If you hold a foreign qualification, you do not need to prove its equivalence: it will be submitted to the relevant section of the National Committee for Scientific Research, that will rule on your eligibility for the competition.

For foreign qualifications, a French translation must be provided by a sworn translator, or a Comparability Statement must be obtained from the ENIC-NARIC.

The statements are recognized by the equivalence committees and can also be used for other civil service selection competitions. Important: a comparability statement can take up to 4 months to obtain. It is also recommended that your thesis examining board's report be translated into French.

Research Project

You will need to provide a clear, structured presentation of your research project and its scientific interest.

You are free to choose the way in which you present your project. There is no limit to the number of pages.

Your research proposal should be aimed at one CNRS unit. You will need to indicate the laboratory or laboratories where your project could be conducted and make at least 2 wishes.

You will only complete one application but, if you are applying for several competitions, you may submit a research project adapted to each of the competitions for which you are applying.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Researcher (CR)

- A Curriculum-Vitae
- A copy of the qualification required for eligibility
- A report describing the work you have carried out
- A report describing the proposed research programme, citing only laboratories supervised by the CNRS, which may be accompanied by a letter of support from the director of the laboratory concerned
- Your most meaningful scientific productions (you may attach up to seven productions) throughout your career (full references), in support of your activity report or your research project
- The report from your thesis examining board, as well as the thesis itself (optional but recommended)

Senior researcher (DR)

The required documents are the same as those for CRs, with in addition:

- A comprehensive list of your publications, as well as your most meaningful publications (you may attach up to ten publications) in support of your activity report or your research project
- The main points in your career development should be specified on the "work experience" form.

All supporting documentation must be legible.

Previous work carried out

You will need to provide a short summary of no more than 12 lines describing your previous work, to be included on the application form. In addition, you will need to attach a more comprehensive document to your application setting out in greater detail the work you consider to be the most significant.

Productions

The few scientific productions included in the application must support the report describing the work you have carried out or research project. For each production, the candidate must explain its scope, impact and the role he or she played in the development of this production.

According to the open science policy of the CNRS, it is necessary for the candidates from the CNRS and highly recommended for other candidates that the submitted publications be accessible on HAL for text documents (thesis, publications, etc.) or MEDIHAL for audiovisual files (images, videos and sound), specifying the URL on the application form.

Given the various methods available for electronic transmission, the submission of publications by post is not recommended.

If necessary, you may include with your application proof of any publications currently in progress.

Publications sent by post to the "Service recrutement et intégration" (central competition service) will not be returned to the candidates at the end of the recruitment process; they are considered as an integral part to form an integral part of the application and will systematically be archived. We therefore recommend submitting a paperless version as part of the online application procedure.

Letters of reference

Scientists may submit letters of reference in support of a candidate's research project proposal.

These letters should only be submitted during the registration period directly at this address:

<https://www.cnrs-bellevue.fr/formulaires/scc-recommandation2025.php>.

THE EXAMINING BOARDS COMPOSITION

ELIGIBILITY BOARD

Eligibility boards are formed for each competition. They are all independent of one another.

For each competition, the eligibility board comprises members of the relevant section of the National Committee, each with a rank at least equal to that of the candidates for the vacant positions, with the exception of those belonging to electoral college C.

For each competition and when justified by the need for a scientific assessments of the candidates' past work, the President & CEO of the CNRS may designate one or two members from a different National Committee section who will then also join the eligibility board, based on the recommendations of the Scientific Board.

A list of the members of the different sections is available on the [National committee website](#).

It is also posted at the examination sites.

SELECTION BOARDS

For standard grade researcher (CR), a selection board is formed at one of the institutes whose activities relate to the section which covers the discipline(s) for the vacant position(s). It is chaired by the President of the institute his or her deputy.

For senior researcher competitions, the same selection board examines the applicants for all CNRS institutes. It is chaired by the President & CEO of the CNRS.

For recruitment competitions open to interdisciplinary commissions, a common jury is created, chaired by the President & CEO of the CNRS.

The compositions of the juries are displayed at the venue of the exams.

The application procedure can be completed online on the website [carrieres.cnrs.fr](https://www.carrieres.cnrs.fr). It includes three compulsory steps: creating a candidate account, entering personal data and submitting the application.

Application procedure

Creating your candidate account

This enables you to register for one or more competitions.

Entering your personal data

Informational screens will guide you through the process to enter all the information required for your application. Once this information has been entered, a summary of the data will be displayed so you can check for any errors and make any necessary changes.

You can add to your online application as needed over the course of the application period.

We recommend that you do not wait until the final days to enter your information and submit the supporting documentation required in order for your application to be examined.

Submitting your application

Submission is a significant and compulsory formality. You will be required to swear to the accuracy and the completeness of the information provided.

We would like to remind you that providing forged documents is a criminal offence open to prosecution and/or disciplinary action, as applicable. In any case, you may be struck off the list of selected candidates.

Any application that has been completed but not submitted by the closing date will systematically be rejected, regardless of any personal reasons that may be given.

Management and protection of your personal data

You have the right to access, rectify, modify and delete your data. For the recruitment of researchers by competitive examination, the CNRS collects and processes personal data. Information is available on page 16 of this guide.

Eligibility for the competition

The eligibility criteria are set out after the application period closes.

The sections act as the evaluation bodies responsible for deciding (CR) or giving an opinion (DR) on the equivalence of candidates' titles, qualifications and scientific work.

The lists of eligible candidates are published, by competition, once the evaluation bodies have met and, in the month, following the closure of applications.

Candidates considered to be ineligible for a competition will be notified individually, by post.

You must inform the Recruitment and Integration Department in the event of a change of address, surname or contact details, occurring during the entire duration of the competitions or after the admission results if you are a winner
(@ : concours@cnrs.fr).

Application timeline and formalities

The application calendar (opening and closing dates and times) is set by the decrees opening the competitions, in the Journal officiel de la République française. Applications are normally open to candidates over the course of a month. The opening and closing dates and times may change from year to year.

The application calendar is available online, once the competition opening decrees are published.

You must complete your online application between the opening and closing dates. You cannot begin an application before applications open.

Once the application process is closed, no application may be submitted or modified. Any additional documentation (publications and/or thesis) sent by post, that you have been unable to send electronically, must therefore be sent before applications close.

Publications sent by post to the Recruitment and Integration Department will not be returned to the candidates at the end of the recruitment process; they are considered as an integral part to form an integral part of the application and will systematically be archived.

If for some reason you wish to do so, you may withdraw your application following submission, after applications close, by sending a simple written request by email to Recruitment and Integration Department.

BEFORE SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION

ADVICE

- Do not wait until the last day to submit your application.
- Make sure your computer terminal is working properly.
- Verify the contents, the accuracy and the completeness of your application.
- Verify the reference number(s) of the competition(s) for which you are applying.

MAKING CHANGES TO YOUR APPLICATION

If you have submitted your application, but the application period is still open, you can still make any changes you may consider to be useful. Don't forget to validate again your application

What you need to know about the exams

Review of applications

The examining board reviews the applications for their scientific value. At the end of that review, the board releases a list of candidates who will be interviewed (who are qualified to proceed).

After the end of these interviews and the deliberations that followed, the board releases a list of qualifying candidates.

Review of senior researcher applications

The examining board reviews the applications for their scientific value.

The examining board may decide to organise interviews or not. If the board decides to meet with the candidates, a list of those who will be interviewed will be released at the end of the applications review.

At the end of the process, the board releases a list of qualifying candidates.

Interviews

The majority of interviews will take place in either Paris or Gif-sur-Yvette (in the suburbs of Paris).

The provisional calendars are posted online when the competitions are opened on the website carrieres.cnrs.fr.

ORAL EXAM ACCOMMODATIONS AND USE OF VIDEOCONFERENCE

Oral exam accommodations are possible for candidates with disabilities under the conditions set out in the official decree governing each competition.

If you have a permanent disability and are officially considered as a disabled worker or benefit from the French employment obligation, you may receive accommodations for your interview. The same is true if your disability is temporary, confirmed by a medical certificate.

You must request any such accommodations at the time of application. Your request will be examined after the provision of documentation demonstrating that you fall into one of the aforementioned categories and a medical certificate specifying the requested accommodations completed.

Such accommodations are not granted automatically: they are based on the nature of your disability. They may notably include adjusting the length and division of the oral exams to your physical abilities or the provision of the necessary human and/or technical aids. If your disability evolves between the time when you requested the accommodations and the date of the oral examination, you must provide the additional documentation early enough to allow for their implementation, as appropriate.

In specific cases (people residing abroad, people with disabilities, pregnant women and anyone whose state of health justifies it), interviews may be arranged by **videoconference**. Apart for the candidates residing abroad, the request must be accompanied by a medical certificate.

Notifications

Candidates to be interviewed will receive a notification stating the date, time and location of the interview, its length and the procedure.

It is paramount that you appear for your interview on time.

Notifications are sent by email out at least 15 days before the beginning of the interviews based on the respective calendars for the different competitions.

Candidates who have not received their notification by the week preceding the beginning of the interviews for the relevant board should contact the Recruitment and Integration Department. In that instance, a copy of the notification(s) will also be sent to the candidates by email on their express request.

The administration is not responsible if a notification is not received or is received late.

International candidates must complete the necessary formalities to obtain a visa according to the competition and interview dates.

The interview calendar will not be adjusted if a visa is issued late.

Interview procedure

The interview procedure is at the discretion of the examining boards and is explained to the candidates in their interview notification (authorized materials, length of the interview, etc.).

The interview procedure may differ from one competition to another and may change from one year to the next within the same section, at the boards' discretion.

The oral exams will be conducted in French. Under certain conditions, they may take place partially in English.

The oral exams are not scored.

At the end of the interviews, each board produces a list of eligible candidates by order of merit.

Selection

The selection phase consists of a review of the applications submitted by those candidates approved as being eligible to proceed by the eligibility boards. It produces the list of selected candidates based on a study of the eligible candidates' applications.

The dates on which the selection boards meet are given on the website carrieres.cnrs.fr.

RESULTS

COMMUNICATION OF ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION RESULTS

Eligibility and selection results are published on the website carrieres.cnrs.fr after the examining boards have met.

Candidates who have not been invited for interview, who are considered not to be eligible and who have not been selected will be so notified individually no later than one month after the results have been published.

DISCRETION OF THE EXAMINING BOARDS

The examining boards are free, within the regulatory limits, to determine the number of eligible candidates and their order of merit. The boards may rank more than one candidate as tied. They may also choose not to rank any candidates.

The examining boards have no obligation to provide any written explanation concerning their deliberations.

There is no legislative or regulatory provision that requires the boards to explain their decisions, including refusing an interview, eligibility or selection.

The selection boards may not rank more winners in the primary list than there are positions to be filled.

Once all the positions are filled, the selection boards may, at their discretion, choose to establish a supplementary list.

Withdrawal

Candidates called for interview must inform the Recruitment and Integration Department should they wish to withdraw or are unable to attend, by sending an email to: concours@cnrs.fr

Focus criteria

The criteria used by the eligibility juries are available online on the National Committee's website: <https://www.cnrs.fr/comitenational/accueil.html>

The criteria used by the admission jury are detailed below.

Criteria used by the admission jury

For CR competitions

The admission jury verifies that the candidates' academic background and possible professional experience, the quality of the publications mentioned, and the interest of the scientific projects presented correspond to the level expected to enter the CNRS. The quality of publications, the diversity of methodological skills, participation in large-scale research projects or membership in international research networks are among the elements that determine the scientific merit of candidates.

The following points are particularly considered:

- The scientific interest of the publications mentioned and the importance of the conclusions presented in the field under consideration;
- The quality and originality of the scientific project. Applicants must demonstrate a mastery of the international state of the art of their theme; be able to formulate an original proposal; demonstrate a mastery of the methodologies necessary to develop the project presented;
- The quality of the candidate's academic background, particularly with regard to international post-doctoral studies and interventions in seminars, conferences or colloquia.

For the DR competitions

The criteria of the admission jury are as follows:

- Quality and originality of scientific production
- National and international recognition of research work
- Ability to federate within a laboratory the emergence of a specific theme
- Ability to supervise research and manage collective projects (national and/or international)
- Administration and management of research contracts
- Valuation of research (contracts, patents, licenses)
- Mobility, thematic evolution
- Participation in the dissemination of knowledge
- Participation in university teaching
- Ability to lead and animate a team or research axis
- Mentoring other researchers
- Management of collective structures
- Involvement in research administration tasks

INDEPENDENCE OF THE ELIGIBILITY AND ADMISSION JURIES

The admission juries are independent from the eligibility boards. For that reason, the ranking of selected candidates may differ from the ranking released by the eligibility boards.

Winners

The President & CEO of the CNRS decides on the assignment of the winners to a research unit either within or affiliated to the CNRS. That assignment may differ from the preferences expressed in the candidate's application.

Assignment and appointment

Assignment

The winners are notified individually of their proposed assignments within one month of publication of the selection results. The winners must then respond within the number of days indicated on the notification.

The winners will be under the authority of the director of the research unit to which they are assigned. Their recruitment files will be managed by the HR department of the regional delegation to which the unit is assigned.

Appointment

Appointments are announced by the President & CEO of the CNRS, in the same order as the list of selected candidates. For standard and higher-grade researchers, the winners are appointed for a probationary period of one year before being confirmed in their posts as civil servants.

Appointment is effective on the 1st of October of the current year. It can be postponed on the 1st of each following month until the 1st of February of the next year at the latest. Beyond that date, any non-appointed winners will automatically lose the benefit of their results.

In the event of success in an open competition for access to the grade of 2nd class research director (DR2), the CNRS civil servant on secondment ("détachement" or "mise à disposition") can benefit from his admission without having to reinstate the CNRS.

Indeed, article L.421-5 of the research code states that research staff may benefit from an appointment in another profession following the results of a competition without it terminating their position of secondment in other administrations, territorial communities, organizations or establishments to perform one or several missions of research, or in international intergovernmental organizations or an institution or body of the European Union when this appointment is not conditioned to the accomplishment of a training period or internship.

Remuneration

A normal class researcher's gross monthly salary is between €3,418 and €5,678. A senior researcher's gross monthly salary is between €3,659 and €6,998.

Respective situations of candidates appearing on primary and supplementary lists

The winners appearing on primary lists will all be offered an assignment with a view to their appointment.

Candidates appearing on supplementary lists may receive an assignment proposal in the following instances:

- **if a candidate on the primary list withdraws**
- **if a position is still vacant**

The President & CEO of the CNRS will decide whether or not to call on any supplementary lists.

If the number of names on the list of selected candidates released by the selection board is lower than the total number of vacant positions concerned by the competition, the President & CEO of the CNRS may decide to transfer all or some of any such positions to one or more competitions currently open for a different discipline or group of disciplines.

The career of research scientist

The CNRS pays a welcome package to the CR winners the year of their entry.

The status of research scientists was recently reviewed in order to improve career prospects (reclassification by index, revaluation of the compensation scheme, increased possibilities for promotion, etc). If you are among the winners, the human resources department will explain the current system to you.

Actions are also undertaken to encourage gender equality.

Protection of personal data

Purpose of data processing

The information collected is processed by the Human Resources Department, 3 rue Michel-Ange, 75016 Paris.

The CNRS Data Protection Officer can be contacted for any question about the protection of personal data. Her contact details are as follows:

CNRS Data Protection Department, 2 rue Jean Zay,
54519 Vandoeuvre-lès-Nancy

@ : dpd.demandes@cnrs.fr.

Personal data are collected and processed for the following purpose: career management, internal competitions and professional selections.

The legal basis for the processing is compliance with the regulations governing the recruitment of engineers and technicians at the CNRS (and in particular Decree No. 83-1260, as amended, laying down the common statutory provisions for civil servants in public scientific and technological establishments and Decree No. 84-1185 of 27 December 1984, as amended, relating to the special status of civil servants at the CNRS).

The categories of data processed, in whole or in part, depending on the role of the persons concerned in the process, are as follows

- Identification data
- Data relating to personal life, including address, telephone numbers
- Data relating to professional life: professional career, positions held
- Connection logs to the application site
- For those who wish to have a test adapted, the information opening this possibility.

Data subjects: candidates for the CNRS external competition for engineers and technicians, members of the jury.

Recipients of the data

Depending on their respective needs, the following are recipients of all or part of the data:

- Within the CNRS: the human resources department, including the central competition service, members of the eligibility and admission juries, and the human resources departments of the regional delegations
- Outside the CNRS: external service providers who have been asked to provide the information system, supervisory authorities.

In accordance with current regulations on equal opportunity in access to public employment and diversity in recruitment, the CNRS transmits personal data as required by law to the statistical service in charge of the civil service (SDessi) for the purpose of producing anonymous studies and statistics. The statistical service of the Ministry of the Civil Service is likely to question you in a strictly confidential manner and separate from the organization of the competition. The answers you provide will be completely separate from the organization of the competition and will not affect its progress.

For more information, you can consult the detailed presentation of the project [online](#).

How long your data will be kept?

Your personal data will be kept for a maximum period of 1 year after the end of the appeal process. Beyond that, it will be archived in accordance with the French Heritage Code.

Rights of the persons

You have the following rights regarding the use of your data:

- The right of opposition: you can at any time oppose the processing of your data
- The right to access and rectify your data
- The right to erasure
- The right to restricted use when your data are not necessary or are no longer useful
- The right to portability: to communicate your data to the person of your choice (depending on the case).

You can exercise these rights by contacting the CNRS Human Resources Department, 3 rue Michel-Ange, 75016 Paris or at the following address: drh_rgpd@cnrs.fr

You may also contact your DPO at the above address.

If, after contacting the CNRS, you feel that your rights with regard to data processing and civil liberties have not been respected, you may file a complaint online with the CNIL or by mail.

In accordance with article D-312-1-3 of the code of relations between the public and the administration, the results obtained by candidates for administrative examinations and competitions may be made public without having been subject to the process allowing to conceal personal data

Glossary

CAREER

A career covers all possibilities for professional development. It includes the possibilities for advancement within a profession, linked to both length of service and professional value, and the possibilities for reaching a higher professional level, by means of either competitive internal processes or promotional procedures. More broadly, the opportunities for mobility within the CNRS or to other research organizations, universities, companies or administrations also form an integral part of the careers of research scientists at the CNRS.

DECREE TO OPEN A COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION

Decrees which open a competition are published in the Journal Officiel de la République Française. They define, by vacancy grade, the date and time when applications close, the job description and the number of positions, the online or postal application procedure, and the terms for requesting any accommodations.

ELIGIBLE CANDIDATE

Eligible candidates are those ranked by the eligibility boards.

ELIGIBLE FOR THE COMPETITION

Candidates who are eligible for a competition are considered to meet all the necessary terms and conditions, as required by the competition.

ELIGIBLE TO PROCEED

Candidates who are eligible to proceed are those interviewed by the eligibility boards.

ENIC-NARIC

ENIC-NARIC France is the French information centre for the academic and professional recognition of foreign qualifications. Its actions contribute to encouraging international mobility. It is notably responsible for issuing of comparability statements and certificates of recognition for foreign diplomas and qualifications.

INELIGIBLE FOR THE COMPETITION

Ineligible candidates are those who have not satisfied the eligibility criteria for the competition concerned.

INSTITUTES

The CNRS's 10 institutes implement the organization's scientific policy. Each institute leads and coordinates the actions of a coherent ensemble of research activities relating to different disciplines.

LABORATORIES

The laboratories – or units – constitute the scientific foundation of the CNRS. They are spread throughout France and in some 50 other countries.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (CoNRS)

The National Committee is a collective body comprising the Scientific Board, Institute Scientific Boards, specialized sections in each discipline and five Interdisciplinary Commissions. The CoNRS plays a key role in French science. Its members help define the scientific policy of the CNRS, analyse the current situation and outlook, recruit research scientists and promote their careers, and monitor research unit activity.

PROFESSIONS

The civil servants at the National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), including its national institutes, belong to one of the following professions: senior researchers, researchers, research engineers, project engineers, assistant engineers, research technicians and technical research assistants. Each profession corresponds to a group of civil servants performing similar duties, with identical conditions of remuneration and identical career development. Each research profession comprises several grades. Each grade is divided into levels through which its civil servants can progress, chiefly based on length of service. Each level is associated with a pay level.

SALARY

The remuneration received by civil servants. A salary comprises several different elements. The base salary (or “indexed salary”) is calculated according to a given index corresponding to the employee’s grade and level. It is completed by a housing allowance and potentially by a family supplement and various bonuses and incentives.

SECTIONS AND CIDS

Every field of research is divided into disciplines or groups of disciplines which correspond to the sections of the National Committee for Scientific Research. This breakdown, set by ministerial decree, is updated on a regular basis according to advances in science and the fields of research, with the names and number of the sections being adjusted as appropriate. The scope of each theme is defined by the section’s keywords. In addition to its 41 sections, the CNRS has five Interdisciplinary Commissions (CIDs), created to meet the needs of domains covered by several sections or institutes. The section is the structure of reference for research scientists and research units. In addition to their functions as admission boards, they carry out a wide range of other roles (including assessing the scientific activity of the research scientists, making recommendations on career-related requests and analysing the scientific situation and its future outlook). All the criteria used by admission boards are available on the CNRS National Committee website at:

<https://www.cnrs.fr/comitenational/english/evaluation/CritEvalEng.htm>

SELECTED CANDIDATES

The selected candidates are those ranked by the selection boards on a primary or a supplementary list.

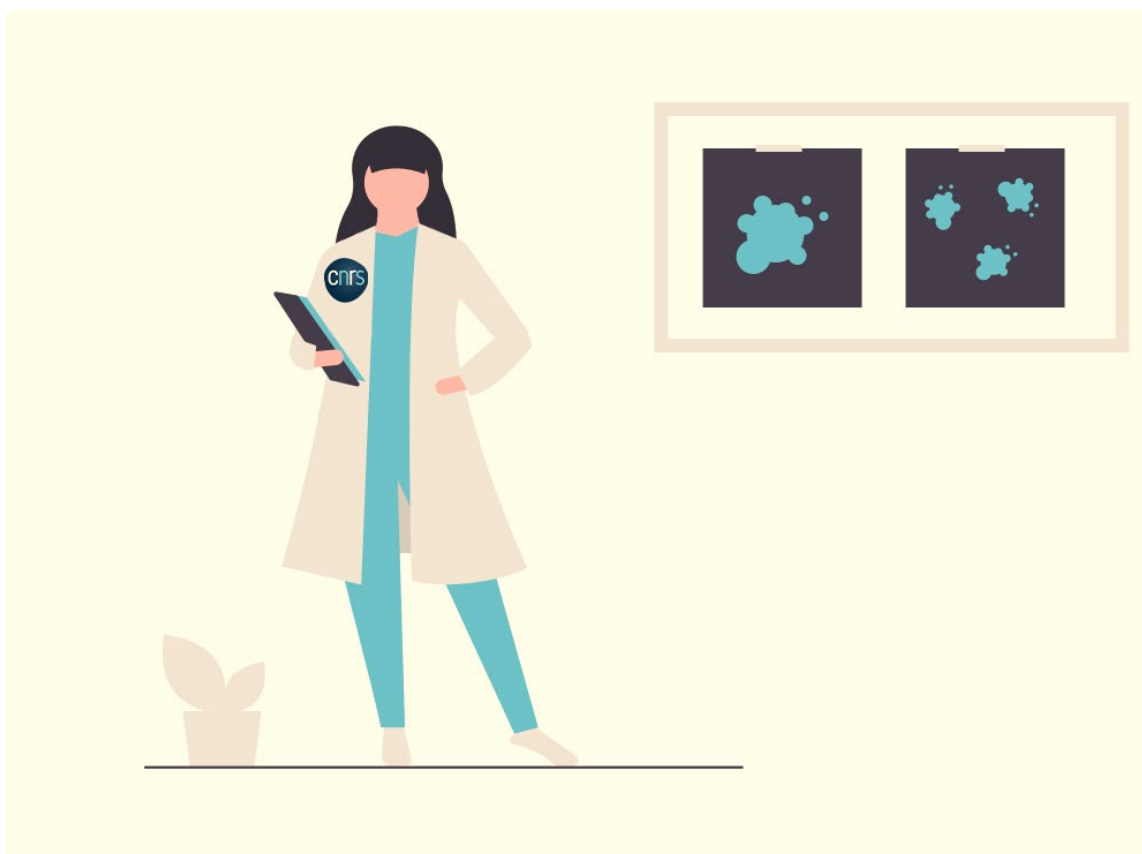
STATUS

The permanent staff at the CNRS are public civil servants governed by the general civil service statute and certain specific regulations (régis par les Articles R.421-1 à R.422-45 du Code de la recherche).

These texts regulate the different stages in the careers of the CNRS’s permanent research scientists.

WORKING AGE LIMIT

All civil servants must retire when they reach a certain age. The age limit is set at 67 years for civil servants in the sedentary category. However, in certain cases, it is possible to request authorization to continue working beyond the age of 67.



Publishing director : Antoine Petit

Managing editor : Gabrielle Inguscio, Direction des ressources humaines

Deputy managing editor : Service Recrutement et Intégration (SeRI)

E-mail : concours@cnrs.fr

Credits : © Simon CAZAURANG / IMFT / CNRS Images

Legend : **Abiskojokk River in Northern Sweden**

This photograph was taken during a mission at the Abisko Scientific Research Station, aimed at mapping the vegetation of the Miellajokka and Stordalen watersheds and collecting sphagnum moss from the latter's peatlands to study its thermo-hydrological properties.

As part of the ANR Hiperborea project, scientists employ advanced numerical modeling technologies to simulate the evolution of hydrosystems in cold regions under the influence of climate change. Arctic and subarctic zones are particularly vulnerable, as they are largely covered by permafrost—a layer of soil that remains frozen year-round. Its thawing triggers significant biogeochemical, ecological, and geomechanical transformations, affecting processes such as the greenhouse gas cycle (e.g., the degradation of carbon sinks) and soil stability.

These models will help predict the impact of permafrost thawing on the thermo-hydrological functioning of the Arctic and provide deeper insights into the physical mechanisms driving Arctic change. The resulting data will support risk assessments and identify opportunities for sustainable urbanization, agriculture, and development in the region.

Graphic, design & layout : Nadège Deschamps



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CNRS

3, rue Michel-Ange
75794 Paris Cedex 16
+ 33 1 44 96 40 00

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