

Press release

Paris, September 30th, 2014

Ardian Foundation to provide funding and mentoring to students of International University Campus in Paris over three years

The Ardian Foundation, founded by premium independent private investment company Ardian, announces the launch of its partnership with the International University Campus in Paris ('La Cité internationale universitaire de Paris' - CiuP). This three-year programme will triple the amount of bursaries awarded by the CiuP by 2017.

The programme will provide 100 bursaries, worth €550,000 in total, to disadvantaged students. 15 high-achieving first year Masters Students were selected to take part by the CiuP and a panel comprising Ardian Foundation members at the start of the 2014/15 academic year. They will receive mentoring from an Ardian employee, whom they will meet for the first time at an event organised by the CiuP on October 2nd.

Students from across the world will benefit from this bursary programme, which will support individual housing costs, enabling students to stay longer at CiuP, a renowned campus with a strong tradition of high standards. They will also benefit from the domestic and international experience of their mentors.

Cécile Thevenin, 21, student in Master 2 at Sciences Po Paris:

“I have studied in Paris for a year now, and this bursary will provide me with the support needed to continue. Paris has an exceptional cultural environment in which to study, but finding accommodation is still a major problem, both logistically and financially. Removing this problem will allow students like me to flourish.”

Miguel Andrés Urike Veloza, 26, student in Master 2 at EHESS-Ecole d'Economie de Paris:

“I recently moved to Paris to continue my studies. With my family and friends living in Columbia, it’s a relief to be able to count on someone. Moving to a new city can be a disorientating experience, and finding accommodation only adds to this. So I feel privileged to have someone on hand to give valuable advice.”

In 2013, a survey by the Observatoire de la Vie Etudiante, a French research organization that examines the living conditions of students, revealed that students who work during their studies are twice as likely to fail their exams. In most cases, students take on jobs to cover the costs of their accommodation – the single greatest expense for Paris-based students.

Yann Bak, Director at Ardian and « mentor » :

“Our role is to provide personal support, someone you can count on, to these students who are often away from their families. They can also benefit from our knowledge for their studies and from our professional network. Beyond housing grants, supporting these students is very important. Meet them and share our experience are a source of great satisfaction.”

Every year, the CiuP – the largest campus in France – hosts 12,000 students and high-profile researchers, from Masters to Postdoctoral levels. Founded in 1925, the campus promotes Universalist values, encouraging young people from all over the world to live together and learn from each other in a multicultural environment. The Cité Internationale has created this merit-based scheme to illustrate its ongoing commitment to the promotion of cultural diversity, welcoming students from all backgrounds.

Amir Sharifi, President of Ardian Foundation and member of the jury for the selection of students, said: *“We are delighted to help students who cannot pay for their accommodation. The International University Campus in Paris is a fantastic, thriving place for its residents who are fortunate enough to live there. Through its employees' mentoring program, the Ardian Foundation gives young people the best possible start as they prepare for their professional lives.”*

Marcel Pochard, President of La Cité Internationale, added: *“These grants reflect our historical core values of peace and solidarity. We are extremely grateful to the Ardian Foundation for its confidence in our institution.”*

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FOUNDATION

The mission of the Ardian Foundation, created in 2010 and under the aegis of Fondation de France since 2014, is to create and provide the best possible conditions for young talented people to accomplish themselves, particularly high school students and university students from underprivileged backgrounds. The commitment of the foundation materializes through two major actions: mentoring (over 50 Ardian employees currently coach students in China, France, Italy and the United States) and financial support towards housing (through its partnership with the International University Campus in Paris, the foundation will finance accommodation for 15 students as soon as September 2014 onwards, aiming at reaching 100 before 2016.)

The Ardian Foundation was founded by Ardian, a premium independent private investment company managed by Dominique Senequier since its inception in 1996. Ardian's investment philosophy holds three values at its core: excellence, loyalty and entrepreneurship. The strength of the leading investment company resides in its international network, with over 330 employees working in 10 offices across Europe, North America and Asia.

<http://www.ardian-investment.com/en/ardian-foundation>



The International University Campus in Paris is a private foundation registered as a non-profit organization, created in the aftermath of the First World War by a group of philanthropists with a vision. The foundation has since inception been promoting a multicultural approach towards excellence, acting as a catalyst for peace and solidarity. The foundation encourages students to share experiences and viewpoints. By offering accommodation and many other related facilities, the campus provides students with the best possible environment to successfully complete their studies. Today the campus of excellence hosts researchers, students and artists in residence from over 140 countries in 40 buildings located in a 84-acre park for the majority of them.

www.ciup.fr

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