



**2009 TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR
SCHOLARSHIPS ON PHD ASTRONOMY STUDIES IN FRANCE
“CNRS-CONICYT”**

I. OBJECTIVE

This program is developed under the general framework of the “Memorandum of Understanding between the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) and the National Commission for Scientific and Technological Research (CONICYT)”, written on December 11, 2007.

The objective of this call of applications is to contribute for the strengthening of the national scientific capacity in the area of astronomy, supporting young Chileans that have a solid scientific vocation and high academic level.

II. REQUIREMENTS

- 2.1 Applicants must be Chilean.
- 2.2 They must hold a Bachelor’s or Master’s degree in astronomy, physics or related sciences, from a Chilean or foreign university.
- 2.3. They must dominate the English language: Internet-based TOEFL (minimum score: 85 points) or IELTS (minimum score: 6.0 points).

III. BENEFITS

Two scholarships will be given for the 2009-2012 academic period. The scholarships include the following benefits:

- 3.1 Roundtrip ticket between Chile and France, in addition to roundtrip expenses between Paris and the location of the host university, financed by CONICYT. The return tickets will be financed once the student has finished the PhD program.
- 3.2 Start-up allowance of €2,000, at the beginning of the first year of the scholarship, in order to cover expenses during his or her move to France, financed by CONICYT.
- 3.3 Living expenses and other allowances and contributions for on-site work expenses, to be paid directly to the scholarship recipient, for a period of three years, and financed by CNRS.
- 3.4 Allowance for enrollment and tuition fees up to the equivalent in France, financed by CNRS. Payments will be paid directly to the University on behalf of the student and shall cover the following: (i) approved tuition; (ii) contribution to training in research; (iii) contributions for conferences and on-site work in France.

The scholarship recipient must remember that any difference between the value of the enrollment fee in France and the fare charged to foreign students will be financed by the host university or by the scholarship recipient. Neither CNRS nor CONICYT shall be responsible for financing any deficit.

These benefits correspond exclusively to the scholarship recipient and do not include his or her family.

The scholarship will be for a period of time of three years; considering that the first year will begin in September 2009.

IV. APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

- 4.1 Application form (attached).
- 4.2 Resume or Curriculum vitae (two pages maximum).
- 4.3 Application letter in English (one page maximum), indicating the reasons for which he or she wants to study a PhD, and why he or she wants to do so, in a specific research group or academic unit, as well as the activities that he or she intends to pursue afterwards.
- 4.4 Photocopy of degrees obtained (titles or degrees), and transcripts for undergraduate and graduate work (as is the case), which also indicates ranking (level the student held in his or her class). When this is not specified in the transcript, applicants must accredit their ranking via a certificate or letter from the undergraduate office of the University they attended. The average grade requested is that of all undergraduate grades, excluding the grades of the final exit exam and thesis. All grades must be expressed on a scale from 1 to 7; if this is not the case, a certificate of equivalency must be presented.
- 4.5 Certificate indicating the score obtained on one of the following tests: Test of English as a Foreign Language, **TOEFL** (minimum score: Internet-based TOEFL: 85 points) or International English Language Testing System, **IELTS** (minimum score: 6.0 points). Information about these tests can be obtained at the Chilean North American Cultural, www.norteamericano.cl, and the Chilean British Cultural Institute, www.britanico.cl, respectively.
- 4.6 Preliminary proposal in English of academic work, indicating the line of research or specialization the applicant is interested in pursuing.
- 4.7 Recommendation letters in English - according to the format included in the application form - from three academics that are familiar with the prior education and related professional experience of the applicant. **These names must be the same as those listed in the application form. Letters must be submitted in a sealed envelope along with the application.**

V. EVALUATION

Application will be evaluated in Chile by external evaluators designated by CONICYT. The main factors to be considered in the evaluation are listed below, in order of priority:

- Academic qualifications of the applicant.
- Research experience.
- Justification of the proposed line of research/development.
- Future contribution to Chile.

VI. FINAL DECISION

Once the technical evaluation is complete, a committee composed of two scientists in the area of astronomy/physics designated by CONICYT, an astronomer designated by CNRS and a member of the CONICYT administration, **will pre-select** the applicants. These applicants will then be interviewed by the same Committee, which will then work together to reach their final decision. The interviews are obligatory.

CONICYT shall issue a resolution with the final decision and selection of the scholarship recipients. This decision may include a waiting list, which will be used in the event that the students selected decline the scholarship or are unable to accept it.

VII. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

- 7.1 Before the scholarship is given, an Agreement will be signed between CONICYT and the scholarship recipient, which will specify the objectives and duration of the scholarship, as well as the rights and responsibilities of both parties.
- 7.2 The scholarship recipient must promise to provide the corresponding academic reports, in the timeframes established in the respective agreement.
- 7.3 The scholarship will be assigned for annual periods and its renewal will be contingent upon the academic performance of the scholarship recipient in France.
- 7.4 Publications or presentations at peer review Research congresses must specifically mention this scholarship. The recipient must identify his or herself as a CNRS-CONICYT scholarship recipient and recognize the scholarship in the following manner: "The financing for this paper was provided by CONICYT and CNRS, in accordance with the agreement written on December 11, 2007".

VIII. COMPLIANCE AND INTERPRETATION OF THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- 8.1 Only those applications that comply with the requirements specified in these Terms and Conditions will be accepted; non-compliance with these will be cause for the applicant to be considered ineligible.
- 8.2 Incomplete applications will be ineligible.
- 8.3 CONICYT reserves the right to interpret the meaning and scope of the present terms and conditions in the event that questions and conflicts arise during the application of these.

8.4 Students that have pending debts with CONICYT may not participate in the present competition.

IX. COMPETITION RESULTS

Once a final decision has been made, the results will be published on the CONICYT webpage. Additionally, the results will be sent by mail to the applicants selected. Those selected will have 10 business days after being informed of the final decision to accept the scholarship through a written letter of acceptance; if they do not do so, they will lose their right to the scholarship.

X. DEADLINE OF APPLICATIONS

This scholarship program information will be spread through a public call for applications, and its terms and conditions will be published in a national newspaper.

The applications must be sent by mail to the address indicated below and by e-mail to concursocnrs@conicyt.cl in Word, PDF or PS format, in a single file.

Online applications:

The last day to submit applications online is **May 15, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.**

Hard copy applications:

For those that turn in a hard copy of their applications, the last day to do so is **May 15, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.**

Documentation must be exclusively turned in to the **CONICYT Oficina de Partes, located at 551 Bernarda Morín, 1st floor, Providencia, Santiago.**

If the application is sent by certified mail, courier, bus or express mail, the seal must indicate that the last date for dispatch is **May 13, 2009**. The hard copy of the application must include 2 dossiers with all documents and a CD with all documentation saved in the specified formats.

Incomplete dossiers or those that are delivered in formats other than those specified, and/or all documentation delivered past the due date, shall be declared ineligible.

THE INFORMATION OF APPLICANTS THAT DO NOT RECEIVE THE SCHOLARSHIP WILL NOT BE RETURNED.

For more information:

Email: info@conicyt.cl, Telephone: (562) 365-4441, www.conicyt.cl/astronomia/,
and www.conicyt.cl/oirs

Santiago, March, 2009.