



## JEAN-MARIE LEHN PRIZE FOR CHEMISTRY 2026 IOCB Tech Foundation Embassy of France in the Czech Republic

### **Article 1** Scope of the competition

The IOCB Tech Foundation and the French Embassy in the Czech Republic organize a competition for the “Jean-Marie Lehn Prize for Chemistry” in 2026.

The goal of this competition is to award high-level PhD research work in **chemistry**. Candidates can apply themselves or be proposed by any institution of research and higher education providing doctoral training in chemistry in the Czech Republic. Up to three Prizes will be awarded.

### **Article 2** Criteria for applicants

All students of Czech universities, institutions of higher education and institutes of the Czech Academy of Sciences may take part in the competition provided they fulfill the following conditions:

- Their PhD research is encompassed within the topic defined in Article 1.
- They are a European Union national, **or** national of a candidate country to the EU.
- They are currently enrolled in a doctorate cycle at a Czech institution of research and higher education, **or** they have defended their PhD dissertation in 2025 or 2026.
- Their PhD studies do not collude with any work for the IOCB Tech Foundation company.
- They are the author of at least one scientific article published or accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed international periodical.

### **Article 3** Applications to the competition

To apply for this award, each individual candidate must send the following documents to the French Embassy before **March 19, 2026**.

- An academic curriculum vitae, one page maximum
- A list of scientific production according to the attached template.
- A written 4 page-long (max.), illustrations included, presentation of the applicant’s research doctoral activities and applicability prospects in English (the references can be indicated on additional pages) according to the Word attached template.
- A max. half-page long summary of the above-mentioned presentation with basic information in Czech and in English
- A signed letter of recommendation with letterhead of the institution written by the applicant’s scientific supervisor, presenting both the student and his research work

All documents should be put in PDF format and sent altogether in the same email and in the same zip file to [capucine.martin@ifp.cz](mailto:capucine.martin@ifp.cz).

**Candidates to the Jean-Marie Lehn Prize need to sign up [here](#) to complete their application.**

Applications that will not respect these indications will not be accepted.



## **Article 4 Selection Process**

Dr Patrick Maestro and the attachée for scientific and university cooperation of the French Embassy in the Czech Republic will determine the list of candidates selected for the audition.

The final selection committee will meet **on May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026** in **Pardubice at the Fakulta Chemicko-Technologická**.

The committee should be presided over by Dr Patrick Maestro. Further members of this professional selection committee shall be:

- The attachée for scientific and university cooperation of the French Embassy in the Czech Republic.
- Representatives of Czech institutions of research and higher education.

Individual selected applicants shall be invited by the French Embassy. They will present in English their PhD research to the committee and answer their questions.

After the oral presentation, the selection committee shall proceed with the final deliberations. The evaluation of the commission shall be recorded in the protocol. The laureates of the Prize will be informed of the results of the competition within a week after the meeting of the selection committee.

**Auditions will take place exclusively in person.**

## **Article 5 Financial Subsidies and stipends**

- **1<sup>st</sup> Prize:** 80,000 CZK and a stipend for a one-month research internship in France
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Prize:** 50,000 CZK and a stipend for a one-month research internship in France
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Prize:** 30,000 CZK

The award prizes are provided directly to the winners by the IOCB Tech Foundation. The stipends for internships in France are provided by the French Embassy in the Czech Republic. These internships must take place in a French research center, and that at the latest **by December 31<sup>th</sup>, 2027**.

Winners must confirm to the French Embassy by **December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026** whether they will conduct the internship or not. The scientific research center shall be chosen entirely by the laureates.

We remind the candidates that this grant awarded by the French embassy **is meant to support an internship and not a post-doctoral contract**.

**A Special Prize for Chemistry will also be awarded in partnership with the Czech Chemical Society (CCS).**

## **Article 6 Awarding ceremony**

The official awarding of the Jean-Marie Lehn Prize will take place on **June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026** at the French Embassy in the presence of the Ambassador of France to the Czech Republic. The awards will be handed over to the laureates by Professor Jean-Marie Lehn, Nobel Laureate in Chemistry.

The formal ceremony shall be attended not only by all awarded students, but also by their PhD supervisors and the representatives of the universities, institutions of higher education and institutes of the Czech Academy of Sciences.

Each winner will be invited to present the main findings of their thesis in the form of a poster.

Students might be invited to cooperate with the media (e.g. interviews) and understand that media materials form ceremonial may be used for marketing purposes.