

Fellowship for a Master's in biomedical sciences/bioengineering and space physiology

12-24 months, starting September 2026

Saint-Etienne, France

We are looking for an excellent international student, interested in space physiology and willing to apply for a 2026-2027 Eiffel fellowship to study at the i-Santé master's programme in Saint-Etienne, France.

Offer description:

We are looking for a highly motivated and academically excellent **student who has completed or will complete her/his bachelor in biology, bioengineering or related subjects before August 2026** and who:

- has a passion for **space physiology**/space biology (studying the adaptation of the organism to microgravity conditions)
- has an excellent academic record
- is interested to **enroll in the first year of master's studies** at the University Jean Monnet in Saint-Etienne, France (courses primarily in French) for the 2026-2027 year, Ingénierie de la Santé programme (**i-Santé**), with an **internship** on adaptations of the **skeleton** to **microgravity**, to be carried out at the SAINBIOSE-LBTO laboratory under Dr. Strigini and Dr. Vico's supervision:
https://sainbiose-lab.fr/research-2/lbto_team/
<https://sainbiose-lab.fr/team/laurence-vico/>
<https://sainbiose-lab.fr/team/maura-strigini/>
<https://medecine.univ-st-etienne.fr/en/courses.html>
https://www.univ-st-etienne.fr/fr/formation/master-XB/master-XB/master-ingenierie-de-la-sante-parcours-ingenierie-biomedicale-5_08_07_0004_FR.html
- is interested in pursuing a second year master's and, potentially, a PhD project in space physiology
- has a B2 level (or higher) for both French and English language (good written and oral communication in French and English)
- is not a French national and is not currently living in France
- is willing to apply to the "bourses d'excellence Eiffel" programme of the French government, which would then cover up to 24 months of study in France (1200 euros/month)

Host university:

Université Jean Monnet Saint-Etienne, Saint-Etienne, France – UJM

<https://www.univ-st-etienne.fr/fr/index.html>

Multidisciplinary university.

In Saint-Etienne, a small/medium-size city with affordable living costs. Close to the Pilat mountains and Lyon city. Not too far from the Alps and the Mediterranean sea.

Host lab:

SAINBOSE-LBTO (laboratory of bone and joint tissue biology) has a strong expertise and an international reputation for studies on bone physiology, carried out at the cell, tissue and organism level, in particular related to bone deconditioning in astronauts and “space models”. It has maintained a decades-long collaboration with NASA, ESA and the French Centre for Research on Space (CNES). We carry out basic, translational and clinical research related to osteoporosis, rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis. The combined skeletal and cardiovascular deconditioning of astronauts and the interplay between the skeleton, metabolism, inflammation and the cardiovascular system are among our main interests. The laboratory has unique access to astronauts’ and cosmonauts’ data/samples and to platforms for microgravity analogues. It enjoys access to excellent facilities, the support of permanent staff and a nice group of French and international undergraduate and graduate students. The unit also includes medical doctors, engineers and statisticians and fosters a culture of interdisciplinarity and collaboration.

Application procedures:

The fellowship and internship opportunity are conditional to the successful completion of a **two-step selection**, the first step of which is advertised here. If interested, please send your application to Maura Strigini(maura.strigini@univ-st-etienne.fr), **before October 31st, 2025. Please include:**

- your CV (max 2 pages)
- your motivation letter
- the grades of all your university study years (transcripts) and the final grade of high school
- one recommendation letter from a University teacher/professor
- the email contact details of two additional persons from whom recommendation letters can be asked

Next steps in your application:

Only 3-5 short-listed candidates will be invited for an online oral interview, that will take place between November 7th and November 10th.

The selected candidate will then be accompanied in her/his application for an Eiffel excellence fellowship, with a deadline in December 2025.

More details will be given and can be discussed during the oral interview.

