

Recommendations for Candidates Applying to the CRCN Competitions

The official procedure detailing how to submit an application [is provided here](#). Please ensure that you have attached all the required documents and that they are correctly listed on the acknowledgement of receipt issued after your application has been submitted.

General principle: The evaluation of candidates for the CNRS CRCN competitions is based on (1) the relevance of your application to the [section's thematic areas](#), (2) the quality of your previous work, (3) the demonstration of your scientific independence, and (4) your research project. Visibility, involvement in technology transfer and/or outreach activities, supervision, and teaching are also taken into account.

In order to improve the evaluation process, we provide below recommendations on **the expected format for preparing the four mandatory components of the application, as well as guidance on completing the online application form**. You are therefore strongly encouraged to follow these recommendations.

A. Mandatory Document #1: “Report on Previous Work”

This document should allow for the evaluation of the quality and originality of your previous work, based on a presentation of **5 to 10 pages** (excluding bibliographic references – minimum font size 11). It is important to respect these length constraints while ensuring the overall readability of the document: clear and well-spaced text, use of figures. You are expected to clearly identify work conducted **before your PhD (if relevant), work carried out during your PhD, and work completed after your PhD**.

Your **scientific independence** is another very important criterion. It is therefore your responsibility to highlight factual elements that demonstrate your role and level of involvement in the work presented (evaluated in relation to your years of professional experience since the start of your PhD).

Your contributions to the collective dynamics of the units or communities in which you have been involved, as well as engagement in supervision, editorial activities, teaching, outreach, and technology transfer, should also be explained so that they can be taken into account.

B. Mandatory Document #2: “Research Program Proposal for the Competition”

This document should present your **5–10 year research project** in **10–15 pages** (excluding bibliographic references – minimum font size 11).

The document should be divided into two parts:

1. **The first part** is a “summary” of your project, written in **2 pages**. It should allow the reader to understand the **relevance and originality** of your project.
2. **The second part**, consisting of **8–13 pages**, should present your research project in detail. Make sure to explain the **aims, working hypotheses, methods to test your predictions, feasibility of the project**, and its **integration (relevance and added value)** with respect to the unit/team you wish to join. You may also refer to the “summary” section in this detailed part if needed.

C. Mandatory Document #3 « Curriculum vitæ »

We request an extended CV covering all of the following points. The section will evaluate these points in relation to your career stage.

1. **The “full CV”** (include the start date of your PhD, the date of your thesis defense, the number of postdoctoral positions completed with their duration, the names of your supervisors, and the laboratories). Feel free to indicate if you have children (specifying their number and year of birth).
2. **One-page summary of previous work**, distinguishing between PhD and postdoctoral periods. Summarize your work highlighting its originality, scientific significance, contribution to the collective dynamics of the unit, and international visibility. Also mention any changes in scientific theme.
3. **Select 5 to 10 major scientific outputs** (publications, patents, codes, fieldwork, outreach, etc.). For each output, provide a brief explanation (maximum 5 lines per item) of its impact, originality, and your personal involvement.
4. **Write a paragraph justifying your “publication strategy”**, including your stance on open science, your criteria for selecting journals, and your role in publications, including those where you were not the principal author.
5. **Complete the following table** to record the count of your scientific publications in peer-reviewed journals:

	Total			2021-2025		
Journal Name	Total Nb of Articles	Nb of Articles as 1 st or co-1 st author	Nb of articles as last or co-last author	Total Nb of Articles	Nb of Articles as 1 st or co-1 st author	Nb of articles as last or co-last author
JI Name 1						
JI Name 2						
...						
JI Name n						
Total						

The table must be completed with the utmost care. **The order and declared contribution must strictly match the published version.**

Please note that a comprehensive list of your scientific outputs is also required in the mandatory document “Complete List of Publications” (see Section D below). **Ensure consistency between the table and the complete list of publications in Section D.**

6. **Present elements illustrating your scientific independence**, such as leading projects, supervising students (specifying their names), organizing scientific activities, demonstrating scientific expertise, editorial work, initiatives in support of open science, and organizing missions... (maximum 1 page).
7. **Present in a concise and structured manner elements illustrating your involvement in teaching, training, and science communication** (e.g., participation in open days, writing articles or popular science books, engaging with non-specialist audiences, appearances in print or audiovisual media), as well as your involvement in **technology transfer and valorization** (expertise for the socio-economic sector [NGOs, local authorities, government services, private sector, patent filings...]). Indicate the time allocated to these different activities (e.g., number of teaching hours per year).
8. **Present elements related to your involvement in the collective**, such as administrative responsibilities, journal clubs, and participation in various committees.
9. **Present elements illustrating your visibility**, such as the number of invited talks at national and international conferences, awards received, and participation as a jury member.

D. Mandatory Document #4: “Complete List of Publications”

In addition, but independently from Part 5 of the Curriculum Vitae (see Section C above), this document must correspond to the complete list of your scientific outputs.

This list should be structured according to the following main categories: **(i) peer-reviewed journal articles, (ii) articles or reports published without peer review, (iii) invited talks, (iv) conferences.**

Within each category, items should be numbered and ordered from most recent to oldest.

Provide the full reference with all authors and include a **working** internet link.

Be sure to correctly indicate **co-lead contributions** (co-first and co-last authors). The list, order, and contribution (e.g., equal contribution) must strictly match the published version.

Please identify (e.g., using color) your **PhD supervisors** in published articles. Please also identify (e.g., using color) the names of **students you have supervised** (their names will also appear in Part 6 of Section C above).

E. Online application form

The section asks you to complete the fields of this form with the utmost rigor. In particular, the table “*Professional activities during and after PhD-thesis work*” must include all activities since the first day of your PhD. The table “*Career break(s)*” is also essential so that these interruptions can be taken into account in the evaluation of your application.

Regarding the choice of host laboratory/laboratories:

Section 31 ensures the **diversity of its community and the topics it represents**. The laboratories you propose in your application are **not a major evaluation criterion**; this information is primarily used to assess the **feasibility of the project**.

The assignment of the candidate to the units prioritized in their application is **exclusively the responsibility of the institute in charge of Section 31**, and not of the section itself. Since the institute in charge of Section 31 is “**CNRS Ecology & Environment**”, the section therefore recommends that **at least one of the units proposed by the candidate be a laboratory for which “CNRS EE” is a principal institute** (list available at <https://annuaire.cnrs.fr/>).

This recommendation applies to Section 31 competitions that **do not specify an institute**. However, if the competition requires attachment to the “**CNRS Biology**” institute, it is **mandatory** to list one or more laboratories affiliated with “**CNRS Biology**”, and not with “**CNRS Ecology & Environment**”, in your application.