

## 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: “Research Program Proposal for the Competition”

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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, originality and feasibility** of your project, without reading the detailed 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.

### B. Mandatory Document #2: “Report on Previous Work”

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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**. Also mention any potential changes in the scientific theme.

### C. Mandatory Document #3 « List of 7 scientific productions supporting your application »

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This document should present the list of the 7 scientific outputs (publications, patents, codes, fieldwork, outreach, etc.), that you consider to be the most representative of your career.

Each output should follow the format:

- **Title or reference** of the output.
- **A five-line description** highlighting why the output is a major contribution (scientific contribution, impact, originality, relevance, etc.) and describing your personal involvement.
- **Where applicable:** the **DOI link** and **links to deposits in open-access repositories** (e.g., articles, datasets, methods).

## D. Mandatory Document #4 « Curriculum vitæ »

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

1. **A short CV (2 pages max):** 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. You may also include the information requested below (items 4 to 8), but presented in list form. Feel free to indicate if you have children (specifying their number and year of birth).
2. **Publication synthesis:** Complete the following table to record your scientific publications in peer-reviewed journals:

|              | All publications     |                                                                |                                          | Paper without PhD supervisors |                                                                |                                          |
|--------------|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Journal Name | Total Nb of Articles | Nb of Articles as 1 <sup>st</sup> or co-1 <sup>st</sup> author | Nb of articles as last or co-last author | Total Nb of Articles          | Nb of Articles as 1 <sup>st</sup> or co-1 <sup>st</sup> author | Nb of articles as last or co-last author |
| Jl Name 1    |                      |                                                                |                                          |                               |                                                                |                                          |
| Jl Name 2    |                      |                                                                |                                          |                               |                                                                |                                          |
| ...          |                      |                                                                |                                          |                               |                                                                |                                          |
| Jl Name n    |                      |                                                                |                                          |                               |                                                                |                                          |
| Total        |                      |                                                                |                                          |                               |                                                                |                                          |

The table must be completed with the utmost care. **The order and declared contribution must strictly match the published version. Ensure consistency between the table and the complete list of publications in point 9.**

3. **Present elements illustrating your scientific independence**, such as leading projects, supervising students (specifying their names). It is your responsibility to highlight factual evidence that demonstrates your role and level of involvement, assessed in light of your professional experience since the start of your PhD.
4. **Present elements illustrating your visibility**, such as invited talks at national and international conferences, presentations in lab seminars, awards received, and participation as a jury member.
5. **Present, if relevant, elements related to your involvement in the collective**, such as administrative responsibilities, journal clubs, and participation in various committees. Your contribution to the collective activities of the research units or scientific communities in which you have worked, as well as your involvement in editorial activities, should also be described so that they can be taken into account.
6. Present in a concise and structured manner elements illustrating your **involvement in teaching**. Indicate the number of teaching hours/year.
7. Present, if relevant, in a concise and structured manner elements illustrating your involvement in **science communication**. This can include the participation in science outreach events (conferences, open days, writing articles or popular science books), engaging with non-specialist audiences, appearances in print or audiovisual media. Indicate the time dedicated to these activities.
8. Present, if relevant, in a concise and structured manner elements illustrating 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.
9. **Complete list of publications:** In addition to point 2, provide 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.**

Please clearly separate outputs related to work conducted before the PhD (where applicable), during the PhD, and after the PhD. Within each category, items should be numbered and listed in reverse chronological order (most recent to oldest). Provide the full reference for each publication, including all authors, and include a working DOI link. Be sure to indicate shared authorship (e.g., co-first authors and co-senior/co-last authors), exactly as stated in the publication. The author list, order, and contribution statements (e.g., *equal contribution*) must be strictly identical to those in the published article. Please identify your PhD supervisor(s) in the author list (for example, by using color). Also identify the names of the students you have supervised (their names should also appear in Section 3 above), again using color or another clear visual distinction.

Please note that the committee pays particular attention to open science practices and publication ethics. If you consider it relevant, you may include a paragraph explaining your publication strategy, for example by outlining the criteria you use when selecting journals for publication.

### E. Online application form

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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.