

Getting an academic researcher position in France

Institutions, steps, links, etc

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*In the following I focus on the Astroparticle/Particle Physics domain
but the material I give should be valid for other topics.*

What is the process ?

Various institutions can hire you : CEA, CNRS, Universities, CNAP

Usually it works as follows :

1. Spot the position you are interested in
2. Write a very complete application form
3. Get to the audition to give a talk and answer questions

In addition :

- You should contact and discuss with the team where the position is susceptible to go to...
- You should ask for reference letters in advance (do not do that at the last minute)

CEA/Irfu

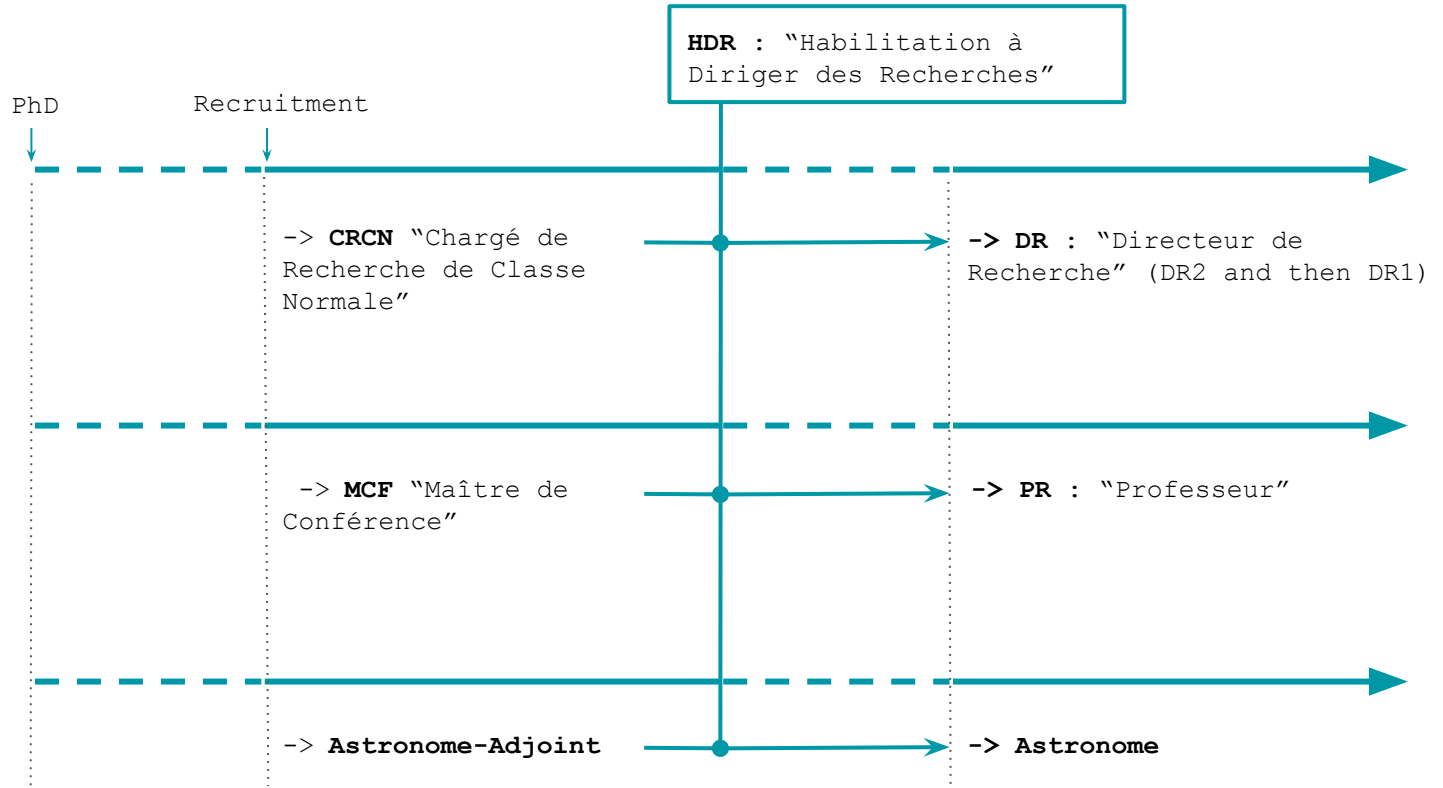
The Institut de Recherche sur les Lois Fondamentales de l'Univers (Irfu) at CEA offer some positions every year (usually announced in **December/January**)... you should monitor the IRFU webpage :

- <http://irfu.cea.fr/dphp/postes-a-pourvoir/index.php>
 - last update of the page : 2021...

Career paths / jargon



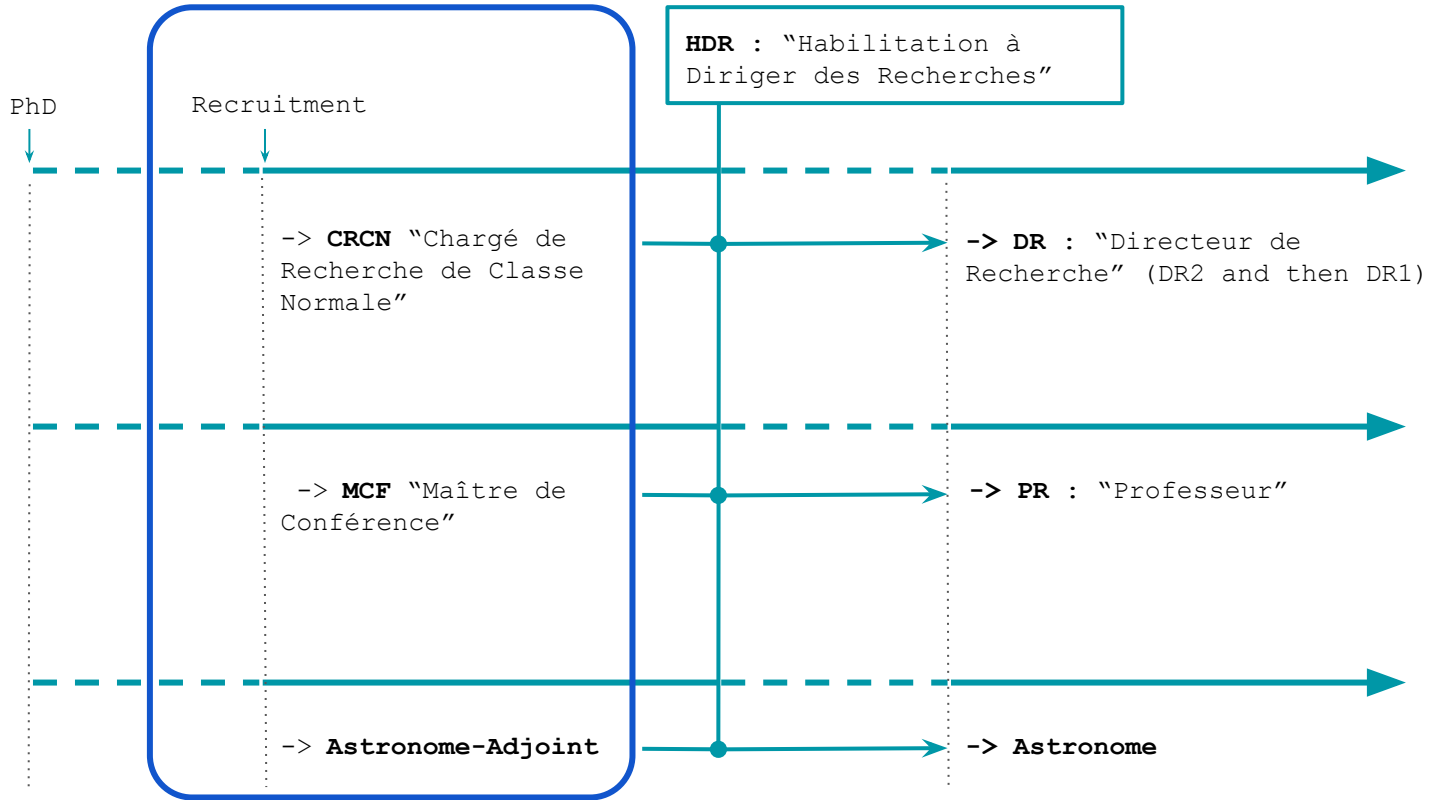
Universities



Career paths / jargon



Universities



CNRS (1/3)

- The CNRS is divided in topical **Sections** (list [here](#)), you should find out which is the one of interest for you.
 - Do not hesitate to apply to several sections if applicable: for instance, astroparticle physicists could apply in section 01 (particle physics), 17 (astro/cosmo)
 - A section is linked to the various “Institutes” of the CNRS
 - 01 -> IN2P3 (*Institut National de Physique Nucléaire et de Physique des Particules*)
 - 17 -> INSU (*Institut National des Sciences de l’Univers*)
- There are also some “commissions interdisciplinaires” (CIDs, list [here](#)), for instance CID 55 « sciences et données »
 - Look for positions there as well !

CNRS (2/3)

The CNRS sections have their own websites, where you can find a lot of useful informations. It is also important to have a look there as there might be more detailed instructions as how to fill the application material :

- Section 01 : <https://section01.in2p3.fr>
 - The methodology and selection criteria of Section 01 can be found on this page for the 2024 competition : <https://section01.in2p3.fr/2024/01/10/informations-concours-2024/>
- Section 17 : <https://section17.obspm.fr/>
 - Indications for the application material : https://section17.obspm.fr/?page_id=106

CNRS (3/3)

- The positions are announced **early January** here :
 - <https://carrieres.cnrs.fr/concours-externes-des-chercheurs-h-f/>
 - Be aware that there may be positions without specific topics
 - In 2023 there were 2 “blank” positions, not particularly advertised (it was written something like “8 positions available” and only 6 were listed below with a specific topic)
- The application forms are usually to be posted on the site **early February**

Section 17, 2025 :

Calendrier prévisionnel des concours 2025 :

- **début janvier** : Date limite de soumission des candidatures
- **16 janvier 2025** : Instance d'équivalence et bureau de jury
- **24 au 28 février 2025** : Jury d'admissibilité sur dossier (JAD) CRCN et DR2
- **31 mars au 4 avril 2025** : Auditions CRCN
- **7 et 8 avril 2025** : Jury d'admissibilité CRCN
- **9 et 10 avril 2025** : Auditions DR2
- **11 avril 2025** : Jury d'admissibilité DR2

Universities (1/3)

WARNING : To apply to university positions, you should have the “Qualification aux fonctions de maître de conférence”, more usually called “Qualification”

- FAQ on qualification / recruitment :
 - https://www.galaxie.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/ensup/cand_FAQ_GALAXIE.htm
- Qualification is valid **4 years**
- If you have the qualification from one section, you can apply to a position in another one
- Not needed to have made a full service of teaching during 3 years
 - *“La section demande aux candidats titulaires d’un doctorat, ou équivalent, d’avoir déjà exercé des activités d’enseignement à l’université, en France ou à l’étranger. Comme indiqué dans les conseils généraux aux candidats, il est vivement conseillé de fournir des attestations par un responsable précisant les périodes et volumes des enseignements indiqués. L’absence totale d’enseignement universitaire ne peut qu’être évaluée au cas par cas.”*

Universities (1/3)

WARNING : To apply to university positions, you should have the “Qualification aux fonctions de maître de conférence”, more usually called “Qualification”

Like CNRS, universities have an instance called “Conseil National des Universités” usually called CNU which is divided in sections by topic. You should obtain the Qualification for the section you aim (but once you have it, you can apply for positions in other sections)

For the info on the Qualification, follow this link :

- [GALAXIE des personnels du supérieur/Qualification de droit commun](#)
- Planning : usually the Qualification process **starts in September/October**

Universities (1/3)

WARNING : To apply to university positions, you should have the “Qualification aux fonctions de maître de conférence”, more usually called “Qualification”

Pour tous les candidats, **la date d’ouverture** pour déposer leur dossier de candidature dans l’application ODYSSEE (accessible depuis le portail Galaxie) est fixée au **15 octobre 2024**.

La date limite pour finaliser le dépôt de dossier de candidature comprenant les pièces obligatoires et complémentaires varie quant à elle selon la date de soutenance de la thèse du candidat :

- ▶ Pour les soutenances tenues jusqu’au 22 novembre 2024 inclus : la date limite pour finaliser le dossier de candidature est le **6 décembre 2024** ;
- ▶ Pour les soutenances tenues du 23 novembre 2024 au 10 janvier 2025 : la date limite pour finaliser le dossier de candidature est le **17 janvier 2025**.

Le portail Galaxie sera ainsi mis à jour afin d’informer les candidats sur les démarches à effectuer et les pièces obligatoires et complémentaires à fournir dans le cadre de leur demande de qualification 2025.

Universities (2/3)

For the info on recruitments at universities, follow this link :

- https://www.galaxie.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/ensup/cand_recruitment_enseignants_chercheurs.htm

The list of available positions can be found here :

- https://www.galaxie.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/ensup/cand_postes_GALAXIE.htm
- Note that some positions may open at random times during the year but usually there is a common procedure for all universities which **starts in February**

Universities (3/3)

For more details on the CNU, have a look there :

- <https://www.conseil-national-des-universites.fr/cnu/#/>

This website hosts the pages of each CNU section, where a lot of information is posted. For each CNU section, various infos or links can be found in their own subpage.

- Sections of interest (links point to the dedicated subpages) : [29 \(“Constituants élémentaires”\)](#), [34 \(“Astronomie, astrophysique”\)](#)
 - It may seem hidden -> Visit the bottom of the page

CNAP (1/2)

Well known by astrophysicists, the CNAP could be suitable for astroparticle physicists or cosmologists. The CNAP offers “Astronomes Adjoints” positions. Usually, the **schedule is similar to that of the CNRS**.

These positions have a research part and, in addition, a service task and teaching duties.

- It is important there to contact the research team + the teaching team

The useful links are :

- <http://www.cnap.obspm.fr>
- https://www.galaxie.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/ensup/cand_CANOP_US.htm

CNAP (2/2)

Experiments in which the service task would be done need to be “certified”. Only some experiments are certified - they are called “Service Nationaux d’Observation” (SNO).

SNOs are grouped by topics, the so-called “Actions Nationales d’Observations” (ANO). Each year, the positions to be filled are directed towards a selection of those ANOs.

- List of SNOs and their corresponding ANOs can be found in the following database : <https://insu.obspm.fr>

In 2024 :

Coloriages INSU sur les services d’observation (concours astronome adjoint)

ANO 1 : services VLBI dans le cadre de l’IVS (International VLBI Service for Geodesy and Astrometry) et/ou de l’ICRS-PC (International Celestial Reference System Product Center)

ANO 2, 3, 5 : engagements nationaux stratégiques pour l’instrumentation des observatoires sol et spatiaux

ANO 4, 5, 6 : engagements nationaux stratégiques pour les grands relevés et centres de données

A few other things

Stats, advices on how to write the application, etc

- Slides shown at the last annual meeting of the Société Française d'Astronomie & Astrophysique
 - CNRS (section 17) : https://journées.sf2a.eu/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Motte_S00.pdf
 - CNU (section 34) :
https://journées.sf2a.eu/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Blanchard_S00.pdf
 - CNAP : https://journées.sf2a.eu/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Lebre_S00.pdf
- CNRS - Section 01 : report for the 2016-2021 period
 - https://section01.in2p3.fr/archives/2016_2021/pdf/BilanMandature2016-2021.pdf

Post-docs

Post-doc positions are centralized on some useful websites :

- INSPIRE-HEP : <https://inspirehep.net/jobs>
- AAS (more astro, US): <https://jobregister.aas.org>
- Neutrino Jobs : <https://www.hep.anl.gov/ndk/jobs/jobs.htm#fnal16d>
- AstroBetter “rumor mill” : <https://www.astrobetter.com/wiki/Rumor+Mill>
- Do not hesitate to look for postdocs outside your original field !

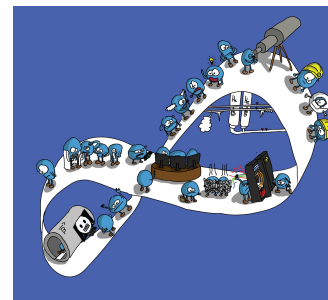
An alternative : A.T.E.R. positions :

https://www.galaxie.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/ensup/cand_recrutement_ATER.htm

- Research + teaching duties at university

Networking

- “Les irfusiens”
 - Network of people who (have) work(ed) at Irfu, on linked'in
 - https://irfu.cea.fr/en/Phocea/Vie_des_labos/Ast/ast_technique.php?id_ast=4446
- “D2I2” : Doctorants et Docteurs des Deux Infinis
 - Regular “meet & drink” events (next: 22/09)
 - Workshop ~ once a year
 - <http://d2i2.in2p3.fr>



-> Register to JRJC 2024 !

- Deadline 04/10
- <https://indico.in2p3.fr/event/33415/overview>



Good luck!