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CENTRE NATIONAL
DE LA RECHERCHE
SCIENTIFIQUE

**A SHORT PRESENTATION OF THE TWO MAIN PROCEDURES TO BE HIRED
IN THE ACADEMIC SECTOR IN FRANCE
(MAÎTRE DE CONFÉRENCES AND CHARGÉ DE RECHERCHE)**

The French academic system is mainly public and recruiting procedures are set by the ministry of education and research. This document is a brief overview of these procedures. It has no legal content and is only for informative purposes.

There are two main channels through which you can join our research unit, the Centre d'Economie de la Sorbonne, as the personnel of this unit is made of faculty members of University Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne and researchers from the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS).

NEXT IS A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THESE TWO TYPES OF POSITIONS

The junior positions at University Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne are called “maître de conference” and are tenured after one year. Although not officially required, a good knowledge of French is necessary as most courses are taught in French. Teaching load is 128 hours a year. The computation of teaching hours distinguishes between courses and review sessions. An hour and a half of review session counts for an hour of teaching (thus a maître de conférence who would do only review session would actually have to do 192 hours—this is for illustration only as such a situation never happens). Monthly gross salary is at the start 1 991 € and after two years 2 242 €. To this base salary is added a “residence indemnity” of about 100 € per month. For more details, see the webpage of the ministry of education:

http://www.education.gouv.fr/personnel/metiers/maitre_conference.htm

A new law is discussed at the parliament, which includes the possibility for starting maîtres de conference to have a reduced teaching load as well as an increase in the salary (under the name of grant Descartes). The law has not been passed for the moment. For more information see:

<http://www.pactepourlarecherche.fr/pacte/fiches.htm>

and in particular, for maitres de conference:

<http://www.pactepourlarecherche.fr/pacte/fiche11.pdf>

The junior positions at CNRS are called “chargé de recherché”. These are non-teaching positions (also tenured after one year). Knowledge of French is not required. The recruitment is centralised, made by a national committee. The assignment of the researchers recruited to the different research units affiliated with the CNRS is made by the scientific direction of CNRS and does not depend directly on us, although we can lobby the CNRS direction. The starting monthly gross wage is essentially the same as for maitre de conference and is 2088 € (including the “residence indemnity”). The wage rises by seniority, and is of 2 254 € after two years. More information on the CNRS website (under the label “Travailler au CNRS”):

<http://www.sg.cnrs.fr/drh/default.htm>

NEXT IS A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF HOW TO APPLY TO THESE POSITIONS
(in both cases, although not formally required you are invited to contact us before applying.)

The procedure to apply to a position of maître de conférence is explained at:

http://www.education.gouv.fr/personnel/metiers/maitre_conference.htm

The following is a brief summary of the official procedure. Before applying to this position, it is necessary to apply to be “qualified” by the Conseil National des Universités. This centralised procedure is meant to check that Ph.D. are qualified to teach in French universities. Foreigners can apply, the main requirement being to have completed a Ph.D. before mid-december of the year n to apply for positions during the spring of year n+1. The usual procedure is to apply administratively in October. Then, two referees are designated, to which the candidate has to send his or her Ph.D. dissertation in December. The following URL:

http://www.education.gouv.fr/personnel/enseignant_superieur/enseignant_chercheur/notinfo.htm

contains a full description of the procedure. Once the “qualification” obtained (results are usually known in February) the candidate can apply to all the open economics positions in French universities. If you plan to apply to a position in Paris I, please contact us beforehand. There are short hearings planned, usually in May, that require you being physically present. The precise procedure (which documents are necessary) is explained in the administrative document giving the available positions. As an example, one can look at the following URL:

<http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/WAspad/UnTexteDeJorf?numjo=MENPo502115A>.

The procedure to follow to apply to a CNRS position is at:

<http://www.sg.cnrs.fr/drhchercheurs/concoursch/default-en.htm> (in English).

Every year, the available positions are known around December, so you should consult the CNRS website frequently during that period (<http://www.cnrs.fr>). A delay of a month is usually given to the candidates to complete their application. There is an hearing usually planned during May, during which the candidate has about half an hour to present his or her work and research project. This can be done in English. Candidates have to have a Ph.D. although it is not required to have a French doctorate. See also the brochure edited by the CNRS at:

<http://www.sg.cnrs.fr/drh/publi/pdf/CNRS-metiers.pdf>

MISCELLANEOUS

Interesting information can be found at the following URL:

<http://guilde.jeunes-chercheurs.org/Public/> (in French).

This is a site created by young Ph.Ds to help doctoral students to prepare their job market.

As mentioned above, a new law, in charge of organizing higher education and research in France is under discussion at the parliament, on which you can find information at:

<http://www.pactepourlarecherche.fr>

A new agency (Agence Nationale pour la Recherche) has been created last year that gives research budget for innovative research project. This project based approach, in the spirit of the NSF, is rather new in France. Details can be found at: <http://www.gip-anr.fr/index.htm> (English version under construction!).