

Evaluation of applications EDSP2 competition Doctoral contracts

After the jury's deliberations, the candidates auditioned will be ranked on the basis of four graded criteria (C, B, A, A+):

- the candidate's previous experience ;
- the project on the basis of the written document ;
- the context, feasibility and potential benefits of the project ;
- the candidate's oral performance.

The A rating corresponds to what is expected of a good candidate. It is therefore to be used by default, unless one or more tangible elements justify an upward or downward adjustment. Thus, the A+ rating is reserved for applications offering a real "plus".

A B grade indicates a weakness (e.g., an average master's grade, an oral performance below expectations, a project with some methodological limitations).

A C grade indicates a shortcoming in the dossier, or an inadequate oral presentation (not only in terms of form, but also in terms of content (candidate not mastering his/her subject)), or a project not suitable for a thesis subject, or even registration for a thesis.

For the first three criteria, an oral discussion with the candidate may clarify certain ambiguities or provide information not explicitly included in the written file (summary sheet), thus enabling the initial rating to be readjusted.

At the end of the evaluation, each entry will be given 4 ratings, which will serve as the basis for the ranking discussion.

Candidate's background: C, B, A or A+

We take into account the nature of the diploma justifying thesis enrolment, its relevance to the research project, the grade or ranking obtained if known, and any "pluses" or "minuses" in the previous career path if mentioned in the application or explained during the oral presentation (prize obtained, stay abroad in connection with the work envisaged, additional training relevant to the project, student from a high-level external university, etc.).

Quality of written project (summary sheet): C, B, A or A+ (summary sheet)

The aim here is to assess the project, without taking into account the candidate's previous career, or the context of supervision or collaboration.

Summary sheets of the projects submitted by the candidates are sent to the members of the Jury. prior to the auditions. Complete files (paper version) are made available to the jury on the days of the auditions.

An A grade is awarded if all of the following points are satisfactorily completed:

- *Introduction* (identification of problem, interest and originality of objectives of the work, issues at stake, question(s) posed);
- *Research framework* (state of the art, presentation of research object and concepts used, presentation of objectives and hypotheses);

- *Methodological presentation and work techniques* (methods chosen, protocol, survey and analysis techniques, detailed presentation of the project, etc.)(field(s) and/or study population(s) ;
- *Expected results* ;
- *Provisional timetable*.

An A+ rating indicates a real "plus" in the dossier (particularly strategic and/or original subject, particularly innovative methodology, project or subject falling within the ED's stated priorities, particularly in terms of transversality, etc.).

A B or C grade indicates a real shortcoming that has not been corrected during the oral presentation: methodological weakness, lack of originality, research level closer to a Master's 2 than a university thesis, etc.).

Context, feasibility and potential benefits of the project: C, B, A or A+

The following are evaluated here:

- how the project fits into the local, national and international and international scientific environment (a "plus" being, for example, a project carried out within the of an ANR call for tenders or in cotutelle with a good or high-level university, insertion in a prioritized research program, etc.);
- the potential political, public health and societal impact of the project's results;
- the feasibility of the project: suitability of the subject for its educational and material environment, integration into a research environment, access tools needed to carry out the project, material feasibility (e.g. access to necessary data, funding for field trips).

As a thesis grant (doctoral contract) is awarded for a period of 3 years, particular attention will be paid to the timetable for the completion and defense of the thesis, and to the material conditions provided for in the event of an additional year. The "*context of supervision and feasibility*" criterion must be examined and graded according to disciplinary field: supervision practices, integration into a research team and fieldwork often differ greatly.

Candidate's oral performance: C, B, A or A+

The score for the oral presentation must be **based on the** candidate's mastery of the subject and project, and not just on his or her oral fluency.

On the other hand, the oral presentation is the only opportunity for the Jury to clarify certain additional points concerning the project, the career path or supervision. What needs to be assessed is the candidate's ability to present his/her project clearly, highlighting its strengths, originality and interest.

The A+ rating is reserved for outstanding performance, exceptional mastery of both presentation and response.

B or C grades are awarded for proven weaknesses, in particular :

- a presentation consisting of a simple reading of the written version of the project;
- a theoretical presentation contenting itself with developing the state of the art, without addressing the tangible aspects of the project itself (objectives, methods, fieldwork, etc.). study population(s), etc).

The use of a projected support does not influence the grading; it is the clarity of the presentation and its appropriateness to the expected outcome that prevail.