

DOCTORAL ALLOWANCES 2026 - NOTE - RECRUITMENT OF DOCTORAL CANDIDATES

Subject: Doctoral Allowances 2026 — Note — Recruitment of doctoral candidates

Job information		
	Organisation / Employer	University of Rouen Normandy
	Research field	Private law — Civil liability and personal injury law
	Researcher profile	First Stage Researcher (R1)
	Country	France
	Application deadline	<p>Thursday 4 June 2026, 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>A single PDF document is to be sent by email to the Doctoral School Droit Normandie. The acknowledgement of receipt does not constitute proof of admissibility.</p>
	Type of contract	Temporary (doctoral contract, 36 months)
	Job status	Full time
	Is the position funded by the EU Research Framework Programme?	NO
	Is the post linked to a staff position within a research infrastructure?	NO

Description of the offer		
	Description of the position and of the doctoral project (earmarked and funded)	<p>Funded thesis topic.</p> <p><i>The compensation of harm arising from sexual violence.</i></p>

Brief overview.

Sexual violence is a major contemporary concern, brought to prominence by the so-called “Mazan rape case” and confirmed, in criminal law, by the redefinition of rape under French Act No. 2025-1057 of 6 November 2025. In addition to the criminal response, which secures the punishment of the perpetrator, a civil response is required, in the form of compensation for the harm suffered by the victim. Comparative legal scholarship, primarily North American (B. Feldthusen, *University of Toronto Law Journal*, 1994; L. Bender, *Cornell Law Review*, 1993), has documented a systematic undercompensation of female victims of personal injury, particularly where such injuries arise from sexual violence. No comprehensive French study has yet addressed this issue.

The doctoral project aims to fill that gap. It will be structured around three hypotheses drawn from comparative scholarship: (i) French law produces a measurable disparity in compensation according to the victim’s gender; (ii) this disparity originates in structural biases embedded within the legal categories underpinning personal injury law — whether at the level of the definition of compensable harm or at the level of its assessment; (iii) these biases reproduce themselves at every link of the compensation chain, from medical expertise to the actual quantum determined by insurers and courts.

The methodology combines four approaches: (1) a systematic mapping of case law and quantitative analysis of a corpus of at least one hundred judicial decisions (*Judilibre*, *Légifrance*, editorial databases); (2) qualitative empirical fieldwork (semi-structured interviews with medical experts, judges, lawyers and insurers; analysis of expert assessment scales); (3) targeted comparative analysis (United States, Canada and, where appropriate, other European systems); (4) critical doctrinal analy-

		<p>sis, leading to proposals for a conceptual reconstruction of personal injury law capable of integrating a systematic gender perspective without essentialising victims.</p> <p>The topic is at once incremental — it builds on the contemporary engagement of French law with sexual violence and on existing scholarship on gender bias in law-making and law-application — and decisively innovative, in that it shifts the centre of gravity of the analysis from criminal law to the civil law of compensation, and introduces into French legal scholarship an unprecedented systemic gender lens. The research falls within the “Personne(s)” theme of CUREJ and is expected to strengthen, through its empirical method, the laboratory’s institutional partnerships (Rouen Court of Appeal, local insurers — including Matmut —, Bar associations, and associations of medical experts).</p>
<p>Requirements</p>	<p>Salary range</p>	<p>EUR 2,100 – 2,300 gross / month (indicative; subject to the applicable 2026 doctoral contract scale).</p>
	<p>Eligibility: disciplinary prerequisites</p>	<p>Candidates applying for this earmarked and funded thesis project at the University of Rouen Normandy must hold a Master’s degree in private law, or be in the process of obtaining one by 1 September 2026. Candidates must have completed coursework in civil liability law or in personal injury law, at both Master 1 and Master 2 levels.</p>
	<p>Conditions of admission</p>	<p>Following an interview before a panel composed of the members of the restricted Council of the Droit Normandie Doctoral School, on Tuesday 9 June 2026, from 3:30 p.m. onwards, and after deliberation of the restricted Council, the candidate meeting the following admission conditions will be admitted to prepare a thesis on <i>The compensation of harm arising from sexual violence. Research on gender discrimination in personal injury law:</i></p>

		<p>(1) Hold a Master's degree in law (private or public) by 1 October 2026, with distinction, and have completed an academic curriculum consistent with the funded thesis project.</p> <p>(2) Be able to take a personal stance on the thesis topic and to demonstrate to the panel the capacity to undertake an empirical and doctrinal doctoral research on this earmarked subject.</p> <p>(3) Be able to present, during the interview, the candidate's academic curriculum, the substantive merits of the candidate's analysis of the topic, and the proposed timetable of the research over the three years of the doctoral contract. Prior experience as tutor or teaching assistant in private law is a significant asset.</p> <p>(4) Have written a Master's dissertation in private law on a question related to civil liability, personal injury law, or the legal protection of victims of violence, in a form that meets academic standards. Where the Master's is still ongoing, the candidate must present and justify the dissertation topic, a detailed argument, research avenues, methodology and bibliography.</p>
Applications		
		<p>The application must take the form of a single PDF document, with numbered pages and preceded by a table of contents. The document must contain:</p> <p>(1) A letter of motivation briefly describing the candidate's research interests and explaining the reasons for applying to this thesis project (page A).</p> <p>(2) An argument on the thesis topic, setting out the candidate's personal analysis of the subject (page B).</p> <p>(3) A description of the research programme over three years (page C).</p> <p>(4) An indicative thesis bibliography (page</p>

		<p>D).</p> <p>(5) A curriculum vitae (page E).</p> <p>(6) The contact details of two referees, able to recommend the candidate for the funded earmarked doctoral project. These referees must be neither the dissertation supervisor nor the project leader (page F).</p> <p>(7) Copies of academic transcripts, diplomas and documents certifying completion of coursework and award of a Master's degree in law (private or public) (page G).</p> <p>(8) The research dissertation, with bibliography, on a topic addressing a classical or contemporary issue in private law (minimum length: 40 pages) — failing which, a letter from the dissertation supervisor waiving the requirement to submit the dissertation (page H).</p>
Place(s) of work		<p>University of Rouen Normandy (Normandy, France)</p> <p>Faculty of Law (UFR DESP) - CUREJ (UR 4703)</p> <p>3 avenue Pasteur, 76003 Rouen, France</p>
Where to apply?		<p>Email of the Doctoral School Droit Normandie: gilles.raoul-cormeil@unicaen.fr</p>
Contact		<p>Email of the project leader / thesis supervisor: antoine.touzain@univ-rouen.fr</p>