

Research Fellowships Program “PRESTIJ” 2026

French and Turkish scientific potentials have a reputation of excellence.

To strengthen bilateral cooperation, particularly in areas of common interest, the French Embassy has set up the PRESTIJ research fellowship program.

Its aim is to strengthen or initiate collaborations between French and Turkish research institutions in areas of excellence. These fellowships contribute to the emergence of large-scale projects that are susceptible to apply for the PHC Bosphorus Program or Horizon Europe funding.

The PRESTIJ research fellowships program are high-level scientific stays for young researchers or senior researchers.

Research topics for 2026:

This research fellowship program is open to all disciplines, a particular attention will be given to the thematic priorities of both countries:

- Digital transition
- Quantum technology
- Biotechnology
- Environmental transition and adaptation to climate change (energy, low-carbon mobility, etc.)
- Natural risks (management and forecasting)
- Oceanography and marine sciences
- Health
- Food
- Architecture, urban planning, archaeology

Projects in the humanities and social sciences relating to the above-mentioned areas are also considered priority themes.

The dates of stay in France must be between 15 March and 31 December 2026.

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS FOR YOUNG RESEARCHERS

(high-level scientific stays for doctoral students and researchers who have completed their thesis within the last five years)

Eligible public:

- PhD and postdoctoral students enrolled at a Turkish institution and not enrolled at an institution in France
- Young researchers who obtained their PhD less than five years prior to the start date of their research stay in France

Eligible host institutions:

- Any research institution in France

Theme:

- All disciplines, with particular attention given to the thematic priorities mentioned in the preamble.

Duration of the fellowship:

- 1 month or 2 months *(the duration initially chosen by the candidate cannot be changed)*
- Only for mobility between 15 March and 31 December 2026.

The fellowship includes:

- 1704 € / month (subject to changes in the 2026 scales of the Campus France Paris Agency)
- Exemption from visa fees
- Social security coverage
- International flight (round-trip to France in economy class)
- Transport to the place of stay covered (French airport to host site)

Eligibility requirements:

- Be a Turkish national (dual French-Turkish nationals are not eligible)
- Be enrolled in a PhD programme at a Turkish institution OR have completed a PhD less than five years prior to the start date of the research stay in France and be conducting research at a Turkish institution.

Documents to be provided with the application:

- CV
- Copy of your passport
- Application form
- 2-pages cover letter explaining your research project in France and its contribution to cooperation between your laboratory and the host institution in France. Indicate the existence of a partnership agreement between the two laboratories
- Invitation letter from the host institution in France or a copy of the research stay agreement. The document must mention the dates of the stay
- Recommendation letter from the Director of your research laboratory

Incomplete applications or those submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

All documents may be submitted in French or English.

Selection criteria:

- Scientific excellence of the candidate
- Quality and expected impact of the research project
- Research theme
- Outlook for publications or co-publications
- Existing partnership between the 2 laboratories
- Possibility of evolving towards an application for the PHC Bosphorus or European programs.

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS FOR SENIOR RESEARCHERS

(high-level scientific stays for researchers who have held a PhD for more than 5 years)

Eligible public:

- Senior researchers (5 years after PhD) at a Turkish institution.

Eligible host institutions:

- Any research institution in France

Theme:

- All disciplines, with particular attention paid to the thematic priorities mentioned in the preamble.

Duration of the fellowship:

- 15 days, 1 month or 2 months (*the duration initially chosen by the candidate cannot be changed*)
- Only for mobility between 15 March and 31 December 2026.

The fellowship includes:

- 2055€ / month (subject to changes in the 2026 scales of the Campus France Paris Agency)
- Exemption of visa fee
- Social security coverage
- International flight (round-trip to France in economy class)
- Transport to the place of stay covered (French airport to host site)

Eligibility requirements:

- Be a Turkish national (dual French-Turkish nationals are not eligible)
- Hold a PhD obtained at least five years prior to the start date of the research stay in France and be engaged in research at a Turkish institution.

Documents to be included in the application file:

- CV
- Copy of your passport
- Application form
- 2-pages cover letter explaining your research project in France and its contribution to cooperation between your laboratory and the host institution in France. Indicate the existence of a partnership agreement between the two laboratories
- Invitation letter from the host institution in France or a copy of the research stay agreement. The document must mention the dates of the stay.

Incomplete applications or those submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

All documents may be submitted in French or English.

Selection criteria:

- Scientific excellence of the candidate
- Quality and expected impact of the research project
- Research theme
- Outlook for publications or co-publications
- Existing partnership between the 2 laboratories
- Possibility of evolving towards an application to the PHC Bosphorus or European programmes.

CALENDAR AND SELECTION PROCESS

Calendar:

Date	Step
23 January 2026	Deadline for application
23 January 2025 – 13 February 2026	Processing period
From 16 February 2026	Announcement of results

The French Embassy will inform successful candidates **by email only**. No results will be communicated by telephone.

Submission of applications:

Candidates must send their applications to the French Embassy (SCAC) **by email only** to burslar@ifturquie.org

Indicate in the subject line of the email:

« *Application for PRESTIJ Young Researcher Fellowships* »

OR

« *Application for PRESTIJ Established Researcher Fellowships* »

All documents must be submitted in PDF format. Documents submitted in JPG format will not be accepted.

Incomplete applications or those submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

The Embassy reserves **the right to organise an additional call for applications in March 2026** for mobility between 1 September and 31 December. Only projects that did not receive fellowships during the first call will be eligible.

The laureates of the PRESTIJ programme will be invited to events organised by the French Embassy as part of the France Alumni network.

