

<p><b>The French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs and Thales : Partners in hosting and supporting foreign students in France</b></p>
--

**Thales Academia Programme now seeking candidates  
for the 2009-2010 academic year**

**On 15 May 2006, the French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs and Thales signed an agreement to create Thales Academia, a programme that provides a scholarship package for highly qualified overseas students to study in France.**

**The programme, which is based on a partnership between government and private enterprise, provides optimal conditions for living and studying in France, including a personalised welcome and mentoring. Candidates are selected jointly by the French Ministry, Thales and partner business and engineering schools.**

**1/ Who can benefit from the programme?**

This fourth edition of the Thales Academia programme targets students currently enrolled in an overseas institution of higher education who are from **China, India, Russia or Brazil**, countries in which Thales does business. Only candidates with the nationality of one of these countries are eligible for the programme; candidates who have French nationality as well are not eligible.

Foreign students who already have another type of scholarship either from the French government or private enterprise are not eligible for this programme.

A good command of French is not required, but it is an important factor in the selection process and an objective to be obtained by the end of the student's stay in France (cf. article 5). However, fluency in French may be required by the host institution of higher education if courses are taught in French.

For 2009-2010, **35 scholarships** will be awarded: **10** for **Indian** students, **9** for **Chinese** students, **8** for **Russian** students, and **8** for **Brazilian** students.

The Thales Academia programme is aimed at students with a Master 2 level (preferred) or Master 1.

Candidates must be no more than 30 years old in the year in which they are selected.

Fields of study for the programme are:

- Engineering sciences
- Business and management

Successful candidates are required to complete one of the courses selected for the programme at one of the partner institutions either entirely or mainly in France.

Applications will not be accepted for apprenticeship or continuing education courses.

Programmes of study offered by partner institutions are listed in the appendix.

**IMPORTANT – PLEASE NOTE:**

**In addition to completing this scholarship application, candidates must at the same time enrol at one of the French schools of higher education that are partners to the Thales Academia programme:**

- **Engineering schools: Ecole Centrale Paris, Ecole Polytechnique, ENSIETA, ISAE, MINES ParisTech, TELECOM ParisTech.**
- **Business and management schools: HEC Paris et ESSEC**
- **University (management): Université Paris-Dauphine**

**2/ How are beneficiaries of the Thales Academia programme selected?**

In each of the four countries listed, representatives from the French Embassy (‘Development, Cooperation and Culture Section’ and ‘Economic Mission’) work with representatives from Thales and from local institutions of higher education to which the programme applies to **find candidates**.

Final selection of programme beneficiaries is made in France by a **Thales Academia selection committee**, composed of representatives from the partner establishments, Thales and the Ministry.

**Three criteria** are taken into account for the final selection:

- excellence of the candidate, as reflected by his/her prior university experience,
- the candidate’s career goals,
- and his/her motivation.

The selection committee draws up a list of the candidates chosen. Students are then required to enrol at one of the French institutions of higher education involved in the programme.

**3/ How are the results of the selection process published?**

The final list of successful candidates is published on the Thales website and on the website of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs.

The selection committee’s proceedings are not made public, its decisions are final and no reasons shall be given for the decisions made.

#### **4/ What are the key dates in the selection process?**

Schedule for the 2009-2010 academic year:

- Applications and information posted on the sites of the French Embassies of the countries concerned, and on the Thales, Ministry and CampusFrance websites: **Wednesday, 28 October 2008.**
- Deadline for reception of completed applications for the Thales Academia programme by the diplomatic offices: **Friday, 27 March 2009.**
- Diplomatic offices send duly registered applications to the selection committee in France by: **Wednesday, 15 April 2009.**
- Selection committee meets for the first time in France: **Tuesday, 28 April 2009.**
- Selection of beneficiaries and publication of results: **between the end of April and the beginning of July 2009.**

#### **5/ What does the Thales Academia programme include?**

Beneficiaries of the Thales Academia programme receive:

- A **13,000 euro** Thales Academia scholarship which, depending on the establishment attended and the student's own financial resources, can be used for either tuition or living expenses.
- Medical coverage and the status of 'French government scholarship students'.
- Personalised support from a Thales mentor, along with advice and help in searching for internships and cultural activities.
- Intensive French language courses before leaving for France, provided by Alliance Française and paid for by the French Embassy in the candidate's country of origin.

Programme beneficiaries may also be eligible for accommodation support.

*(\* NB: Programme beneficiaries who attend public institutions (such as Université Paris-Dauphine) are exempted from enrolment fees because they are considered 'French government scholarship students'.*

#### **HOW TO APPLY**

**Application forms for the Thales Academia programme can be downloaded from the websites of French Embassies in candidates' countries of origin.**

**Contact the following persons for all practical details:**

Brazil: jean-pierre.courtiaat@diplomatie.gouv.fr  
China: universitaire@ambafrance-cn.org  
India: ashok.charoth@diplomatie.gouv.fr  
Russia: fanny.adda@diplomatie.gouv.fr

**Website of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs:**

[www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/services-formulaires\\_831/espace-etudiants\\_12793/etudier-france\\_12794/financer-projet\\_12805/index.html](http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/services-formulaires_831/espace-etudiants_12793/etudier-france_12794/financer-projet_12805/index.html)

**Thales Academia website (in French and English):**

[www.thalesgroup.com/extra/academia/index\\_en.htm](http://www.thalesgroup.com/extra/academia/index_en.htm)

**Q & A:**

[www.thalesgroup.com/extra/academia/q\\_a\\_en.htm](http://www.thalesgroup.com/extra/academia/q_a_en.htm)

