

SERVING RESEARCH FOR 30 YEARS

Some milestones illustrate the role played by the Fondation Kastler (FnAK) in professionalising the hosting of international researchers in France.

Encouraging
mobility of
international
researchers
to France



For Guy Ourisson, the objective was simple. Improving our relations with international researchers after their stay meant bringing France up to the level of hospitality and academic influence achieved in Germany under the impetus of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (AvH Stiftung) or in the United States thanks to the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

FnAK was to carry out 2 years of preparatory work in Alsace, which it would then roll out nationwide. Two ministries and three local authorities in Alsace provided the resources.

This work has been carried out at European level, firstly by creating a network of professional hosts (1993-2014) and then by building a global network of academic influence (since 2015).

Since 1994, the French network based in Strasbourg (50 centres today) has been the result of a tour of France's research campuses. It has been supplemented by the creation of the Science Accueil association on the Saclay plateau (1998) and the chercheurs étrangers association in Nantes (2001). In 2002, FnAK joined the national foundation of the Cité internationale universitaire de Paris, where it set up a reception office for international researchers.

Between 2001 and 2007, the European EURAXESS network (500 centres) was organised through expertise provided to the European Commission, in coordination with the research ministries of 32 countries. The French network was founded in 2005.

IMPROVING THE RECEPTION OF RESEARCHERS

Monitoring and legal expertise have been organised since 1996 to help improve the conditions under which researchers are received in France: the first bilingual guide to receiving foreign researchers in France was distributed. In 1998, the design of a specific hosting procedure, now known as the hosting agreement, was a major step forward in terms of inviting foreign researchers from third countries. It was adopted by the EU in the form of a researchers' directive (2005) and transposed into French law.

GDPR : General
Data Protection
Regulation

Since 1994, the creation of the ALFRED® (Alumni and Foreign REsearchers Directory) directory and networking software has enabled rigorous management of the hosting process, which is comprehensive and compliant with the GDPR. The French EURAXESS network uses it for entry formalities (visas, residence permits, etc.), accommodation and the integration of international researchers (French courses, health, schooling for children, etc.).

The statistics and management indicators provided are useful to 90% of universities in mainland France and to research organisations such as the CNRS, Inserm and many others. FnAK uses it to monitor incoming mobility in real time and identify areas for improvement.

ALFRED® software greatly simplified the management of the COVID-19 pandemic; it will soon do the same for the secure publication of essential hosting agreements and the issue of visas and residence permits to non-European researchers.

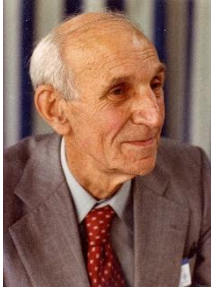
AN INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED EXPERT

At an international level, FnAK is currently working to put the French alumni network to work for French influence. Between 1994 and 2015, FnAK acquired the required level of expertise through its strategic monitoring of academic institutions and their networks of influence, its participation in around twenty workshops in the United States and Europe and a dozen missions abroad.

It contributed to the conference on higher education and research reform in 2012 and set up its scientific council in 2013. It works with the government and its operators to create a French community of alumni researchers to serve the country's diplomatic network. At regional level, FnAK is contributing to the development of the regional higher education, research and innovation 2020-2030 strategy.

Finally, to serve French higher education and research establishments, FnAK coordinates the communication tools of the French EURAXESS network and makes the ALFRED® software available to them.

Any employer or host can benefit from the services of the Kastler Foundation, as can any international researcher, whatever their nationality, scientific field or location in France. This very broad field of action gives it a privileged vantage point, independent of traditional administrative boundaries. FnAK works with all the people and organisations involved in hosting and monitoring international researchers on mobility to France, including abroad.



Alfred KASTLER (1902 – 1984)

A French physicist who was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1966 for the discovery and development of optical methods for studying Hertzian resonance in atoms, Alfred Kastler was also a humanist and pacifist. He set up an association to help refugee scientists, was active in the Pugwash movement and chaired the board of the UNESCO centre for mathematical physics in Trieste, where he organised practical courses for scientists from the Third World. Growing up in Alsace, Alfred Kastler had a dual German and French culture. A great French scientist, he is also a German-language poet.



Guy OURISSON (1926 – 2006)

French chemist, graduate of the Ecole Normale Supérieure, agrégé in physics, PhD from Harvard University then doctorate in physics from the Sorbonne, professor at the University of Strasbourg and first president of the University Strasbourg-I. First director of higher education at the French Ministry of Education, member and then president of the Académie des Sciences, Guy Ourisson works with more than 150 researchers from around 40 countries. A native of Alsace and Strasbourg, Guy Ourisson created the Fondation nationale Alfred Kastler (FnAK) and the Cercle Gutenberg to stimulate scientific research in Alsace and its influence.

WITH THE SUPPORT OF

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Un autre regard
sur le monde

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