

Section 35

The following criteria are open, non-exclusive, non-hierarchical and not strictly cumulative.

The criteria indicated here are not a binding rubric; their presentation is not hierarchical; their list does not claim to be exhaustive; flexibility is allowed in their application. The application of the criteria varies depending on the research profiles. Each application will be assessed on its own merits.

As a general rule, the reports will have to show a scientific trajectory, so as to help the evaluators in the examination of the applications. The clarity, readability and precision of the applications are all factors that favourably contribute to the evaluation.

Periodic evaluation of researchers

Criteria common to all researchers

Researchers must maintain a curriculum vitae and a bibliography that clearly makes the distinction between different types of publications (articles in scientific periodicals, book chapters, publications for the general public, reviews, etc.). They will avoid exaggerating the importance of minor contributions. They will also avoid mentioning too many forthcoming or in-preparation publications.

They will present the development of their research since the previous report and will update their publications' list.

They may join to their report their most significant recent publications, published since the last assessment (maximum three, in electronic format as far as possible).

Other criteria are:

- Regularity, originality and quality of scientific production.
- Animation of the scientific life of the discipline (editorial activities, conference presentations, etc.).
- Participation in national, European or international programs.
- Responsibilities in research training, whether at the CNRS, the University, the Ministry of Culture or any other organisation.
- Activity within the research unit: participation in programs, involvement in the collective life, organization and management of research.
- Integration of individual research in the research unit programs.
- Training in research, teaching, supervision of young researchers, tutoring.
- Management and responsibility in research structures (GDR) and research grants (ANR, etc.)
- Institutional and thematic mobility (inside and outside the CNRS).
- Institutional cooperation with other countries, international outreach (conferences; publications translated into foreign languages; cooperative actions).
- Collective responsibilities for the scientific community (membership of editorial boards, database design, software design, etc.).
- Dissemination and promotion of research: institutional and scientific presentations, exhibitions, audio-visual productions, conferences for the general public, consulting, press communication, etc.

Evaluation of research directors [DR]

Enhanced criteria, particularly responsibilities within research unit.

Researcher recruitment and career

Applicants for recruitment or promotion may join their PhD report, if any, to their application and, if applicable, HDR [Habilitation à diriger des recherches] report (or equivalent), as well as a copy of the PhD thesis or unpublished HDR.

In addition to the criteria below, access the [practical assistance guide](#) set out by Section 35.

Specific criteria according to grades

CRCN competitive examination

- Scientific quality and maturity of the research project, innovative nature within the discipline and in relation to previous research conducted by the applicant (questions, methods, etc.).
- Scientific production: PhD Thesis or equivalent; articles and books; contributions to conferences, seminars, study days.
- Research itinerary: curriculum (education, research grants obtained, professional experience,

teaching responsibilities, etc.), fields of experience, adaptability into a research unit.

- International web of contacts, field-trips and invitations.
- Quality of the presentation at the interview.
- In the case of a tagged [flèche] or themed [coloriage] position, the suitability of the profile to the position will be assessed.

NB: it belongs to the jury to assess each application as regards to the experience in scientific research.

Promotion to the CRHC Grade

Enhanced criteria compared to the criteria applicable for CRCN grade (cf. *supra*), in particular:

- Scientific production and outreach in the research community (review committees, organisation of research initiatives).
- Involvement in the collective life of the research unit.
- Interdisciplinary and international outreach.

DR competitive examination and promotion

Candidates will join to their application their two most recent books and up to three additional significant publications.

DR2 competitive examination

Enhanced criteria compared to the criteria for CRHC grade:

- Publications of fundamental works or articles.
- Responsibility within the research unit, management aptitude, coordination of research.
- Involvement in the national and/or international scientific community.
- International outreach.
- Risk-taking in research, thematic or functional mobility during the career.

Promotion to the DR1 grade

- Enhanced criteria, particularly concerning responsibilities in the research unit.

Promotion to the DRCE grade

- Enhanced criteria, particularly concerning responsibilities in the research unit.

Other criteria

Conferences [écoles thématiques]

- Quality of the application: organising committee, dates, venue, provisional budget, co-financing, detailed pre-program (list of contributions and schedule), scientific committee (if applicable).
- Relevance of the topic: presentation of objectives, innovative aspects, structuring aspects, integration into international and national research, comparative and multidisciplinary aspects, methodological reflexion.
- Relevance to the research program of the research unit.
- International outreach: foreign panellists, comparative perspectives, etc.
- Dissemination of results: print publications, online publications, scientific reports.

NB: Importance is also given to the gender parity and to the association of young researchers.

Periodicals [Revues]

- Type of review: specialised review, general review, review of research unit, reviews for the general public.
- Scientific quality: importance of the review in the field; strategic, innovative, structuring role; methodological reflexion; outreach outside research unit.
- Quality of governance: editorial board, drafting committee and reading committee,

regularity/periodicity of issues.

- Detail of resources: budget, personnel.
- Formal qualities: pagination, illustration, layout, legibility, sections, abstracts in foreign languages.
- Dissemination strategy: number of print copies, online consultation figures, distribution abroad, indexation in databases.
- Visibility: website, network participation, electronic format (reviews.org, etc.), international outreach

Guidelines for candidates to CNRS competitive examinations in section 35

Details about the requirements for application and the procedure of the scientific competitive examinations are presented in a practical guide accessible at the following address:

<http://www.dgdr.cnrs.fr/drhchercheurs/concoursch/pdf/guide-fr.pdf>

<http://www.dgdr.cnrs.fr/drhchercheurs/concoursch/pdf/guide-en.pdf>

Consult the calendar at the following address:

<http://www.dgdr.cnrs.fr/drhchercheurs/concoursch/informer/calendrier-fr.htm>

The members of section 35 ("Modern and Contemporary Worlds") offer here a few practical guidelines at the attention of candidates to the CRCN and DR2 competitive examinations in order to prepare their applications.

The candidates are invited to carefully read the criteria set out by section 35 for the recruitment of researchers, available at the following address:

<http://www.cnrs.fr/comitenational/evaluation/CritEval.htm>

Communication with section 35

The applicants may not, under any circumstances, request the assistance of members of the section 35 in the preparation of their application. No communication can take place between the members of the jury and the candidates. There will therefore be no reply to queries related to the competitive examinations. Queries must be addressed exclusively to the Central Competitive Examinations Service [Service central des concours] at the following address: concours@cnrs.fr

"Themes" and "tagging" of positions

The "theming" [coloriage] of a position indicates a priority of recruitment in the specified topic but not the obligation for the jury to recruit in the specified topic, unlike the "tagging" [fléchage] of a position. Applications can thus be successful even if they do not correspond to a specified topic of the "theming".

Report on the research program [rapport sur le programme de recherche]

The report on the research program is an essential part of the application package, to which the candidates are invited to give the utmost attention. It must enable the jury to clearly identify and assess the research questions addressed and the approach adopted by the candidate. The report must also specify the methodological approach and include a bibliography. The report must be sufficiently substantial (20 to 25,000 characters at least) with a reasonable length of approximately 80,000 characters (bibliography not included). The scientific calibration of the project nevertheless remains essential: an application for a research position at the CNRS is obviously not the same as that for a post-doctoral program. This must be reflected in the ambition of the research program and the scientific challenges it addresses.

Report on the research made [rapport sur les travaux effectués]

The report on the research made presents the candidate's curriculum, focusing on earlier scientific activities. This is not meant to be an expanded CV (such a CV is also to be provided), but a written text that must allow the jury to assess the experience of the candidate in the field of research. The applicant will also mention responsibilities in university teaching. The report on the research made must not repeat information available in other documents of the application package. Specifically, it will provide additional insights into the scientific activities and contributions of the candidate.

Depending on the career advancement of the candidate, the length of this report can vary between 20,000 and 40,000 characters (bibliography not included).

List of publications

Candidates are advised to carefully distinguish between different types of publications (articles in scientific periodicals, book chapters, publications for the general public, reviews, etc.).

Supporting documents for forthcoming publications

To ensure a fair assessment of the scientific production of the candidates, it is recommended that they provide, for their forthcoming publications a certificate from the publisher and/or the text draft. Candidates are advised not to draw into the confusion between forthcoming publications (i.e. accepted for publication) and publications submitted for publication (i.e. in the process of evaluation).

PhD report

Candidates who have obtained their PhD in a French university are advised to join a copy of their PhD report to their

application. Applicants who have graduated from a foreign university are also invited to provide their PhD report (or equivalent), if such a document exists.

Indication of one or more CNRS research units

Applicants are invited to indicate one or more CNRS research units (i.e., usually a UMR), related to the scientific scope of the section 35, in which they would conduct their research program.

In the event of recruitment, it is recalled that it is not the section 35 but the scientific direction of the CNRS which makes the decision concerning the research unit of the CNRS researchers. The section advises to indicate, as far as possible, at least two research units. These indications do not need to be prioritized. The candidate's research program must be related to one or more research topics of the research unit.

Candidates may contact the directors of research units for the preparation of their application. This will ensure that their research program meets the research priorities of the research unit.

Support letters of scientific personalities

The support letters by scientific personalities that the candidates may join to their applications must relate to the proposed research program and must be sent to the following address: `cch[AT]cnrs.fr`, in **PDF format** and named after **the competitive examination concerned** as well as after **the name of the candidate** (Example: 01- 01_Name.Surname).

Application documents

The jury strongly encourages candidates to deposit all documents of their application in electronic format on the CNRS competitive examination site, rather than in paper format.

Steps of the competitive examinations

The candidates' applications are first examined during a pre-selection step that takes place in February. At this stage the list of the candidates who will be interviewed by the jury is drawn up. At this stage, the competition jury is particularly attentive to the suitability of the project within the scientific scope of the section 35 and to the insertion of the candidate in the research field covered by the section. During the second step of the competitive examinations, the applicants are interviewed by the jury, which might be divided in sub-sections. The date, time, and place of the interview will be communicated to the candidates when they receive their invitation. The candidates will present in fifteen minutes their career and their research program. This presentation will be followed by a discussion with the members of the jury for ten minutes.

At the end of the interview phase, the admissibility panel meets to compile the list of eligible candidates, ranked in order of merit. The results can be consulted on the CNRS website.

In June, the admission panel will draw up the final list of the candidates recruited as CNRS researchers.

Specifics for the DR2 competitive examination

The remarks pertaining to the CRCN competitive examination apply also to the DR2 competitive examination.

However, there are several specific features:

- The evaluation bears on the career of the candidate as much as on the research program.
- The DR2 competitive examination does not include any pre-selection phase.
- The section 35 does not interview the DR2 candidates; the ranking is determined solely on the basis of the written applications.
- Applicants (CNRS researchers) to the DR2 competitive examination who are affiliated to a section other than section 35 are invited to explain precisely the reasons that would substantiate their affiliation to section 35.