

JEAN-MARIE LEHN PRIZE FOR CHEMISTRY 2021

Solvay / Embassy of France in the Czech Republic

Article 1 **Scope of the competition**

Solvay and the French Embassy in the Czech Republic organize a competition for the “Jean-Marie Lehn Prize” in 2021.

The goal of this competition is to award the best PhD research work in chemistry. Every institution of research and higher education in chemistry in the Czech Republic may propose high level candidates.

Article 2 **Institutions involved and coordinators**

All institutions of research and higher education (university and institutes of the Czech Academy of Sciences) may enlist their students in the competition for the “Jean-Marie Lehn Prize”.

They have to designate a coordinator and provide his or her name to the scientific department of the French Embassy in the Czech Republic **at the latest by March 21st 2021**.

Article 3 **Criteria for selecting participants**

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 of Czech or Slovak nationality and are **younger than 33 years old** on **May 1st 2021**.
- 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 2020 or 2021.
- Their PhD studies do not collude with any work for the Solvay company.
- They are the author of at least one scientific article published or accepted for publication (to be proven by a letter from the editor) in a peer-reviewed international periodical.

Article 4 **Role of the coordinator**

The coordinator of the “Jean-Marie Lehn Prize 2021” project has the task of organizing the selection of the best participants from the ranks of the students enrolled at the given institution of research or higher education. These candidates will then be entered by the relevant institution in the competition.

The coordinator shall verify that individual participants fulfill the conditions for participating in the competition (viz. Article 3). Subsequently, he/she shall give to the French Embassy in the Czech Republic the names and contact information – personal and work – of all candidates taking part in the competition **at the latest by April 25th 2021**.

Each coordinator must choose a **maximum of two candidates**. The president of the selection committee and the attachée for scientific and university cooperation of the French Embassy in the Czech Republic may preselect candidates should there be too many applications.

Article 5 **Applications to the competition**

Each candidate must deliver by email the complete Application package described in **Annex 1** to the French Embassy in the Czech Republic (scientific department) **at the latest by May 16th 2021**.

Article 6 **Selection Committee**

The selection committee will meet on June 8th 2021.

The committee should be presided over by Professor Patrick Maestro, Scientific Director at the Solvay Company. Further members of this professional selection committee shall be:

- The attachée for scientific and university cooperation of the French Embassy in the Czech Republic.
- One representative of each institution of research and higher education from which candidates have been selected.

Individual applicants shall be invited by the French Embassy. They will present orally – in French or in English – their PhD research to the committee. Presentations shall last 10 minutes, followed by a 10 minutes Q&A.

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 selection committee's meeting.

Article 7 **Financial Subsidies and stipends**

- **1st Prize:** 65,000 CZK, a stipend for a one-month internship in France and participation to the Barrande French-Czech Vltava Chemistry Meeting
- **2nd Prize:** 40,000 CZK and a stipend for a one-month internship in France
- **3rd Prize:** 25,000 CZK

The award prizes are provided directly to the winners by Solvay.

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 15th 2022.

Winners must confirm to the French Embassy by **January 31, 2022** 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-doc contract.**

A Special Prize for Chemistry will also be awarded in partnership with the Czech Chemical Society (CCS). The winner will be delegated to represent CCS at a congress organised by one of the partner Central European chemical societies; further he/she will win a one-year subscription of the CCS scientific journal Chemické listy.

The first laureate will also be invited to participate to the “Barrande French-Czech Vltava Chemistry Meeting” in 2022, to meet experts in his field. Transportation and accommodation costs will be covered by the organizers of the meeting.

Article 8 **Awarding ceremony**

The official awarding of the Prize will take place **on June 23rd 2021 at the French Embassy** in the presence of His Excellency, the Ambassador of France to the Czech Republic. The awards will be given to the laureates by Professor Jean-Marie Lehn, the Nobel Laureate in Chemistry.

If the epidemiological situation did not allow for the ceremony to be held on that date, it will be postponed to **September 30th 2021**.

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.

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

Article 9 Time Schedule

March 21st 2021	Designation of project coordinators at institutions of higher education.
April 25th 2021	The coordinators inform the French Embassy of the names and contact information of applicants entered for their institution of research and/or higher education.
May 16th, 2021	Deadline for sending the complete documentation of applications at the following address: sciences.prague@gmail.com .
June 8th 2021	Oral presentations by candidates before the selection committee.
June 23rd 2021 or September 30th 2021	Awarding ceremony.
At the latest by December 15th 2022	Internship of awarded students in France.

Annex 1: Application Package

The application package includes:

- Academic curriculum vitae, including a list of publications. **For publications in a peer-reviewed academic journal recognized by such databases as Web of Science or Scopus, please indicate their ranking**
- A max. 5 pages-long, illustrations included, presentation of the applicant's research activities and applicability prospects in English or French
- A max. half-page long summary of the above mentioned presentation with basic information from the aforementioned presentation in Czech and in English or French
- A letter of recommendation written by the applicant's scientific supervisor, presenting both the student and his research work

All documents should be sent altogether in the same email and in the same zip file to sciences.prague@gmail.com. The title of the email and file should be as follow: “**Application to the Jean-Marie Lehn Prize – Name Surname – University – Faculty or Institute**”

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