

ORION Excellence Scholarships 2026-2027 Call for applications

The ORION program is the response of the University of Lorraine (UL) to the call "Structuring training through research in the Initiatives of Excellence" (SFRI) of the National Program of Investment of the Future (PIA). Its objectives are twofold, the first is to expose students to research before the master 2 and doctorate, the second is to mix students from the different training components and different disciplines of the University of Lorraine and its Partner Institutions. For more information on the ORION program, please visit <https://www.univ-lorraine.fr/osezlarecherche/>

1. Purpose of the call:

Within the framework of the implementation of the ORION program, the UL is launching a call for applications for Excellence scholarships for its students with an appetite for research and wishing to follow a research oriented M2 Program. **Interested students will have to commit themselves to do a research internship in one of the laboratories of the Lorraine site. In the case of an internship carried out partly outside the Lorraine site, the internship bonus may only be paid for the part of the internship carried out on the Lorraine site. No remuneration will be paid for the part of the placement carried out outside Lorraine.**

The Lorraine site represents the geographical area in which the University of Lorraine, its engineering schools and laboratories are located, as well as its partners, AgroParisTech, Georgia Tech Europe, CNRS, INRAE, INRIA, INSERM and the CHRU of Nancy.

Head of the master's program who have demonstrated that they have been successful in supporting their students from the previous years through to their thesis will be able to submit **two applications. They should enclose a letter with detailed background information, and rank the two applications in order of preference.**

2. Funding terms:

The Excellence scholarships fund one year of study in M2 corresponding to the first semester of study followed by the research internship. The financial aid for the academic year amounts to 7000 € (monthly 1000 € over 7 months) to which is added a grant for the internship (5 or 6 months) which amounts to about 600 € per month.

Clarification regarding the payment of work placement fees for continuing vocational training trainees

Continuing vocational training trainees come under Part 6 of the Labour Code; they are not subject to the same regulatory provisions as initial training students undertaking a period of training on placement.

Unlike initial training students, there is no obligation to pay compensation to continuing vocational training students undertaking a research placement in a university research laboratory.

Where applicable, any additional remuneration paid by the university to the vocational training trainee, regardless of whether it is in the form of a bonus or otherwise, must be subject to all Social Security contributions from the first euro.

For this reason, trainees in continuing vocational training are excluded from the research internship bonus provided for by ORION.

3. Eligibility criteria:

- Be admitted to the second year of one of the University of Lorraine's master's programs
- Or be admitted to the second cycle of health studies at the University of Lorraine
- Or be admitted to the final year of one of the engineering schools in Lorraine.

4. Selection procedure:

Applications will be selected on the basis of the student's track record and motivation, in particular:

- Quality of the academic record: grades and ranking of the Master 1 and L3 levels (or equivalent, e.g. Bachelor degree...), number of years to obtain the Master I degree (or equivalent), previous internships and research work (dissertation, internship report, etc.), recommendations from tutors and former course directors
- Motivation of the student to carry out a research path: curricula demonstrating an interest in research (possibly participation in the activities of the ORION student-researcher clubs) and/or professional project (evidence of a long-term vision/possibility of a research internship or thesis)
- Recommendation of the Master's director: reasons for the candidate's choice

Ad hoc committees will evaluate the applications submitted and will propose a ranking of the selected students. The list of grantees will be finalized by the Unys Projets Committee.

5. Application Procedure:

Applicants will be required to compile an application package that includes:

- A detailed CV of the candidate
- Transcripts of grades of L3 and M1 (or equivalent)
- A letter of motivation from the candidate supporting his/her interest for research (interest for the training followed, possible description of previous research projects and research projects that the candidate would like to carry out in the future)
- A letter of commitment to carry out a research internship in a laboratory of the Lorraine site
- A letter of recommendation and an argument from the Head of the master's program; or the head of the engineering school program

Only complete applications will be examined.

Applications may be submitted in English.

If you are a head of Master's programs or head of engineering school programs and you wish to present a candidate from a foreign university, you are invited to read and transmit the practical information sheet on the reception of foreign students in order to best prepare his or her mobility at UL.

Heads of Master's programs and heads of engineering school programs are invited to submit their applications (1 per program, 1 per engineering school diploma) on the following online platform:

<https://enquetes.univ-lorraine.fr/index.php/518481?lang=fr>

Only applications submitted by the heads of the Master's programs or heads of engineering school programs will be eligible.



6. Calendar of the call

- Opening date of the call: 09/04/2026
- Closing date of the call: **09/06/2026** at noon
- Selection of the candidates by the Unys Projets Committee: 03/07/2026

The results of the call for applications will be communicated to the heads of Master's programs/heads of training of the Schools of Engineering and to the candidates by e-mail no later than 10/07/2026.

For any question, please write to us at: isite-orion-cellule@univ-lorraine.fr