The French version of this document is the legally binding one.

Start Programme

Call for applications
'Master's grants – International Network' 2027

Rules

The information contained in these rules is taken from the ANRS MIE reference document entitled 'Administrative, Scientific and Financial Organisation Procedures of the ANRS MIE' (MOASF), which sets out the financial regulations governing research grants awarded by the ANRS MIE, available on the ANRS MIE website. These rules set out the specific details relating to the 2027 'Master's grants – International Network' call for applications, organised as part of the Start Programme to support early-career researchers.

This call for applications aims to fund **grants** for **a year of master's programme during the 2027-2028 academic year,** including an **internship from among the internship opportunities offered** under this call.

Application selection phase: for each applicant, presentation of their academic background, the master's programme(s) they intend to undertake, and selection of an internship offer from the list provided.

Application deadline:

18 January 2027 at 11.59 pm (Paris time)

Applications must be submitted electronically via the Apogée platform ('AAP Exceptionnel' section).

Administrative finalisation phase: complete applications (only for candidates shortlisted during the application selection phase).

Deadline for submission of complete applications for shortlisted candidates:

11 May 2027 at 11.59 pm (Paris time)

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1. Introduction

1.1. Context

The ANRS Emerging Infectious Diseases (ANRS MIE) promotes the attractiveness of research careers in the areas within its remit[1] and across all scientific disciplines, both in France and internationally, by fostering scientific excellence and innovation.

In this context, the agency's **Start programme** aims to support junior scientists working in these research fields. This support has been identified as a strategic priority[2] and is structured around three complementary areas:

- training: accessing high-quality training throughout one's scientific career, from initial training to continuing skills development;
- launching careers: developing research projects independently on innovative topics;
- connecting: joining networks and promoting one's work.

Among the initiatives dedicated to training, the Start Programme provides funding for individual grants for early-career scientists wishing to undertake research training.

Furthermore, committed since its creation to supporting research in **Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs)** particularly affected by infectious diseases, the ANRS MIE has developed an ambitious international initiative. This is underpinned in particular by a vast network of partners, the **International Network**, comprising research and health institutions and authorities based in West and Central Africa, South-East Asia, Brazil and France, brought together within partnerships known as 'Partner Sites' and 'International Research Platforms for Global Health (PRISME)'.

Within this framework, the call for applications (CFA) **for 'Master's grants – International Network'** is aimed at professionals and students from LMICs and aims to enable successful applicants to benefit from a grant to help fund a year of a master's 1, master's 2 or a specialised master's (MS) (attending lectures, internship, and obtaining the degree), thereby opening up opportunities to pursue a career in research in close collaboration with partners of the ANRS MIE International Network.

1.2. Scope of the call for applications

The CFA is aimed at students and professionals from LMICs who wish to undertake a master's degree and are already involved in research activities with a Partner Site/PRISME within the ANRS MIE International Network, or who wish to begin collaborating with these partners.

[1] Research on HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis, STIs, tuberculosis and emerging infectious diseases.

[2] **'**To support and promote the involvement of early-career researchers and their professional development' (Objective No. 7 of the ANRS MIE Strategic Guidance Document 2023–2027: https://anrs.fr/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/anrs-orientation-strategique-fr-def.pdf)

1.2.1. Master's programmes

This CFA aims to support individuals wishing to undertake a **master's 1, master's 2 or specialised master's (MS) degree in France, or an equivalent programme abroad**, in accordance with the following criteria:

- the master's programme must be designed to prepare the candidate to **undertake a PhD and pursue a career in research**;

- the master's programme must be linked to an **internship opportunity offered by a Partner Site/PRISME within the International Network** (internship opportunities are published on the agency's website – CFA page). Each applicant must select only one internship offer as part of their application;

- the master's programme may be undertaken in any country, **with no geographical restrictions**, and online programmes are eligible.

The choice of the master's programme is at the discretion of the candidates.

The consistency of the chosen master's programme with the candidate's academic background, choice of internship and career plans will be taken into account during the evaluation.

It is therefore the responsibility of each applicant to:
- do some research on the master's programmes available that are relevant to their career plans;
- do some research on the entry requirements for the master's programmes they have identified;
- do some research on and follow the specific administrative application procedures of the institutions offering the identified master's programmes.

Candidates selected for the final administrative stage will be supported in these matters by the internship supervisors.

1.2.2. Master's internships

For the 2027 edition of this CFA, internship opportunities are offered as part of collaborations with the following partner countries: Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal.[3]

The internship opportunities are available on the CFA webpage (ANRS MIE website).

[3] Appendix: List of representatives of the ANRS MIE International Network's partners.

Note regarding master's 1 programmes: although some master's 1 programmes do not require to complete an internship, any candidate wishing to undertake a master's 1 programme under this CFA must complete an internship offered by a partner of the ANRS MIE International Network.

Details regarding master's programmes and/or internships taking place in a country or territory other than the candidate's country of residence

It is the responsibility of each candidate to do some research and follow the administrative procedures required to travel to the country or territory in question.

If the necessary authorisations to travel to the country or territory where the master's programme and/or internship is taking place are not obtained, the ANRS MIE will be unable to award a grant.

For master's programmes in France, it is particularly recommended that candidates consult the 'Etudes en France' platform as well as the Campus France website for their country or territory of residence. Each country or territory has a specific application timetable for courses 'linked' to the 'Etudes en France' scheme and for visa applications.

2. General terms and conditions

2.1. Eligibility criteria

For an application to be eligible under this CFA, the candidate must:

- be a national of a Low- and Middle-Income Country[4] ;
- reside in a Low- and Middle-Income Country. Temporary stays in a High-Income Country – notably for the purposes of study, training, an internship, a professional assignment or a research visit – are not taken into account when assessing this criterion;
- have submitted a complete application, in accordance with the procedures set out in these rules, both during the application selection phase and during the administrative finalisation phase for successful candidates.

Laureates from the 2026 edition of the 'Master's grants – International Network' CFA who have been awarded a grant to undertake a first year of a master's programme may apply under this edition of the CFA with a view to obtaining a grant to undertake a second year of that master's programme. However, the award of this grant is not automatically guaranteed.

[4] World Bank classification: Low- and Middle-Income Countries

A single candidate may submit only one grant application (comprising one or more master's options and a single choice of internship) under this call for applications.

2.2. Organisation of the call for applications

The CFA takes place in two phases.

2.2.1. Application selection phase

Applications must set out the candidate's academic and professional background, the master's programme(s) they wish to undertake (candidates may propose several master's options) and must include a selection of one internship offer from a Partner Site or PRISME within the ANRS MIE International Network. The offers are available on the ANRS MIE website (CFA page).

Following the application selection phase, one candidate per internship offer will be selected and invited to submit a complete application (administrative finalisation phase).

2.2.2. Administrative finalisation phase: complete application (for candidates selected during the application selection phase)

Candidates selected at the end of the application selection phase, together with the scientific supervisor(s) for the internship (internship tutor(s), whose names are listed in the internships offers), must submit a complete application detailing their entire project.

2.3. Application procedure

2.3.1. Application selection phase

The application must be written by the applicant and submitted by them in their own name.

The application must be written in French or English and must include all the information required for its evaluation. Any incomplete application will be considered ineligible.

The deadline for submitting applications is 18 January 2027 (23:59 - Paris time). No additional documents will be accepted after the closing date.

An application guide is available on the call for applications webpage and on the Apogée platform.

Applications must be submitted online via the Apogée platform ('AAP Exceptionnel' section).

Content of the application

- The completed application form (mandatory document – available on the CFA webpage).

This form includes the following:
- administrative details about the candidate;
- information on the proposed master's degree(s) and the selected internship offer;
- a description of the candidate's academic and professional background;
- the motivation and justification for the choice of internship, in line with the candidate's education, experience and career plans;

❖ A letter of recommendation from one of the candidate's line managers (researcher, professor, laboratory or department head, etc.) confirming the candidate's potential and expressing support for their application (mandatory document).

❖ Copies of relevant diplomas (mandatory document).

❖ The 'Etudes en France' certificate (confirmation of acceptance/pre-enrolment) (mandatory document for programmes 'linked' to the Etudes en France scheme. **All candidates are invited to consult the Campus France website for their country or territory of residence to find out the application timetable**).

2.3.2. Administrative finalisation phase

Candidates shortlisted during the application selection phase will be invited to submit a complete application, together with their internship supervisor(s).

The application must be written by the candidate and submitted by them in their own name.

Contents of the complete application

❖ The completed form (mandatory document – provided when the administrative finalisation phase opens).

This form includes the following details:
- administrative details about the candidate;
- a description of the targeted master's degree(s), accompanied by a justification for the choice;
- a provisional schedule of activities planned during the placement, relating to the targeted master's programme(s).

❖ The completed budget table (mandatory document – provided when the administrative finalisation phase opens), notably detailing administrative information concerning the managing body responsible for administering the grant.

❖ The letter of commitment from the administering body regarding the management of the grant (mandatory document – provided when the administrative finalisation phase opens).

❖ The proof of admission to the requested master's programme; or the proof of application to the requested master's programme(s) if results have not yet been published; or the proof that the application is being prepared if applications are not yet

open (payment of funds will be conditional upon obtaining a certificate of admission to the master's programme (mandatory document).

N.B.: Where applicable, applicants must inform the ANRS MIE (contact: start@anrs.fr) as soon as possible should they be awarded another grant after submitting their application, so that their application under this call for applications can be suspended.

2.4. Selection procedure

2.4.1. Application selection phase

The selection process takes place in several stages:

1. verification of the eligibility of applications by the ANRS MIE;
2. evaluation of each eligible application by:
    - the internship supervisor(s) (in conjunction with the managers of the Partner Site/PRISME);
    - an external reviewer;
    - a representative from the ANRS MIE
3. ranking of applications for each internship offer;
4. selection of one candidate for each internship offer.

Selected candidates are invited to submit a complete application (administrative finalisation phase), in collaboration with the internship supervisor(s).

A waiting list may be drawn up at the end of the application selection phase in order to propose another candidate in the event of a withdrawal, provided that time allows.

2.4.2. Administrative finalisation phase

The ANRS MIE checks the administrative and financial aspects of the complete applications.

2.5. Evaluation criteria

- **The candidate's background**: experience, academic background, and consistency with their choice of master's programme and internship.

- **The candidate's motivation and career prospects**: choice of master's programme and internship, career prospects in research and consistency with the choice of master's programme and internship.

- **Recommendation from a supervisor**.

- **Collaboration with a Partner Site/PRISME** within the ANRS MIE International Network (experience of collaboration and/or motivation and interest in collaborating).

- **Compilation of the application**: clarity of the application, completeness of the application,

quality of writing.

2.6. Calendar

Application selection phase	
Deadline for submission of applications	**18 January 2027** (23:59 - Paris time)
Announcement of results	**11 March 2027**
Administrative finalisation phase	
Deadline for submission of complete applications	**11 May 2027** (23:59 – Paris time)
Announcement of results	**June 2027**

3. Funding

3.1. Nature of the funding

The grant awarded will be a **flat rate of €20,000** (including administration fees) and will cover the 2027-2028 academic year.

The grant is intended to help fund a year of a master's programme, including attendance at lectures, completion of an internship and the award of the degree.

It may cover all of the following costs:
- university tuition fees;
- living costs (food, insurance, day-to-day expenses);
- accommodation costs;
- travel costs;
- visa or residence permit fees;
- small office equipment for the use of the laureate;
- and any other expenses necessary for the laureate that are directly related to the completion of the master's degree and/or the internship.

For internships taking place in countries or territories where an internship allowance is provided, the grant may cover this allowance.

Expenses necessary for carrying out research activities as part of the internship are not eligible.

Administration costs are an eligible expense at a rate of between 0% and 8% of the total amount of subsidised expenditure.

This funding may be combined with other sources of funding. It is the responsibility of candidates to ensure that their total funding will cover the entire project.

3.2. Funding arrangements

Grants awarded result in the payment of a subsidy from the ANRS MIE to the organisation administering the grant. As a general rule, this will be the institution to which the grant holder is affiliated for the purposes of the internship. The use of a third-party institution is possible if there is a tangible and legally defined link (statutory, by agreement, etc.) between the host institution for the internship and that third-party institution. This link must be duly documented by the candidate during the administrative finalisation phase of the call for applications.

It is the responsibility of the candidate and the internship supervisor(s) to obtain the managing body's agreement regarding its ability to administer the grant. The identified managing body must be specified in the budget form during the administrative finalisation phase of the CFA.

4. Commitments of laureates

Laureates of this CFA undertake, upon acceptance of the ANRS MIE funding, to comply with the following conditions.

4.1. Inclusion in the ANRS MIE Start network (junior researchers)

The laureate will join the ANRS MIE's Start network and may be invited to take part in meetings organised by the network and the agency's scientific steering bodies, and to present the progress of their work at these events. They will also be required to attend any meetings organised by the ANRS MIE relating to the monitoring of their grant.

4.2. Progress reports, final scientific report and financial reports

The laureate shall submit to the ANRS MIE:

- a progress report on their studies six months after the start of their master's programme;
- a final activity report (including, as an appendix, any major work produced during the internship – e.g. internship report, publication, etc.), within three months after the end of funding for their master's grant;
- certification of completion of the master's degree programme.

The internship supervisor(s) shall submit to the ANRS MIE an assessment of the completed master's year, highlighting the laureate's career prospects.

The organisation administering the grant will provide the ANRS MIE with the relevant financial report(s) in accordance with the terms set out in the grant award letter.

Furthermore, the laureate must keep the ANRS MIE informed at all times of any changes to their administrative status.

4.3. Publications

Any publication or oral presentation produced as part of the funding awarded must explicitly acknowledge the financial support provided by the ANRS MIE using the following wording:

“Cette étude a bénéficié d’une subvention de l’ANRS MIE (Programme Start – Bourses de master Réseau international 2027 – ANRSXXXX-XX).”

“This study was supported by a grant from the ANRS MIE (Start Programme – 2027 Master’s grants International Network – ANRSXXXX-XX).”

Any publication or oral presentation produced as part of the funding received must be acknowledged in the final scientific report.

To obtain the ANRS MIE logo: information@anrs.fr

4.4. Promotion of open science

As this funding is provided through state grants, publications resulting from this research must comply with the provisions promoting open science set out in Article 30 of Law No. 2016-1321 of 7 October 2016 on a Digital Republic[5] .

As part of the ANRS MIE’s contribution to the promotion and implementation of open science, and in line with the National Plan for Open Science at the French level (PNSO) and Plan S at the international level, recipients of the ANRS MIE funding undertake to ensure immediate open access to peer-reviewed scientific publications and to adopt, for research data, a so-called FAIR approach (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) in accordance with the principle ‘as open as possible, as closed as necessary’.

Thus, grant holders and their scientific supervisors/tutors undertake, in the event of funding under the Fellowships scheme, to make all scientific publications resulting from projects funded under this call available in open access under the Creative Commons CC-BY licence or equivalent, using one of the following three methods:

- publication in a journal that is natively open access;
- publication in a subscription-based journal that is part of a so-called ‘transformative’ agreement or a ‘transformative’ journal;
- publication in a subscription-based journal.

[5] https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/jorf/article_jo/JORFARTI000033202841

Manuscripts accepted for publication shall be deposited in the HAL open archive under a CC-BY licence, in accordance with the Non-Assignment of Rights Strategy (SNCD), as set out in the specific terms and conditions of the funding decision or contract.

Furthermore, they undertake to ensure that the full text of these scientific publications (version accepted for publication or publisher's version) is deposited in the national open access repository HAL no later than the time of publication, and to cite the ANRS MIE reference of the research project from which they originate.

ANRS MIE encourages the deposit of preprints on open platforms or in open repositories and the use of persistent or unique identifiers (such as a DOI or HAL ID). The ANRS MIE recommends prioritising publication in journals or books that are natively open access.

5. Contacts

For any enquiries regarding the rules, the submission and evaluation procedure, and the communication of results relating to this call for applications:

Department for Structural Research Support – Calls for Proposals Unit – Start Programme: start@anrs.fr

For any technical enquiries regarding the Apogée platform (submission of applications): apogee@anrs.fr

Appendix: List of representatives of the ANRS MIE International Network

PARTNERSHIP	CIVILITY	TITLE	SURNAME	FIRST NAME
France **Brazil** PRISME*	Madame	Dr	DE CASTRO	Nathalie
	Madame	Dr	TELFORD	Erica
Burkina Faso Partner Site	Monsieur	Dr	DAHOUROU	Désiré
	Monsieur	Dr	KANIA	Dramane
	Monsieur	Pr	NAGOT	Nicolas
Cambodia Partner Site	Monsieur	Dr	GELLIE	Victor
	Monsieur	Pr	SAPHONN	Vonthanak
	Monsieur	Dr	SPIRE	Bruno
Cameroon Partner Site	Monsieur	Dr	AKPATA	Robert
	Monsieur	Pr	DELAPORTE	Eric
	Madame	Dr	MPOUDI NGOLE Epouse ETAME	Mireille
	Madame	Dr	VARLOTEAUX	Marie
	Madame	Pr	ZOUNG-KANYI BIS-SEK	Anne-Cécile
Côte d'Ivoire PRISME*	Monsieur	Dr	BECQUET	Renaud
	Monsieur	Dr	MOH	Raoul
Guinea PRISME*	Monsieur	Dr	BANGOURA	Salifou Talassone
	Monsieur	Pr	DELAPORTE	Eric
	Monsieur	Pr	TOURE	Abdoulaye
Democratic Republic of the Congo PRISME*	Monsieur	Pr	AHUKA	Steve
	Monsieur	Dr	BULABULA	Junior
	Madame	Pr	PEETERS	Martine
Senegal Partner Site	Madame	Dr	LABORDE	Gabrièle
	Monsieur	Dr	TAVERNE	Bernard
	Madame	Pr	TOURE KANE	Coumba
Vietnam Partner Site	Madame	Dr	GOURINAT	Ann-Claire
	Monsieur	Dr	LAUREILLARD	Didier
	Madame	Dr	LINH	Thi Thui Doan
	Madame	Dr	PHAN	Thi Thu Huong

* Plateforme de Recherche Internationale en Santé Mondiale

N.B.: As part of the 2027 edition of the 'Master's grants – International Network' call for applications, internship offers are available through the following partnerships:

- France Brazil PRISME;
- Burkina Faso Partner Site;
- Cambodia Partner Site;
- Cameroon Partner Site;
- Côte d'Ivoire PRISME;
- Senegal Partner Site.