

Scholarship Program Announcement

For Master's Degree in Information Security and Cryptology (CRYPTIS)

At the University of Limoges, France 2019

I. General Introduction

The Science and Technology Scholarship Program for Master's and Ph.D. overseas studies (hereinafter referred to as Program) is a component of the Science and Technology Resources Development Project for Vietnam funded by VinGroup. The mission of the Program is to find talents and develop them further so that they have the ability to lead and advance the development of science and technology in Vietnam. Key areas which are given high priority include molecular biology, renewable energy, genetics, automation, artificial intelligence, machine learning, and information security...

VinGroup will provide fully-funded scholarships throughout the Master's/Ph.D. degree program to cover tuition fee, stipend, airfare and insurance... for the scholarship recipients.

The Program will award the scholarships to the most talented Vietnamese applicants in the fields of Science and Technology who are living and working either in Vietnam or overseas. Applicants must not be over 30 years of age at the time they start their Master's degree program and must be under 35 for Ph.D. degree. Winners are chosen based on individual merit, including academic performance and preparation, intellectual capability, language proficiency, and the potential and commitment for contribution to scientific education and research in Vietnam.

The scholarship application and selection process is **open, competitive, transparent and free** conducted by a Selection Committee of well-known professors/scientists in the fields.

Each scholarship recipient will have a contact point of the Project to help design a roadmap and provide advice and support throughout the course of study and research. This support scheme ensures that the scholarship recipients can optimize their intellectual capability in an overseas university environment while staying connected with the Vietnamese settings.

In 2019, the Program will award ten (10) full Master's CRYPTIS scholarships including five (05) scholarships for the Master's degree in mathematics, cryptology, coding and applications (MCCA) and five (05) scholarships for the Master's degree in IT Security (SI) to study at the University of Limoges, France.

Announcements on other full scholarships under the Science and Technology Scholarship Program for Master's and Ph.D. overseas studies will be updated on our website at: <https://vinuni.edu.vn/en/index.html> under "STEM Project/Master's/Ph.D. Scholarships".

II. Introduction of the Master's CRYPTIS Program at the University of Limoges

Founded in 1968, the University of Limoges is a public university located in Nouvelle-Aquitaine region in the center of France. According to Campus France, an official office of the French Embassy in Vietnam, whose mission is to promote French education, in 2018, the University had 15,000 students, in which 14% is international students. The University consists of 5 faculties, 4 institutes, 3 schools of engineering, and a graduate school with a total of 350 disciplines, of which the most well-known are Cryptography and Security, Material Science, Medicine, Physics & Electronics. Further information can be found at the University's official website at: <https://www.unilim.fr/>.

Master's CRYPTIS is the first Master's program in France in the field of cryptology and has always been one of the best-rated cryptology training programs over the past 30 years in the country. Master's CRYPTIS provides training in both Mathematics and Information Technology. Both Master's degree in Mathematics, Cryptology,

Coding and Applications (MCCA) and Master's degree in IT Security (SI) offer some common subjects and some specialized subjects in mathematics, cryptology, coding and application with a focus on information security. Both Master's programs receive certification issued by ANSSI – the National Cybersecurity Agency of France. Information about the Master's CRYPTIS program is available at <http://www.cryptis.fr/>.

The scholarship recipients who are accepted to study the Master's CRYPTIS at the University of Limoges will commence their study in **September 2019** and the teaching and learning medium is French.

III. Options to Enroll in the Master's CRYPTIS Program

Applicants who are applying for the Master's CRYPTIS under the Scholarship Program have either of the following three options to enroll in the program:

- **Option 1:** Applicants apply for two-year Master's CRYPTIS Program at the University of Limoges and start enrolling from the first year. The scholarship will cover two years of study at the University of Limoges, France.
- **Option 2:** Applicants who have already completed the first year of study from a recognized Master's degree in cryptology in Vietnam (such as the Master at the Vietnam Institute for Advanced Study in Mathematics -VIASM) or from abroad are eligible to apply to study the one year Master's 2 track at the University of Limoges. The scholarship is granted for one year of study at Limoges. The Master's degree is conferred by University of Limoges.
- **Option 3:** Applicants may also apply to study the first year at a recognized Master's program in cryptology in Vietnam which is approved by the Selection Committee (such as the Master at the Vietnam Institute for Advanced Study in Mathematics -VIASM) and then pursue the second year of study at the University of Limoges. The scholarship is granted for two years of study, in which the scholarship will cover tuition fees and part of the living expenses for the first year of study in Vietnam, for the second year, the scholarship will cover fully for the recipients to study at the University of Limoges, France. The Master's degree is conferred by the University of Limoges.

The Scholarship Selection Committee will evaluate applicants' qualifications and take into consideration applicants' preference to make the recommendations on the most suitable option for the applicant.

IV. Scholarship Coverage

The Master's Cryptis scholarships are **fully funded scholarships** that cover the full expenses to complete the Master's CRYPTIS: MCCA or IS. The total financial value of a scholarship award can be up to EUR 35.600. Each scholarship award will cover the following costs:

1. **Visa to France:** Visa application fee (Excluding travel expenses, accommodation expenses or any other expenses associated with the visa application process)
2. **French language training:** Tuition fees for French language training courses at Campus France Vietnam before departure, excluding expenses related to accommodation and travel in order to participate in the French learning courses
3. **Airfares:** Round trip economy tickets from Vietnam to the city of Limoges, France
4. **Tuition fees:** Full tuition fees of the Master's study, health insurance included.
5. **Monthly stipend:** 1,000 Euro per month for 12 months per year to cover living expenses.

Note: The French Government also provides additional support packages to help reduce lodging costs for students.

- 6. One-time allowance:** 2,000 EUR, this includes the settling-in allowance, professional development grants and reintegration allowance after graduation and return to Vietnam.

Note: For those who choose Option 3 (study their first year of the Master's degree in Vietnam and the second year at the University of Limoges, France), the Program will cover tuition fees and part of the living expenses for the first year of study in Vietnam, for the second year, the scholarship will cover fully for the recipients to study at the University of Limoges, France.

V. Eligibility Criteria

1. Vietnamese people who are living, studying or working in Vietnam or overseas and are patriotic, talented, resilient, and committed to contributing to the science and technology development in Vietnam and not over 30 years of age at the enrollment time.
2. Meet **one** of the following conditions:

No.	Applicant	Requirement
1	College seniors (final year students) majoring in Mathematics, Informatics, Mathematics-Informatics or related disciplines at Vietnamese or foreign universities who will graduate with such degree by July 2019	Having an overall grade point average (GPA) from undergraduate level of at least 7/10 at the time of application in which the GPA of the specialized subjects related to Mathematics and Informatics must be at least 8/10.
2	College graduates with a bachelor's degree in Mathematics, Informatics, Mathematics-Informatics or related disciplines from Vietnamese universities or foreign universities	Having a GPA of at least 7/10 in which the GPA of specialized subjects related to Mathematics and Informatics must be at least 8/10.
3	Students who are studying Master's degrees in Mathematics, Informatics, Mathematics-Informatics or related disciplines at Vietnamese or foreign universities	Having a GPA of the Master's degree of at least 7/10 at the time of application and an undergraduate GPA of at least 7/10 in which the GPA of specialized subjects related to Mathematics and Informatics at both graduate and undergraduate levels must be at least 8/10.
4	Master's graduates in Mathematics, Informatics, Mathematics-Informatics or related disciplines from Vietnamese universities or foreign universities	Having a GPA of at least 7/10 at the Master's level and an undergraduate GPA of at least 7/10 in which the GPA of specialized subjects related to Mathematics and Informatics at both graduate and undergraduate levels must be at least 8/10.

3. Two (02) letters of recommendation/reference from the applicant's professors/lecturers under whom the applicant has studied or pursued research related to his/her proposed field of study, or

from supervisors, who have supervised the applicant's work related to his/her proposed field of study. The letters of recommendation must meet the following criteria:

- a. Must be written in French or English (if written in Vietnamese the letter(s) must be translated into French or English.)
- b. Must have the letterhead and the signature of the referee.
4. A statement of motivation that includes the applicant's educational background, research experience, extracurricular activities and social works, as well as career goals. Each essay must be well-organized and composed in excellent French or English and must not exceed 1,000 words.
5. A curriculum vitae (CV) that outlines the applicant's education and research experience
6. Language proficiency: Priority is given to candidates who know French. However, French language proficiency certificate is NOT required at the application round. The scholarship recipients will be sponsored to undertake French language training courses before departure if necessary.
7. Priority will be given to candidates with prizes in the National Mathematics/Informatics Competition at high school level or prizes in National Olympiads in Mathematics or Informatics at undergraduate level or other relevant awards.
8. Download the application form on the Program's website: <https://vinuni.edu.vn/en/index.html> (Under STEM Project/Master's/Ph.D. Scholarships) and complete it in French or English and submit it by the deadline.

Note: The Scholarship Program does NOT require applicants to have working experience.

VI. Application and Selection Process

▪ Round 1: Initial Screening:

After applicants submit their applications, the Program conducts an initial eligibility screening to assure that the applicants meet all the minimum requirements.

▪ Round 2: Technical Review:

The Selection Committee consisting of professors from the University of Limoges and professors with expertise in the field will conduct a technical review of the applications to select the best candidates for the interview round.

▪ Round 3: Oral Exam/Interview:

The Selection Committee will conduct the interview which will be in either French or English and last up to 45 minutes each.

After the three selection rounds, the Selection Committee will make the final decision on the admission to the Master's CRYPTIS Program at the University of Limoges and award the scholarships to the selected candidates. All applicants will be notified of the final results.

VII. Selection Criteria

The application and selection process of the Scholarship Program is **open, competitive, and transparent**. The Selection Committee consists of prominent professors in the field of science and technology. Applicants do not need to pay any fees to anyone in order to apply for, and to be awarded, the scholarship. Winners are chosen based on individual merit, including academic performance and preparation, intellectual capability, language proficiency, and the potential and commitment for contribution to scientific education and research in Vietnam.

VIII. Conditions of the Scholarship

Applicants must fully meet the application requirements of the Scholarship as well as the admission requirements of the University of Limoges. Applicants must also meet the health requirements through the General Health Check Program before commencing their studies. During the study program, applicants must meet the minimum academic requirements set out by the Master's program as well as report their academic performance and research progress periodically to the Scholarship Program.

Upon completion of the Master's Program, applicants may pursue a Ph.D. in a doctoral program approved by the Scholarship Program. If choosing to study further, the candidate must go through the application process for the scholarships with other applicants of that year. Scholarship recipients who have completed the final academic requirements of the Master's and/or Ph.D. degree (if they choose to pursue a Ph.D.) must return to Vietnam to work at a Vietnamese public university or research institute or work for a member company of the VinGroup Ecosystem at least for a duration of time equal to the duration of study that they had participated in the Master's or Ph.D. degree under the scholarship sponsorship.

IX. Reintegration Support

In order to complete a comprehensive investment process in the science and technology resources development in Vietnam, each talented candidate selected for the scholarship will have a contact point of the Project to help design a roadmap and provide advice and support throughout the course of study and research. This support scheme ensures that the scholarship recipients can be able to maximize their intellectual capability in an overseas university environment while connecting the talents to the Vietnamese settings to assure that, after graduation, 100% of the students can integrate effectively, have a suitable job with decent remuneration, and can contribute to the development of Vietnam when they return.

X. Important dates and timeline

- **February 1, 2019:** Application is open
- **March 1, 2019:** Deadline for application
- **March 15, 2019:** Completion of the interview round
- **March 20, 2019:** Notification of the scholarship results
- **From March to August 2019:** Scholarship recipients will study French at Campus France
- **June 2019:** Pre-Departure Orientation
- **September 2019:** Departure for Limoges, France and commence studies

XI. How to apply

Applicants can submit their applications in French or in English together with supporting documents by either of the following ways by the **application deadline: 6 pm, March 1, 2019**:

1. Submit your application with all the required supporting documents to the following email address: scholarships@vingroup.net OR
2. Mail/hand deliver the hard-copies of the application dossier to the following address (date of submission is based on the postal stamp):
Scholarship Program
VinUni Project
Tower 1, Times City, 458 Minh Khai Street, Vinh Tuy Ward, Hai Ba Trung District, Hanoi.

XII. Contact Us:

If you need more information on the Scholarship Program or if you have any inquiries, please do not hesitate to contact the Scholarship Program via email at scholarships@vingroup.net or phone at (+84) -24 -71089779 (Ext: 9029).

VERY IMPORTANT: Please check carefully the eligibility requirements listed above and submit the application by the application deadline. All the scholarship recipients must abide by all regulations and requirements of the Program, or else the scholarship will be revoked.

The Program has the right to change the terms and conditions when necessary. Any changes will ONLY be posted on the Program's official website at: <https://vinuni.edu.vn/en/index.html> (Under STEM Project/Master's/Ph.D. Scholarships). Changes, if any, will only affect applicants who have not signed the Scholarship Grant Contract with the Program.