

# 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

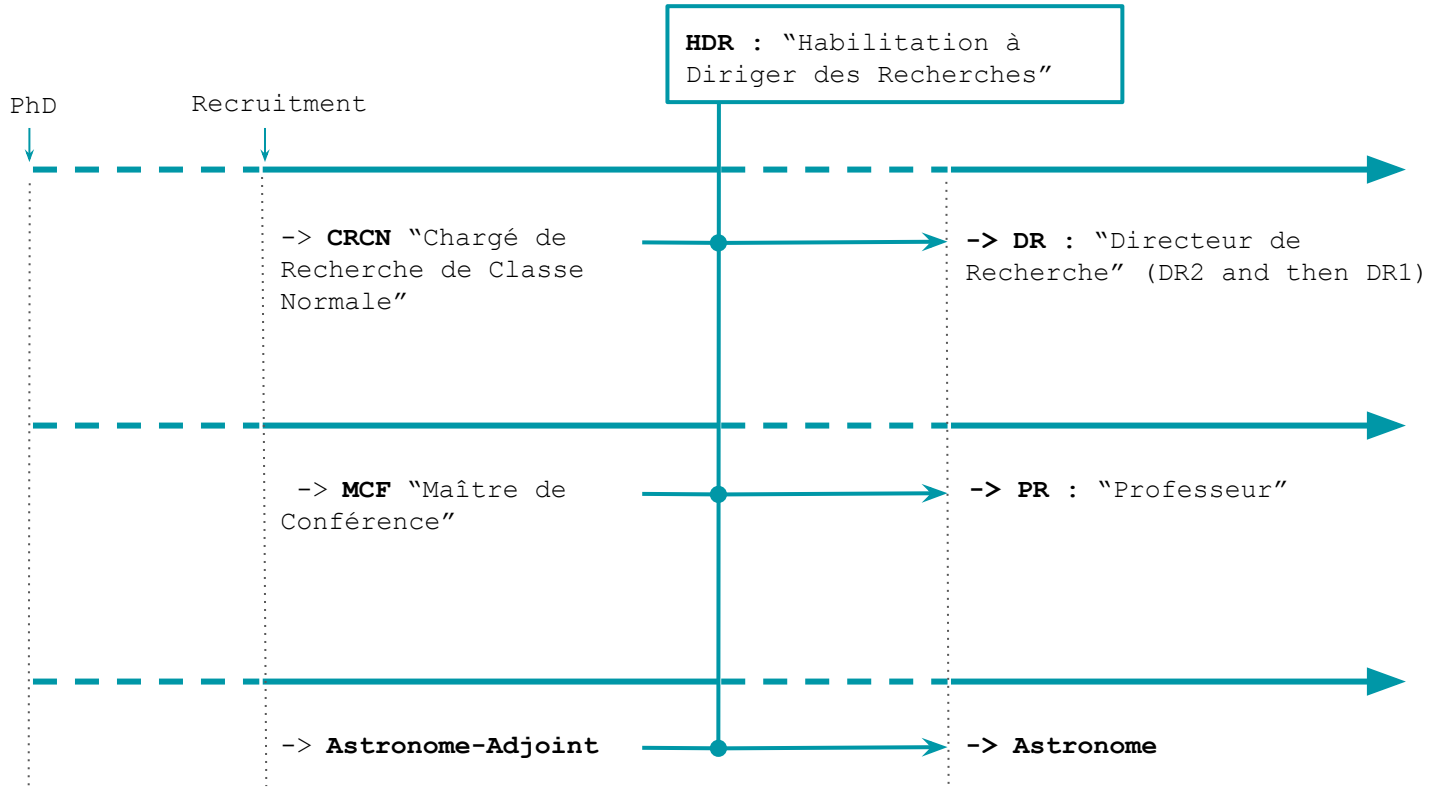
The Institut de Recherche sur les Lois Fondamentales de l'Univers (Irfu) at CEA offer some positions every year (usually announced in **December/January**)... you should monitor the IRFU webpage :

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

# Career paths / jargon



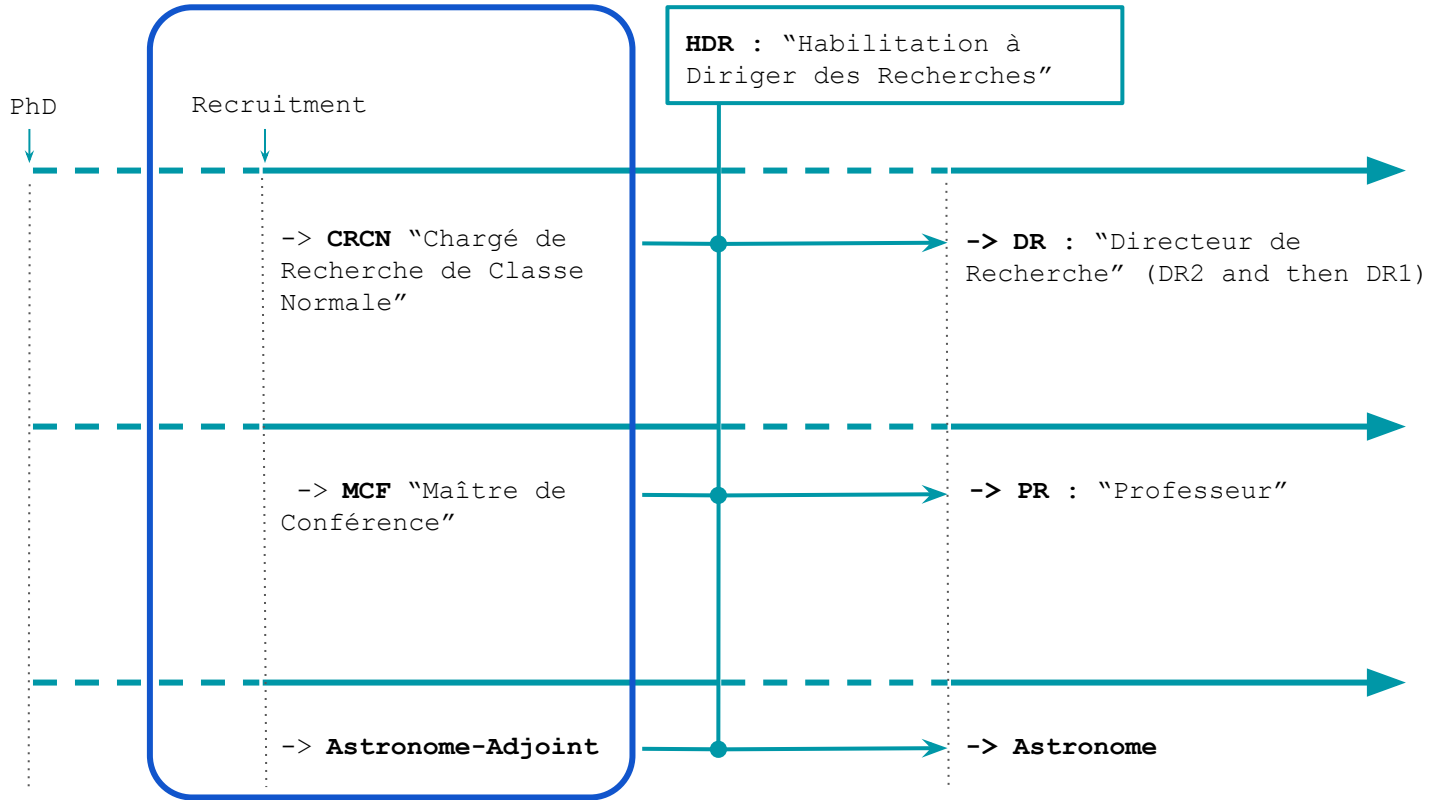
Universities



# 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>
- Section 17 : <https://section17.obspm.fr/>
  - Indications for the application material : [https://section17.obspm.fr/?page\\_id=106](https://section17.obspm.fr/?page_id=106)

# CNRS (3/3)

- The positions are usually announced in **November** here :
  - <http://www.dgdr.cnrs.fr/drhchercheurs/concoursch/default-fr.htm>
  - 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 right **after the christmas holidays**



# 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](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”

## Annexe 1

### CALENDRIER DE LA PROCÉDURE D'INSCRIPTION SUR LES LISTES DE QUALIFICATION 2024 AUX FONCTIONS DE MAITRE DE CONFÉRENCES OU DE PROFESSEUR DES UNIVERSITÉS

OPERATIONS	CALENDRIER	
Ouverture du serveur Antares pour les inscriptions et début du dépôt des pièces du dossier	Jeudi 21 septembre 2023, 10 h (heure de Paris)	
Clôture des inscriptions (date unique)	Vendredi 10 novembre 2023, 16 h (heure de Paris)	
Désignation des rapporteurs (dates prévisionnelles)	Du lundi 27 novembre au mercredi 13 décembre 2023 (selon les sections)	
	Si thèse ou HDR soutenue avant le 24 novembre 2023	Si thèse ou HDR soutenue entre le 24 novembre 2023 inclus et le 12 janvier 2024 inclus
Dates limites de dépôt des pièces dans l'application	Vendredi 15 décembre 2023, 16 h (heure de Paris)	Vendredi 19 janvier 2024, 16 h (heure de Paris)

# 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 :

- [https://www.galaxie.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/ensup/cand\\_qualification\\_droit\\_commun.htm](https://www.galaxie.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/ensup/cand_qualification_droit_commun.htm)
- Planning : usually the Qualification process **starts in September/October**

## 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](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](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](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 2023 :

**Coloriages INSU sur les services d'observations :**

- ANO 2 : radioastronomie basse fréquence pour préparer et développer SKA,
- ANO 2, 3, 5: instrumentation des grands observatoires sol et spatiaux,
- ANO 4, 5, 6: grands relevés et centres de données,

La section Astronomie du CNAP rappelle que ces coloriages ne doivent pas être considérés comme une restriction aux candidatures. Ils représentent des priorités affichées par l'INSU en termes de services d'observations et sont à portée pluriannuelle.

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://journes.sf2a.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Famaey\\_S00.pdf](https://journes.sf2a.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Famaey_S00.pdf)
  - CNU (section 34) : [https://journes.sf2a.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Mei\\_S00.pdf](https://journes.sf2a.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Mei_S00.pdf)
  - CNAP : <https://journes.sf2a.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/CNAP-SF2A2023.pdf>
- CNRS - Section 01 : report for the 2016-2021 period
  - [https://section01.in2p3.fr/archives/2016\\_2021/pdf/BilanMandature2016-2021.pdf](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 !

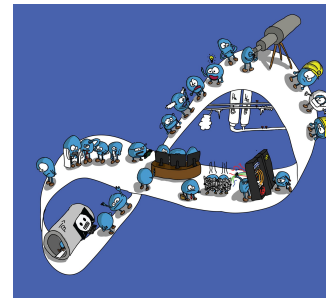
An alternative : A.T.E.R. positions :

[https://www.galaxie.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/ensup/cand\\_recrutement\\_ATER.htm](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](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 2023 !

- Deadline 29/09



**Good luck!**