

Press release

Paris, July 9th, 2014

ARDIAN FOUNDATION TO PROVIDE FUNDING AND MENTORING TO STUDENTS IN PARIS

Partnership with the International University Campus in Paris will provide financial and professional aid to 100 students

The Ardian Foundation, founded by the premium independent private investment company, announces today that it will provide subsidiary funding to 100 students at the International University Campus in Paris ('*La Cité internationale universitaire de Paris*') over the next three years.

In addition to the funding, each student will benefit from a mentoring programme and will be coached and advised by an Ardian employee. The Ardian Foundation will offer 100 bursaries over three years, with the total value of grants reaching €550,000. This bursary scheme will result in the number of grants allocated to the residents of *La Cité internationale* tripling in number by 2017.

At the beginning of the 2014/15 academic year, 15 high achieving first year Masters Students will be selected to take part in the scheme. The Ardian Foundation has been invited to sit on the decision board, and decisions will be made on the basis of each student's academic achievements and their social background. The bursary scheme will subsidise students who are high achievers, but cannot afford to live in the vicinity of the *Cité Internationale*, a campus with a tradition of excellence. The students will also benefit from their Ardian mentors' domestic and international experience.

Ardian has been supporting academic achievers since 2010, providing them with the best possible studying conditions and gradually introducing them to professional life. Over the past four years, approximately 2,500 young people have benefited from 17 separate schemes led by the Foundation. Created in 2014 under the aegis of *Fondation de France*, the Ardian Foundation is run by five employees working in different teams. Today, over 50 members of staff take part in the mentoring programme, as well as in a number of other projects supported by the Foundation, notably in France, Italy, China and the US. The combination of financial aid and a tailored mentoring programme reflects Ardian's desire to see talented students fulfil their potential.

In 2013, a survey by the *Observatoire de la Vie Etudiante* (a French national research organization which 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 largest expense for a Paris-based student.

Each year the International University Campus in Paris - France's largest campus - 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 be able to offer a solution to 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* comments: “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.”

ARDIAN _____ 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.

www.ardian-investment.com



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

Contacts for the press :

Cité Internationale Universitaire de Paris

PROFILE PR

Mendrika Rabenjamina

mrabenjamina@profilepr.fr

+33 (0)1 56 26 72 24 - +33 (06) 18 28 56 39

Christopher Renvoisé

crenvoise@profilepr.fr

+33 (0)1 56 26 72 35

Ardian Foundation

HEADLAND

Tom James

tjames@headlandconsultancy.co.uk

+44 (0)207 3675 240

India Brumitt

ibrumitt@headlandconsultancy.co.uk

+44 (0)207 3675 238