

2026 PHD SCHOLARSHIPS – NOTICE – RECRUITMENT OF PHD STUDENTS

SUBJECT: 2026 PhD Scholarships - Memo - Recruitment of PhD students

Job Information		
	Organisation / Company	University of Caen Normandy
	Field of research	Public Law – 02
	Researcher profile	Early-career researcher (R1)
	Country	France
	Application deadline	Thursday 4 June 2026, 15 h Send the single document (PDF) by email to the DROIT NORMANDIE Doctoral School. The acknowledgement of receipt will not constitute proof of the application's admissibility.
	Type of contract	Temporary
	Employment status	Full-time
	Is the post funded by the EU Research Framework Programme?	NO
	Is the post linked to a staff position within a research infrastructure?	NO

Job description		
	Description of the post and the PhD project (specified and funded)	Funded thesis Topic The regulation of access to the administrative courts in environmental and urban planning litigation. <i>Issues, limitations, and justification for a strict framework governing the right of appeal in certain</i>

		<p><i>areas of French administrative litigation.</i></p> <p>Brief outline. For roughly the past two decades, public authorities have repeatedly amended the rules governing administrative litigation in urban planning and environmental law.</p> <p>The primary and openly stated aim of the new regulations is to restrict litigants' access to the administrative courts and, consequently, to reduce litigation in these two fields. The ultimate goal is to secure, as effectively and swiftly as possible, policy decisions in matters of urban planning and environmental protection, in particular authorisations granted to "project proponents" faced with urban-planning and environmental constraints.</p> <p>The restriction of access to the courts has been justified by the perceived need to deliver infrastructure and development projects quickly, at a time when project proponents are faced with an increasingly dense body of planning and environmental regulations and more demanding procedural requirements. The controversies surrounding the Beynac bypass, the CDG Express, and the A69 illustrate both the topicality of the issue and its significance for territorial development.</p> <p>The questions raised by this accumulation of reforms within a short period are numerous.</p> <p>On technical grounds, first, planning and environmental litigation law is now autonomous within the field of administrative litigation. Yet its specific features, relating in particular to the admissibility of complaints against administrative authorisations and the role of the judge in such matters, have inadequately assessed repercussions on the field.</p> <p>It is therefore particularly relevant to pursue two lines of inquiry; a close-focus analysis of the extent to which the specific rules differ from general principles of administrative litigation, and a broader perspective on the cumulative effects of the reforms on the conduct of disputes, effects stemming from the proliferation of specialised procedural rules in planning and environmental matters.</p> <p>From a legal policy viewpoint, secondly, there is a pressing need to reassess the justifications brought forth to support this specialisation of litigation law. By excessively discouraging citizens from bringing</p>
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Requirements	Salary range	€2,100–2,300 per month
	Eligibility: subject-specific prerequisites	<p>Eligibility criteria vary depending on the project supervisor:</p> <p>To apply for the designated and funded doctoral project at University of Caen Normandy, candidates must hold, or be in the process of obtaining by 1 September 2026, a Master's degree in Public Law. A distinction (e.g., <i>assez bien</i> or higher) must have been awarded in either the first or second year of the Master's program.</p> <p>Particular consideration will be given to coursework completed in administrative litigation, urban planning law, and environmental law during the candidate's academic studies.</p>
	Admission requirements	<p>Following an interview before a selection panel on Tuesday, 9 June 2026, from 1:45 p.m., and after deliberation by the "conseil restreint" of the ED Droit Normandie, the candidate admitted to pursue the doctoral research will be the one who meets the following requirements:</p> <p>(1) Hold a Master's degree in Law (public or private) by 1 October 2026, with distinction, and have an academic background consistent with</p>

		<p>the funded doctoral project.</p> <p>(2) Demonstrate the ability to engage critically with the thesis topic, showing aptitude for undertaking doctoral research on the designated subject.</p> <p>(3) Be able to present, during the interview, their academic background, the relevance and soundness of their analysis of the topic, and a proposed research schedule covering the three-year duration of the doctoral contract. Experience as a tutor or teaching assistant in law will be considered a significant asset.</p> <p>(4) Have completed a Master's thesis in Public Law that meets academic standards in both form and substance. If the Master's degree is still in progress, the candidate must present and justify their thesis topic, including a detailed argument, research directions, methodology, and a bibliography.</p>
Applications		
		<p>The application must be submitted as a single PDF document with pagination. The document must include:</p> <p>(1) A cover letter briefly describing the candidate's research interests and explaining the reasons for their application to the thesis project.</p> <p>(2) A description of the three-year research programme.</p> <p>(3) A curriculum vitae (CV).</p> <p>(4) Copies of academic transcripts, diplomas and documents certifying the completion of courses and the award of a Master's degree in law (private or public).</p> <p>(5) The contact details of two referees or individuals able to recommend the candidate for the designated and funded doctoral research project.</p> <p>(6) A research dissertation on a topic in Public Law (minimum length: 40 pages).</p>
Place(s) of work		<p>Université de Caen Normandie Institut Caennais de Recherche Juridique (ICREJ) Esplanade de la Paix 14000 Caen</p>

Who to contact?		Doctoral school email: gilles.raoul-cormeil@unicaen.fr
Contact		Supervisors' email address: jean-christophe.lecoustumer@unicaen.fr paul.moulin@unicaen.fr