

JEAN-MARIE LEHN PRIZE FOR CHEMISTRY 2025 IOCB Tech Foundation Embassy of France in the Czech Republic

Article 1 **Scope of the competition**

The IOCB Tech Foundation and the French Embassy in the Czech Republic organize a competition for the "Jean-Marie Lehn Prize for Chemistry" in 2025.

The goal of this competition is to award the best PhD research work in **chemistry**. Every institution of research and higher education providing doctoral training in chemistry in the Czech Republic may propose high level candidates.

Article 2 **Institutions involved and coordinators**

All institutions of research and higher education (universities and institutes of the Czech Academy of Sciences) may enlist their students in the competition for the "Jean-Marie Lehn Prize".

They have to designate a coordinator and provide his or her name to the scientific department of the French Embassy in the Czech Republic **at the latest by February 18th, 2025**.

Article 3 **Criteria for selecting participants**

All students of Czech universities, institutions of higher education and institutes of the Czech Academy of Sciences may take part in the competition provided they fulfill the following conditions:

- Their PhD research is encompassed within the topic defined in Article 1
- They are of Czech or Slovak nationality and are **younger than 33 years old on May 1st, 2025***.
- They are currently enrolled in a doctorate cycle at a Czech institution of research and higher education **or** they have defended their PhD dissertation in 2024 or 2025.
- Their PhD studies do not collude with any work for the IOCB Tech Foundation company.
- They are the author of at least one scientific article published or accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed international periodical.

** Extensions can be granted to applicants who took a break from their studies for maternity or parental leave. The coordinator must inform the French Embassy of such cases to make sure the conditions are fulfilled.*

Article 4 **Role of the coordinator**

The coordinator of the "Jean-Marie Lehn Prize 2025" project has the task of organizing the selection of the best participants from the ranks of the students enrolled at the given institution of research or higher education. These candidates will then be entered by the relevant institution in the competition.

The coordinator shall verify that individual participants fulfill the conditions for participating in the competition (see. Article 3). It is their responsibility to check their eligibility. Subsequently, she/he shall give



to the French Embassy in the Czech Republic the names and contact information – personal and academic – of all candidates taking part in the competition **at the latest by March 18th, 2025**.

At the same time, the coordinators must indicate if they or another representative from their institution will sit on the evaluation committee – if they will not sit, they must provide the name of the representative that will (see Articles 6 and 9).

Institutions with no candidates will not be represented in the evaluation committee.

Each coordinator must choose a **maximum of two candidates for each higher education or research institution as a whole**. The president of the selection committee and the attachée for scientific and university cooperation of the French Embassy in the Czech Republic may preselect candidates should there be too many applications.

Article 5 **Applications to the competition**

Each candidate must deliver by email the complete Application package described in **Annex 2** to the French Embassy in the Czech Republic (scientific department) **at the latest by April 8th, 2025**.

Article 6 **Selection Committee**

The date of the selection committee will be known soon.

The committee should be presided over by Dr Patrick Maestro. Further members of this professional selection committee shall be:

- The attachée for scientific and university cooperation of the French Embassy in the Czech Republic.
- One representative of each institution of research and higher education from which candidates have been selected.

Individual applicants shall be invited by the French Embassy. They will present in English their PhD research to the committee and answer their questions.

After the oral presentation, the selection committee shall proceed with the final deliberations. The evaluation of the commission shall be recorded in the protocol. The laureates of the Prize will be informed of the results of the competition within a week after the meeting of the selection committee.

Article 7 **Financial Subsidies and stipends**

- **1st Prize:** 80,000 CZK, a stipend for a one-month internship in France
- **2nd Prize:** 50,000 CZK and a stipend for a one-month internship in France
- **3rd Prize:** 30,000 CZK

The award prizes are provided directly to the winners by the IOCB Tech Foundation. The stipends for internships in France are provided by the French Embassy in the Czech Republic. These internships must take place in a French research center, and that at the latest **by December 31th, 2026**.

Winners must confirm to the French Embassy by **January 31st, 2026** whether they will conduct the internship or not. The scientific research center shall be chosen entirely by the laureates.

We remind the candidates that this grant awarded by the French embassy **is meant to support an internship and not a post-doctoral contract.**

A Special Prize for Chemistry will also be awarded in partnership with the Czech Chemical Society (CCS). The winner will be delegated to represent CCS at a congress organised by one of the partner Central European chemical societies; further she/he will win a one-year subscription of the CCS scientific journal “Chemické listy” as well as free membership for the Czech Chemical Society for one year.

The first laureate will also be invited to participate in the “Barrande French-Czech Vltava Chemistry Meeting” in 2025, to meet experts in his field. Transportation and accommodation costs will be covered by the organizers of the meeting.

Article 8 Awarding ceremony

The official awarding of the Jean-Marie Lehn Prize will take place on **June 26th, 2025** at the French Embassy in the presence of the Ambassador of France to the Czech Republic. The awards will be handed over to the laureates by Professor Jean-Marie Lehn, Nobel Laureate in Chemistry.

The formal ceremony shall be attended not only by all awarded students, but also by their PhD supervisors and the representatives of the universities, institutions of higher education and institutes of the Czech Academy of Sciences.

Students might be invited to cooperate with the media (e.g. interviews) and understand that media materials form ceremonial may be used for marketing purposes.

Article 9 Time Schedule

February 18th, 2025	Designation of project coordinators at institutions of higher education.
March 18th, 2025	The coordinators inform the French Embassy of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- the names and contact information of applicants entered for their institution of research and/or higher education. The names and contacts of the representative of their institution that will sit in the evaluation committee—either them or someone else.
April 8th, 2025	Deadline for sending the complete documentation of applications at the following address: latifa.hamani@ifp.cz .
May or June 2025	Oral presentations by candidates before the selection committee.
June 26th, 2025	Awarding ceremony.
At the latest by December 31st, 2026	Internship of awarded students in France.



Annex: Application Package

The application package must be sent by the candidate himself.

It includes:

- An academic curriculum vitae, including a list of publications in English. **For publications in a peer-reviewed academic journal recognized by such databases as Web of Science or Scopus, please indicate their ranking**
- A written 5 page-long (max.), illustrations included, presentation of the applicant's research activities and applicability prospects in English (the references can be indicated on additional pages). Word format is recommended.
- A max. half-page long summary of the above-mentioned presentation with basic information in Czech and in English
- A signed letter of recommendation with letterhead of the institution written by the applicant's scientific supervisor, presenting both the student and his research work

All documents should be put in PDF format and sent altogether in the same email and in the same zip file to latifa.hamani@ifp.cz.

Candidates to the Jean-Marie Lehn Prize need to sign up [here](#) to complete their application.

Applications that will not respect these indications will not be accepted.