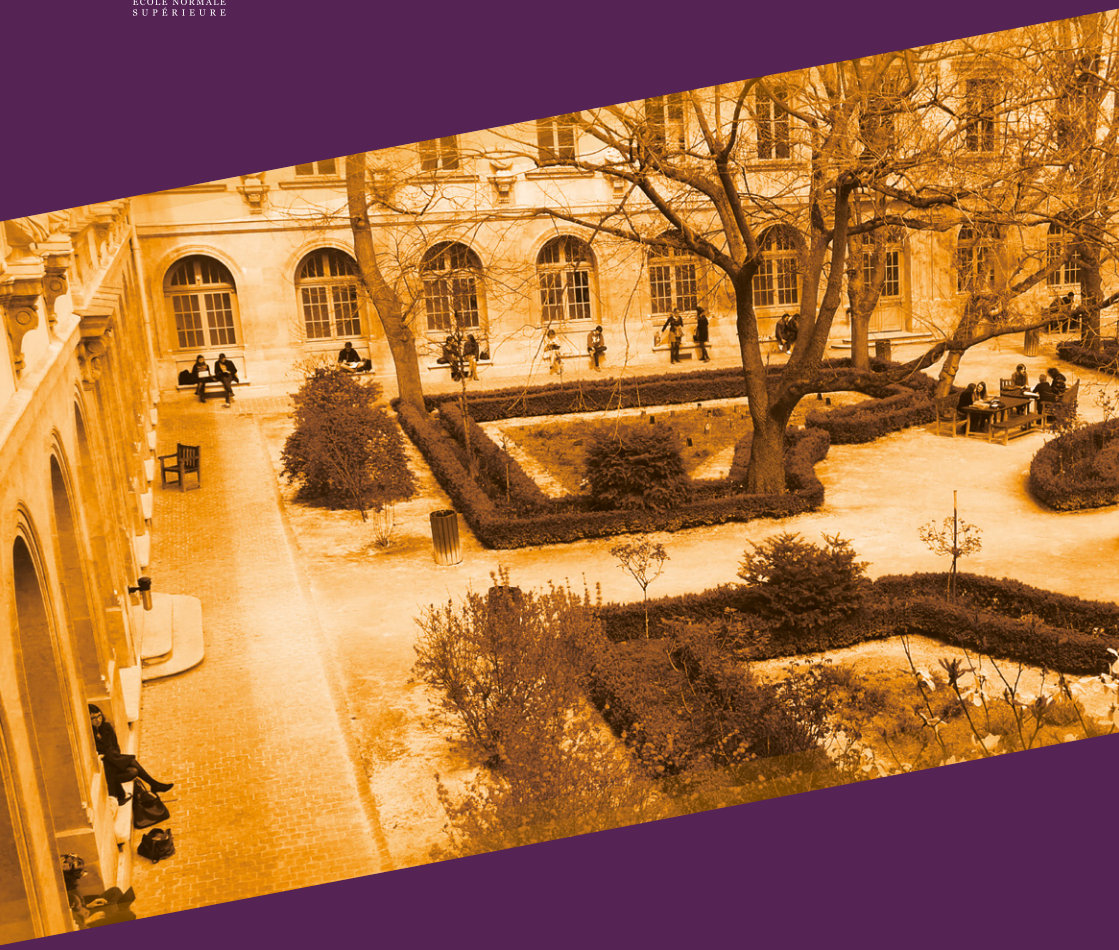
ENS
ÉCOLE NORMALE SUPÉRIEURE

PSL
UNIVERSITÉ PARIS



/ GUIDE FOR
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

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/ A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

How can I present the École normale supérieure in just a few words? I should speak of its tradition, name some of its most famous students (from Césaire to Bourdieu, Sartre, Foucault or Jacqueline de Romilly, from Kastler to Cohen-Tannoudji, Ngô Bao Châu and Jean-Pierre Serre); I should mention the charm of its legendary buildings (a school of the French Republic housed in a kind of medieval cloister); I should also mention its singularity, because in spite of its small size (2,400 students, including the doctoral students and international students) the ENS stands out as one of the world's very best universities. I should also mention its situation at the core of a network of Parisian universities and institutions and its involvement in the setting up of PSL Research University Paris; I should also go back over its tremendous growth during the last decades, thanks to its exceptional research centers in which students are directly in contact with the major issues of cutting-edge research.

Nevertheless I think that, in spite of all these elements, the essential would be missed: intellectual freedom, customized courses, synergies between Arts and Humanities and Sciences, ad hoc seminars, the priority given to the tutorships, the rich Parisian intellectual life, and, of course, those all-night discussions between the rosebushes and the pond in the Cour aux Ernests (with its legendary goldfish)…

But the École is first and foremost what its students and researchers who work there make of it. As you prepare to enter this place for the first time, you can be sure of being truly a part of the community of our École, you will help to make it lively, to shape it, to enrich it through your eyes, your ideas, your expectations; and from now on, we rely on you: welcome to the ENS, we hope you will feel at home!

Marc Mézard

WHAT IS THE ÉCOLE NORMALE SUPÉRIEURE?

/ A FRENCH GRANDE ÉCOLE

The École normale supérieure is more than just an elite university or Grande École, its also a space where students are given an excellent foundation to launch careers in a wide variety of fields: teaching, research, the public sector, and French and European businesses, to name just a few.

Founded in 1794 in the midst of the French Revolution, the ENS has always been a home for intellectual liberty, a multi-disciplinary approach to the arts and sciences, and a campus life that is at the heart of the scientific, cultural, and intellectual debates of our time. Since its creation, the ENS, too, has always been an institution full of cultural and national diversity.

From international researchers, postdoctoral fellows, and auditors to incoming and outgoing ENS students, the École is home each year to Pensionnaires étrangers and étudiants Erasmus+ from more than fifteen countries who all make their own important contribution to the dynamic and thriving community of the ENS.

/ THE DIFFERENT STATUSES OF THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

More than 20% of ENS students are international students, who contribute towards the vitality of the institution. The international students are divided into two groups: those who study at the ENS to obtain a degree, and those who study at ENS without obtaining a degree.

The following students will obtain a degree:

- *Elèves normaliens* from the International Selection: 20 are recruited each year, after successfully passing two competitive examinations specifically for International Students, one in Arts and Humanities, the other in Sciences. Successful applicants receive a grant from ENS and a room on one of the School's campuses. Their courses last three years.
- *Elèves normaliens étrangers*: they have passed one of the national competitive exams – all in French – to gain admission to the École. Successful applicants (all citizens of one of the European countries) benefit from the same status as the French *normaliens* and are remunerated. They receive a grant from ENS and a room on one of the School's campuses. Their courses last four years.
- *Normaliens étudiants étrangers*: they are recruited after applying and passing a motivation interview. They study here for three years and do not receive a stipend, but they can obtain a room on one of the School's campuses on social grounds (and if a room is available).

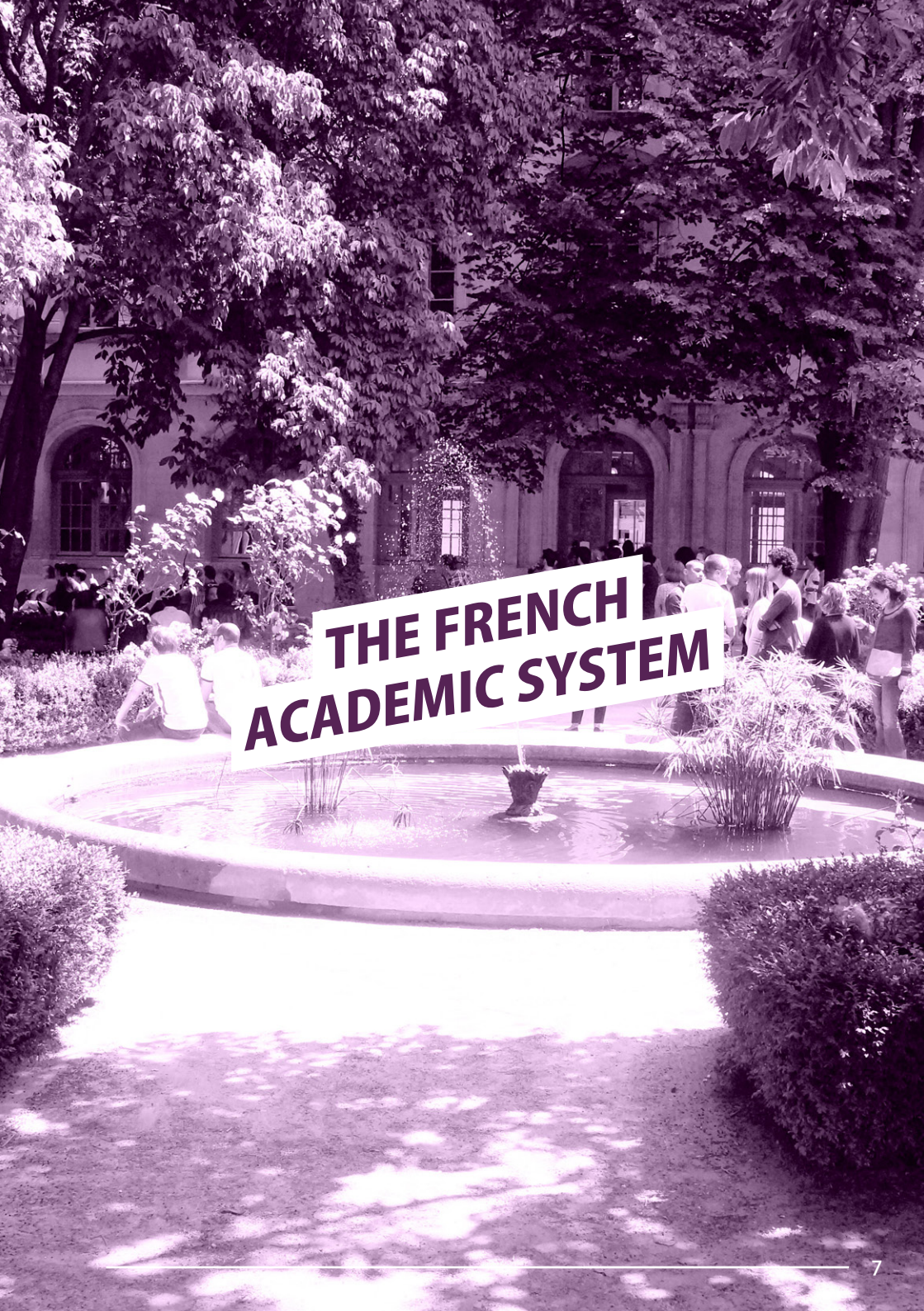
- Students who are enrolled in the School's Master's courses.
- Doctoral students who prepare a Ph.D. at ENS, in the doctoral school Paris Sciences et Lettres Research University: Physics in the Île-de-France doctoral school, the Interdisciplinary Arts and Humanities/ Sciences doctoral school, and the Astronomy and Astrophysics doctoral school.

The following students will not obtain a degree at ENS and do not have to validate ECTS credits:

- *Pensionnaires étrangers*: these students (about 100 each year) are enrolled at their home university (located abroad), and stay at ENS for up to a year. They come to ENS on an exchange program and obtain accommodation on one of the ENS campuses (in most cases).
- *Auditeurs étrangers*, who are at the École for one semester or one year on an exchange program **OR** without an exchange program.
- Post-doctoral researchers, who come to ENS after obtaining their Ph.D.

The following students will not obtain an ENS degree but have to validate ECTS credits, under an agreement with their Home universities:

- ERASMUS+ students and interns (about 30 per year).
- Students enrolled in the *History and literature* Master's at Columbia University (about 10 per year).



THE FRENCH ACADEMIC SYSTEM

/ CLASSES AT THE UNIVERSITY

The French academic system is made up of different institutions. Among them two are prominent: universities and *grandes écoles*. The *grandes écoles* select their students on the basis of the knowledge of a particular field, while universities offer a variety of courses, which are general or specialized.

The École normale supérieure is special in that it is a *Grande École* working with the universities. ENS students are selected on competitive examination or after an interview, but they are obliged to attend courses at ENS and also to be enrolled in a national degree course at the university. Only the *Pensionnaires Étrangers* who come here under a specific bilateral agreement do not have to attend the university.

Students in Arts and Humanities have to follow a whole program at the university, as soon as they enter the ENS. They thus obtain a Bachelor's degree and then a Master's degree. Science students benefit from a tailored program that allows them to validate their Bachelor's degree with the classes they attend at ENS. Afterwards, they attend their first year of Master's classes at the ENS in conjunction with the university, while during the second year of Master's they are at the university and will obtain a degree from both the university and ENS.

/ LICENCE (BACHELOR), MASTER AND DOCTORAT (PH.D.)

There are three French university degrees: the *licence* (bachelor's), the master and the *doctorat* (doctorate). French people count each year separately starting from the year the *baccalauréat* (high school degree) was passed: thus the licence is called "Bac +3", the master "Bac +5" and the *doctorat* "Bac +8". The *licence* and master programs are strongly differentiated. Under the Bologna process, each successfully-completed semester earns 30 ECTS credits (European Credits Transfer System); consequently, each academic year earns 60 credits. Thus the *licence* degree comprises 180 credits and the *master* degree comprises 120 additional credits.

- The *licence* is prepared in three years after obtaining the *baccalauréat*. These years are known as L1 (first year of licence), L2 (second year of licence) and L3 (third year of licence). The aim of this program is to give students a basic grounding in a given discipline. Most of the students who enter the first year at ENS have already completed the L2 and prepare their L3 at ENS. Universities offer two types of *licences*: general *licences* and *licences professionnelles* (professional licence). ENS students may not enroll in a *licence profesionnelle*.
- The *master* is prepared in two years: M1 (first year of *master*) and M2 (second year of *master*). In Arts and Humanities, students have to attend lessons each year and also write a research paper of about a hundred pages, under the supervision of a dissertation director. At the end of each academic year, students have to present their work. The M2

research subject is in most cases the same as the one in M1, although is it still possible to change subjects and even the field of study between the two years of *master*. In Sciences, students attend lessons during the first semester and do an internship, in France or abroad, during the second semester.

- The *doctorat* is prepared in three or sometimes four years. Students are called *doctorants* (or colloquially *thésards*) and have to write a doctoral thesis of about 300 pages on a specific subject. They conduct thorough research in a laboratory for Science students and generally in a library for Arts and Humanities students. The thesis is supervised by a thesis director and *doctorants* defend the outcome of their research during the thesis defense. After the thesis has been submitted and defended, the *doctorant* becomes a *docteur* and is able to apply for post-doctoral positions or for *maître de conferences* (university lecturer) positions. Ph.D. students can prepare their degree either at the university or at ENS.

There are different types of Ph.D. contracts. Some offer remuneration to doctoral students, who in turn have to give lessons, or are assigned to the dissemination of scientific information, or to the development of research results, or receive a consultancy assignment. Doctoral students who receive no remuneration are not eligible for these assignments.

It is also possible to prepare a Ph.D. thesis with joint international tutors. In this case, the thesis is supervised by two directors, one from a French academic institution and the other from a foreign one. Doctoral students under joint tutorship are enrolled in both institutions and prepare their thesis alternatively in each institution. The language in which the thesis is written must be recognized as such in both institutions. After defending their thesis, the new doctors receive a dual degree or two joint degrees, according to the institutions' regulations.

Students can also sign a Ph.D. contract in partnership with a firm: these contracts are called *contrats Cifre* and are managed by the ANRT (*Association nationale de la recherche et de la technologie*, the French national association for research and technology). Future doctoral students can submit their applications at any time for a scientific research project in a firm, an association, a French regional administration or a consular chamber, provided that the chosen structure is established in France. To set up the contract, students must contact the *pôle Contrat-recherche* at ENS. Students from outside the European Union must get a visa to obtain a "*scientifique-chercheur*" (scientific research) residence permit, valid for more than three months.

/ STUDYING AT ÉCOLE NORMALE SUPÉRIEURE

ACADEMIC STUDIES

All students enrolled at the École normale supérieure must take at least two courses per semester and one modern language course per academic year.

The ENS offers a wide range of courses, spread out in 15 different departments in Sciences or Arts and Humanities: Biology, Chemistry, Cognitive science, Computer science, Geosciences, Mathematics and applications, Physics, Economics, History, History and theory of art, Geography and territories, Literature and languages, Philosophy, Social sciences, ECLA (*Espaces des Cultures et Langues d'ailleurs*).

There are several types of lessons, depending on the public and the department that organizes them.

In the Sciences, lessons are mainly *cours magistraux*, i.e. *lectures* for a class of students, *travaux pratiques*, i.e. lab work, *travaux dirigés*, i.e. supervised practical work, and research seminars on a precise subject. Training through research is validated when students do an internship in a laboratory, under the supervision of the ENS or a partner institution.

In the Humanities, lessons can take various forms: induction courses are for students, especially first-year students, wishing to become familiar with a general subject. Research seminars cover a specific subject on which several speakers share their points of view. There are also numerous classes in between. Training through research in humanities is validated by writing and defending a research paper, during each year of their Master's course.

The French grading system is based mostly on a 20-point grading scale. The lowest mark is 0/20, the highest mark is 20/20 and the pass mark, which allows the validation of the exercise or the semester of the academic year, is generally 10/20 (however it may be 12/20 in some specific cases). The minimal grade for a research paper to be accepted is 14/20.

Numerous foreign languages are taught, including some rare languages. The choice includes Arabic, Bambara, Chinese, Danish, English, French Sign Language, German, Modern Hebrew, Hindi, Icelandic, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Persian, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Swedish, Turkish, and Yiddish. Lessons in French as a Foreign Language are also taught for foreign students wishing to learn French or to improve their level.

The course description book, the *Livret des enseignements*, is available on the ENS website.

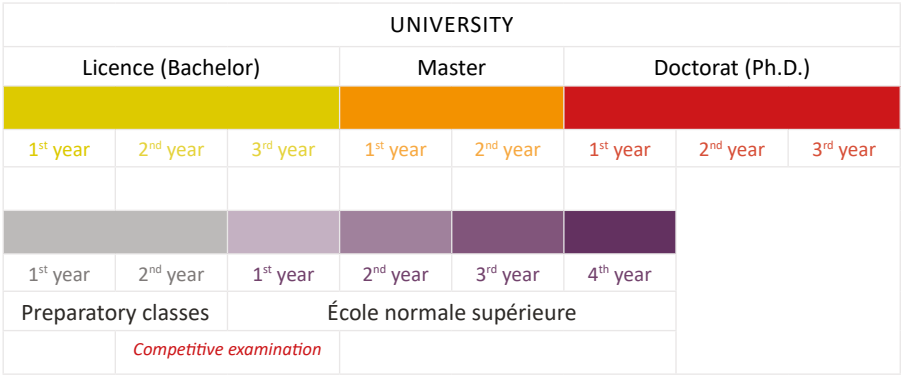
At the end of their studies, students receive the *diplôme de l'École normale supérieure (DENS)*, or the ENS diploma. To obtain the diploma, graduating students must have been enrolled at least three times for the diploma, must already have obtained their Master's degree and must have obtained at least 36 credits at ENS. At least one-third of these 36 credits must be in the same discipline as the department to which they belonged and as the Master's degree.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR DOING AN INTERNSHIP

Internship regulations in France are very strict. Only students enrolled on a national university degree or the *diplôme de l'École* may do an internship supervised by the ENS, generally in a scientific laboratory, a public administration or a firm. Before beginning the internship, students must complete a contract called *convention de stage*, signed by themselves, the ENS Director and the hosting organization. Interns must be paid (they receive an internship 'allowance' rather than a salary) if the internship lasts more than two months. Nevertheless, the amount of this allowance may not exceed 500€ per month.

These conditions are compulsory for internships because the *convention de stage* plays the role of insurance. In order to obtain a *convention de stage* students must contact the *Service des concours, de la scolarité et des thèses* (CoST).

Students who are not administratively enrolled at ENS but wish to do an internship, in France or abroad, must have their institutions of origin sign the *convention de stage*.



EDUCATIONAL
SUPPORT

/ BENEFITS FOR PENSIONNAIRES AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

- Free access to all ENS lessons and seminars. Students may also enroll in a French university (contact the university for information about the lessons).
- Academic tutoring (called *tutorat*). All ENS students should have a tutor. On their arrival foreign students and *pensionnaires* should contact the representative of the International relations office to find a tutor (if they want to).
- Access to the ENS libraries – students must fill out the registration form of each library.
- Access to computer facilities (internet in the halls of residence, e-mail address, computer room).
- Access to cultural, arts and sports activities organized by the students' union.
- Access to the ENS restaurant at subsidized prices.

/ TEACHING AND RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS OUTSIDE THE ENS

Here is a non-exhaustive list of academic institutions in which the *normaliens* can take lessons, attend seminars or do research.

Information on the detailed lessons program or the library opening hours is available in each institution concerned.

UNIVERSITIES AND HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

Paris I (Panthéon-Sorbonne)
12 place du Panthéon
Paris 75005
(Law, Economics, Human Sciences)
www.univ-paris1.fr

Paris II (Panthéon Assas)
12 place du Panthéon
Paris 75005
(Law, Economics, Human Sciences)
www.u-paris2.fr

Paris III (Sorbonne Nouvelle)
17 rue de la Sorbonne
Paris 75005
(Humanities)
www.univ-paris3.fr

Paris IV (Sorbonne)
1 rue Victor Cousin,
Paris 75005
(Humanities)
www.paris4.sorbonne.fr

Paris V (Université René Descartes)
12 rue de l'École de Médecine, Paris 75005
(Medicine, Pharmaceutics, Science and Human Sciences)
www.univ-paris5.fr

Paris VI (Université Pierre et Marie Curie)
4 place Jussieu
Paris 75005
(Science)
www.umpc.fr

Paris VII (Université Denis Diderot)
2 place Jussieu
Paris 75005
(Humanities and Sciences)
www.diderotp7.jussieu.fr

Paris VIII (Université Vincennes Saint-Denis)
2 rue de la Liberté
Saint-Denis (93)
(Humanities)
www.univ-p8.fr

Paris IX (Paris Dauphine)
place du Maréchal de Lattre de Tassigny,
Paris 75016
(Economics and Management)
www.dauphine.fr

Paris X (Nanterre)
200 avenue de la République
Nanterre (92)
(Law, Social Sciences and Humanities)
www.u-paris10.fr

Paris XI (Université Paris Sud)
15 rue Georges Clemenceau
Orsay (91)
(Science)
www.u-psud.fr

Paris XII (Val-de-Marne)
61 avenue du Général de Gaulle
Créteil (94)
(Science, Social Sciences and Humanities)
www.univ-paris12.fr

Paris XIII (Paris Nord)
avenue Jean-Baptiste Clément
Villetaneuse (93)
(Science, Social Sciences and Humanities)
www.univ-paris13.fr

Collège de France
11 place Marcelin Berthelot
Paris 75005
(All disciplines)
www.college-de-France.fr

Collège International de Philosophie
1 rue Descartes
Paris 75005
(Philosophy)
www.ci-philo.asso.fr

EHESS (École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales)
54 bd Raspail
Paris 75006
(Social Sciences)
www.ehess.fr

EPHE (École Pratique des Hautes Études)
45-47 rue des Écoles
Paris 75005
(Science and Social Sciences)
www.ephe.sorbonne.fr

École Nationale des Chartes
19 rue de la Sorbonne
Paris 75005
(Medieval Studies)
www.enc.sorbonne.fr

Institut catholique de Paris
(private university)
21 rue d'Assas
Paris 75006
(Science, Social Sciences and Humanities)
www.icp.fr

Sciences Po (Institut d'études politiques et Fondation)
27 rue Saint Guillaume
Paris 75007
(Political Science)
www.sciences-po.fr

INALCO (Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales)
2 rue de Lille
Paris 75007
(Foreign Languages)
www.inalco.fr

LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES

American Library in Paris
10 rue du Général Camou, Paris 75007

Archives nationales
60 rue des Francs-Bourgeois, Paris 75003
(French national archives)

Bibliothèque Forney
1 rue du Figuier, Paris 75004
(Fine arts)

Bibliothèque de l'IEP - Sciences Po
27 rue Saint Guillaume, Paris 75007
(Political Science)

Bibliothèque de l'INHA (Institut national d'histoire de l'art)
4 rue Vivienne, Paris 75002
(History of Arts)

Bibliothèque Mazarine (Institut de France)
23 quai de Conti, Paris 75006
(Manuscripts)

Bibliothèque de la MSH (Maison des sciences de l'homme)
54 bd Raspail, Paris 75006
(Human and Social Sciences)

BNF (Bibliothèque nationale de France)
11 quai François Mauriac, Paris 75013

BNF
58 rue de Richelieu, Paris 75002
(Maps, engravings, manuscripts, medals, music scores)

BNF
1 rue Sully, Paris 75004
(Arts and theaters)

BPI (Bibliothèque publique d'information du Centre Pompidou)
19 rue Beaubourg, Paris 75004
(All disciplines)

Bibliothèque Sainte-Geneviève
10 place du Panthéon, Paris 75005
(Humanities)

Bibliothèque de la Société de l'histoire du protestantisme français
54 rue des Saints-Pères, Paris 75007
(French protestantism)

Bibliothèque de la Sorbonne
1 rue Victor Cousin, Paris 75005
(Humanities and Social Sciences)

Bibliothèque de l'UNESCO (Organisation des Nations unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture)
7 place de Fontenoy, Paris 75007

IRHT (Institut de recherche et d'histoire des textes)
40 avenue d'Iéna, Paris 75016
(Manuscripts)

THE START OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR IN SEPTEMBER

We are very pleased to welcome you during your stay in Paris! We hope that your experience will be an enriching and enjoyable one.

The academic year starts in early September. *Pensionnaires étrangers* and ERASMUS students will receive information regarding the registration and welcome day by email.

ENS ACADEMIC YEAR

- **Fall Semester:** classes from the end of September to the end of December, exams and papers due in January
- **Mid-term Holidays:** 2 week break in October/November
- **Winter Holidays:** 2 week break in December/January
- **Spring Semester:** classes from the end of January to the end of May, exams and papers in May or June
- **Spring Holidays:** 2 week break in April
- **Summer Holidays:** June to August

Please note that although ENS publishes a university-wide calendar each year, specific departments may have their own dates. Before planning travel, please verify your holiday dates with your professors, to ensure that you do not miss class.

BEFORE YOU ARRIVE: FOR NEW STUDENTS

/ WHAT TO BRING WITH YOU

The documents you will be required to show at the Registrar's Office in order to successfully begin your studies at ENS differ according to your country of origin and your student status at the ENS. There are two broad categories of foreign students at the ENS.

The first category is that of an 'exchange' or 'study abroad student,' which refers to students who begin their degree at another university and, during the course of that degree, attend the ENS for one semester or one year before returning to their home institutions (*pensionnaires étrangers* and Erasmus students).

The second is that of an 'international' student, which refers to those who begin their degree at the ENS with the ENS as their home institution, and ultimately will receive an ENS diploma when they complete their multi-year degree.

/ INSURANCE: VERY IMPORTANT!

MEDICAL INSURANCE

- You must arrive in France with medical insurance.
- If you are a citizen of an EU country, you can bring your European Health Insurance Card (CEAM in France).
- If you are a citizen of a country outside of the EU, you will need to provide proof of private insurance that covers you in France.
- Make sure you know the terms of your policy and the reimbursement structure for care.
- You may need to have this document **translated into French**. See if your company will offer the policy in French.

CIVIL RESPONSABILITY INSURANCE

- This insurance is COMPULSORY in France. It covers risks such as fire, accidents, etc.
- You can sign up for this insurance at a French bank, or online. It should consist of a one-time payment of about 50-150 euros.

HOUSING INSURANCE

- Housing insurance is also COMPULSORY in France.
- If you are housed at ENS, you will be asked to provide the housing office with a copy of the policy you purchase.
- You can purchase a policy at a French bank, or online.

PROCEDURES FOR ERASMUS+ STUDENTS

/ BEFORE YOUR ARRIVAL

The ERASMUS+ coordinator in the International Affairs Department must receive ERASMUS applications in the spring for a stay in the fall (1st) semester, and in the fall for a stay in the spring (2nd) semester.

These applications are sent to the academic departments for approval, and students will be contacted with their application decision no later than the end of May for the fall semester, and the end of November for the spring semester.

/ WHEN YOU ARRIVE

On arrival, ERASMUS+ students must go to the International Affairs Department in order to have their attendance sheet signed. Students should contact the IAD to know the openings hours.

ERASMUS+ students must also contact their ERASMUS+ coordinator or representative of the International relations department to finalize their study program.

HOW TO GET TO THE ENS

/ FROM THE AIRPORTS

FROM ROISSY/CHARLES DE GAULLE (CDG)

Take the RER line B and get off:

- for **45 rue d'Ulm**: take the RER line B and get off at *Luxembourg*.
- for **48 boulevard Jourdan**: take the RER line B and get off at *Cité universitaire*.
- for **1 rue Maurice Arnoux** in **Montrouge**: take the metro Line 4 and get off at *Mairie de Montrouge*.

FROM ORLY

Take the ORLYBUS and:

- for **45 rue d'Ulm**: get off at *Denfert-Rochereau* (terminus), then take the RER B up to *Luxembourg* or the n° 38 bus to *Auguste Comte* bus stop.
- for **48 boulevard Jourdan**: get off at *Tombe Issoire* (opposite no. 48 blvd Jourdan)
- for **Montrouge**: get off at 48 boulevard Jourdan (*Tombe Issoire* bus stop), then take the metro line and get off at *Mairie de Montrouge*.

/ FROM PARIS

The different campuses are accessible via the following public transport means:

45 RUE D'ULM

- Bus 38: *Auguste Comte* bus stop
- Bus 21 and 27: *Feuillantines* bus stop
- Bus 89 and 84: *Panthéon Mairie du 5e* bus stop
- RER B: *Luxembourg* station

48 BOULEVARD JOURDAN

- Tramway T3: *Montsouris* stop
- Bus 28, 38 and 68: *Porte d'Orléans* bus stop
- Metro line 4: *Porte d'Orléans* station
- RER B: *Cité Universitaire* station

1 RUE MAURICE ARNOUX, MONTROUGE

- Bus 194 or 195: *Dépinoy* bus stop (the bus leaves from the *Porte d'Orléans*)
- Metro line 4: *Mairie de Montrouge* station

ACCOMODATION

/ YOUR ARRIVAL AT THE STUDENTS' RESIDENCE

Please inform the person in charge of welcoming you of the date and approximate time of your arrival by e-mailing or phoning any of the following addresses or numbers:

- This email address: hebergement@ens.psl.eu
- Depending on the students' residence you will be staying in:

JOURDAN
Tel. +33 1 43 13 61 56

ULM
Tel. +33 1 44 32 32 42
Fax. +33 1 44 32 30 10

MONTROUGE
Tel. +33 1 58 07 65 10
Fax. +33 1 58 07 50 80

OFFICE HOURS

9:00-12:00
14:00-17:00
Monday to Friday

Outside the office hours indicated, you will find your room key at reception 45 rue d'Ulm, 48 boulevard Jourdan or 1 rue Maurice Arnoux in Montrouge, provided you have informed the person responsible for your welcome (hebergement@ens.psl.eu) in advance of your approximate time of arrival.

Before you arrive, feel free to write to the following email addresses, to ask any questions you might have about your accommodation, restaurant opening dates, etc.: hebergement@ens.psl.eu and dri@ens.psl.eu

Most schools in Paris do not have on-campus housing, and students rent rooms in student residences, or individual apartments. ERASMUS+ students find their own housing in Paris. If you wish to have a list of useful websites for finding lodging, please ask the DRI (dri@ens.psl.eu).

Pensionnaires étrangers may be housed in the ENS dormitories. ENS has dormitories on its three campuses: Ulm, Jourdan, and Montrouge. Rent per month is approximately 350-400 euros.

Dormitories are open from the beginning of September to the end of June. Special permission may be granted to stay in July. Anyone wishing to stay in the dormitory in July should ask the Housing Office for permission as soon as possible (hebergement@cri.ens.psl.eu).

As mentioned in the insurance section, housing insurance is mandatory in France, and if you are living in an ENS dormitory, **you will need to send a copy of your insurance policy to the Housing Office**.

COLLECTING YOUR ROOM KEY

When you have your exact arrival date and time, please inform the DRI (dri@ens.psl.eu) and the Housing Office (hebergement@cri.ens.psl.eu).

If you arrive on a weekday between 9 and 12 or between 14 and 17, you will be able to pick your key up in person and receive directions regarding the location of your room. If you arrive outside of these hours, your key will be left for you at the security gate, and you will need to locate the room yourself.

/ EQUIPMENT

Rooms are furnished and the various campuses have a certain amount of equipment to meet most needs. If you intend to bring electrical or electronic appliances (razor, hair dryer, radio, etc.), you should know that domestic electrical current in France is 50 Hertz and 220 volts. Make sure you have the correct adapters (sockets).

In principle, you should have no difficulty bringing personal belongings into France. However, to avoid problems, especially if you bring valuable equipment (photography, video, computers, etc.), bring the original invoices which you can if necessary present to the customs authorities with your passport and your certificate of acceptance to the ENS.

If you have to send heavy objects (books for example), **be sure to arrange for them to arrive at the School after September 6st**: deliveries cannot be taken during the school holidays. Please note that no parcels can be stored: you must therefore be present on the campus when your parcels are delivered.

The rooms are furnished (but do not have individual refrigerators). **Bed linen and towels are not provided**.

All the bedrooms have cable (Internet access and e-mail): ask the student representatives or the computer department: cri@ens.psl.eu.

If on your arrival you notice anything wrong with your room, please inform the reception service immediately or send an email to: hebergement@ens.psl.eu **and/or** logistique@ens.psl.eu**.**

/ EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE ON THE DIFFERENT CAMPUSES

ULM

- Washing machines and dryers
- Kitchens with refrigerators, hot plates and mini-oven (plates and kitchen utensils - saucepans, etc. - are not provided)
- Cafeteria
- Libraries (Humanities library and departmental libraries)
- Computer room (PC, Apple Macintosh and UNIX stations)
- Bédéthèque (library of comic books): see the COF (students' association)
- Sports room

JOURDAN

- Washing machines and dryers
- Kitchens with refrigerators, hot plates and mini-oven (plates and kitchen utensils - saucepans, etc. are not provided)
- Cafeteria (with newspapers)
- Literature library (Humanities and Social Sciences)
- Computer room with PC, Apple Macintosh and UNIX stations
- Sports facilities at the Cité universitaire
- Television room: see the COF
- Pianos.

MONTROUGE

- Washing machines and dryers
- Fully equipped kitchens on each floor, where you can make breakfast and simple meals
- Science library

EVERYDAY LIFE

/ MEALS

The ENS has two restaurants, colloquially called pôts: one on the Ulm campus and the other on the Jourdan campus.

The two restaurants are open for lunch from 11:50 to 14:00. The price for a meal is approximately 4 euros.

In the morning, the Ulm restaurant serves breakfast from 7.30 to 9.20, for approximately 2 euros.

/ MAIL AND E-MAIL

All ENS students have a pigeonhole for mail on the Ulm campus (between the *salle informatique* (computer room) and the *bédéthèque* (comic book library). This is where the administration sends the forms to be returned to the registrar's office (CoST).

The School communicates a lot by e-mail. On their arrival, all ENS students receive an e-mail address in the following form: firstname.lastname@ens.psl.eu. As the administration and the departments essentially communicate by e-mail, you should check your e-mails very regularly.

It is important to **check it regularly** because ENS will send individual or group messages there. If you do not, it will automatically be canceled.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You must go to the logistics department to obtain your multi-purpose card. This card gives you access to the ENS buildings and the restaurants, and includes you in the public directory. The School cannot be held liable in the event of an accident involving a person who is not included in the public directory. Moreover, all newcomers must contact the Computer resources center (CRI) to access the internet network of the ENS.

/ BANKS

You will very probably have to open a bank account in France. Most banks have a network of branches in Paris and in the provinces. You can open a non-resident's account without any particular formalities.

If the bank in your country has a branch in Paris, opening an account and transferring money will no doubt be quicker than in another bank. The School has an agreement with the *Société Générale*, which makes it easy to open an account. This branch will be present on the first day of the semester.

Finally, international bankcards (American Express, Visa, Mastercard, etc.) may be useful in that they enable you to withdraw cash easily

/ PUBLIC TRANSPORT

If you are under 26, you can get several reductions (*Carte jeune*, *billets BIGE*, Inter-Rail Card). Ask at the SNCF or Air France about how to obtain reduced-price tickets.

If you intend to travel widely in France or in Europe, ask for information at an agency **in your country** specializing in conditions for using the *Euro-pass*.

FOR TRANSPORT IN PARIS

2 season ticket systems are available:

- For people under 26: ***Carte Imagine R*** (approximately 300€ a year): this will let you travel freely on the RATP networks (metro and bus) and the Paris section of the RER network (RATP and SNCF).
- For people over 26: ***Carte Navigo*** (approximately 700€ a year, paid in monthly installments from your bank account): this will let you travel freely on the RATP networks (metro and bus) and the Paris section of the RER network (RATP and SNCF).

You can also buy tickets individually (about 2€) or in booklets of 10 (about 14€). The **metro** runs from 5am until 1:15am (and now until 2:15am on Saturdays). In general the **RER** runs until 12:30 or 1:00am. Many **buses** however cease to run after 20:30 although certain lines run in the evenings and at night, others on Sundays.

Timetables and more information about metro/bus/RER hours are available at Paris's public transit website: www.ratp.fr

LIFE AT ENS

/ ADMINISTRATIVE RECEPTION

The administrative reception and welcome day for international students is always in late August or early September. You will be welcomed by the DRI team and able to ask any questions you have about your move to France. You will receive:

- Your student multi-function card (useful for entering buildings, paying for meals on campus, and receiving reductions and free entry to various museums and cultural sites in France)
- Information about class registration and available classes
- Information about student life and the activities planned for the month of September
- The dates of the the intensive French internship in September
- Information about the compulsary insurance
- Information about opening a bank account in France
- Support in applying for a residence permit (if you will need one)
- You should receive your student email address and wifi codes before you arrival by text or email, if not you can visit these offices in person at ENS upon arrival.

The ENS is a very stimulating environment, with its open-access libraries, its numerous conferences on various subjects, and also its several students' clubs and activities. For further information, have at look at the bulletin boards, read the student's journal, the *Bocal*, and go to the informal events organized on the Ulm campus in September.

INFORMATION WEEKS

At the beginning of each academic year, the ENS organizes two information weeks for pupils from the 1st to the 4th year. Don't miss these, as you will learn a lot about classes and life at the École. There will be lectures as well as compulsory tours of the departments, laboratories and libraries.

/ HELP AND SUPPORT

Arriving at a new university in a foreign country can sometimes be hard! The food, the housing, the customs, the classes – many things you will encounter might be different from your previous studies back at home. Additionally, sometimes things might go awry: perhaps you have a question about your visa, or perhaps you unexpectedly need to find new housing.

Whatever your question or concern, the International Affairs Office (Direction des Relations Internationales, or DRI) is here to help!

Pop by the office (second floor, staircase E), or send us an email at dri@ens.psl.eu.

/ SEPTEMBER AT ENS

The exchange student orientation is usually the first week of September. Students will receive the exact dates by email from the DRI.

Each September, ENS organizes information sessions about the departments open to all students. We encourage exchange students to attend these for any departments that interest them.

The school also organizes conferences on different academic themes, open to all students.

Student groups use the month of September to present themselves and their activities. You'll find them in the courtyard each day with stands, ready to welcome new students.

In September, the ECLA language department also organizes an intensive French course. This non-traditional class is not only held in the classroom, but also in field trips across the city of Paris. We highly recommend participating, it is open to all levels.

WELCOME TO THE ÉCOLE NORMALE SUPÉRIEURE!

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