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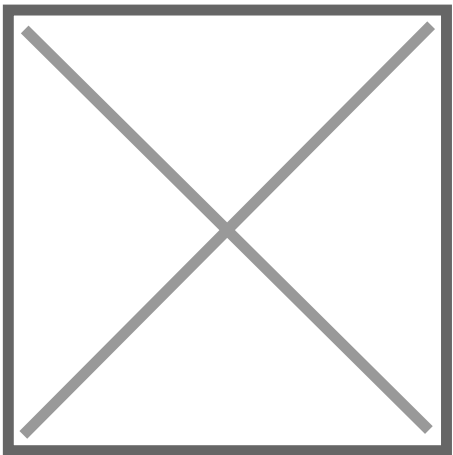
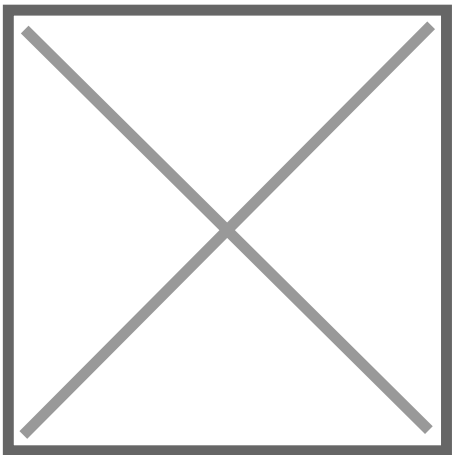
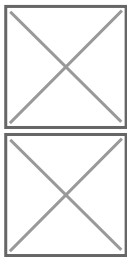
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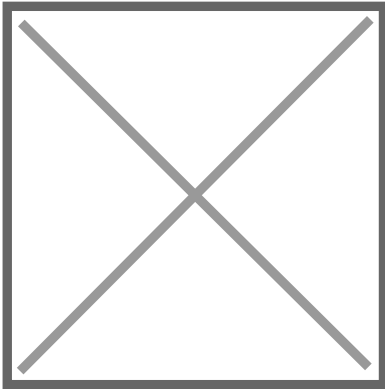
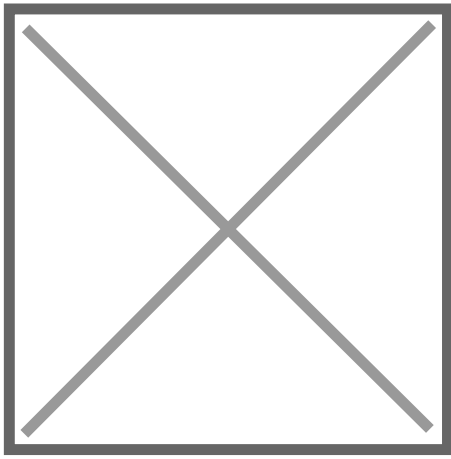
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Add to Compare

M2 Arctic Studies





Master's degree

Specialisations Earth and Planetary Sciences, Environment (STePE) | Science de la durabilité

Enrolment type

Full-time academic programmes Life-long learning

Language(s) of instruction

English

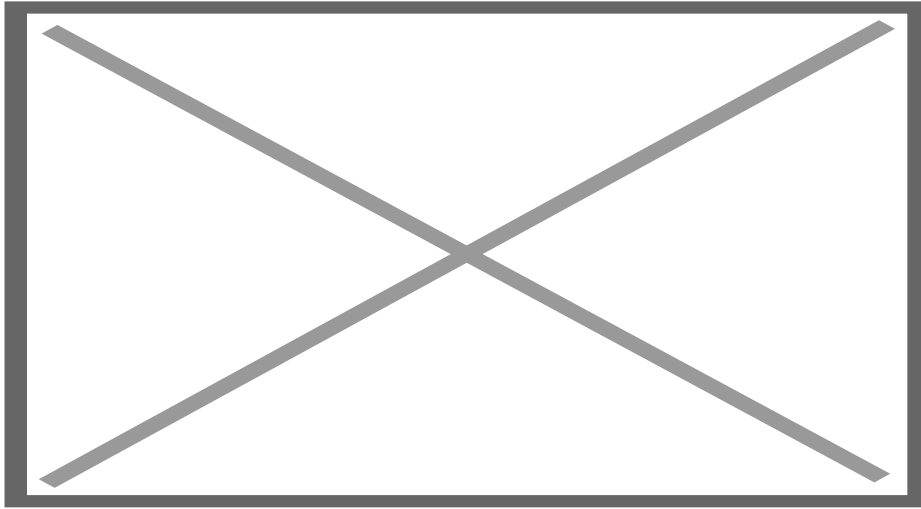
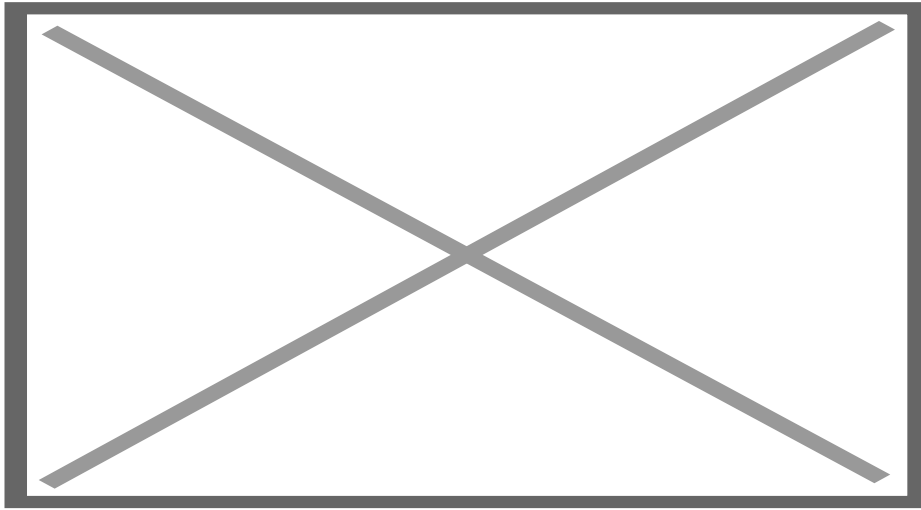
The M2 Arctic Studies is an international, interdisciplinary degree programme associating environment science and the Humanities. It welcomes students from any academic background with a strong interest in the Arctic environment and societies. The programme provides high level tuition in a variety of related fields as well as a professional internship in France or elsewhere. Our associated research labs provide training opportunities for interns interested in research.

The Arctic Studies program trains Arctic researchers in the disciplines of science (environmental sciences and climatology in particular) and SHS (anthropology, cultural studies, international relations, sustainable development, etc.), experts and scientists. Arctic decision-makers able to steer the process of expertise, facilitation and governance, using a method of eco-efficiency and integrated global performance (environmental, economic and social), identifying and to remove barriers to environmentally and ecologically sound development in an Arctic context.

[Video presentation of master's programme](#)

[Télécharger la fiche détaillée](#)

[Apply Now](#)



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Information

- [Overview](#)
- [Application requirements](#)
- [Schedule](#)

Présentation

Skills

- Master and use in depth the specialized knowledge of the Arctic.
- Mobilize methodological, technical and practical skills useful for solving problems in environmental and social sciences.
- Conceptualize, structure and lead a project.
- Learn and act independently.
- Work as a team and collaborate to achieve common goals.
- Synthesize and communicate effectively in English and in a way adapted to the intended audience.

Objectives

The objective of the Master is twofold: to help future decision-makers and facilitators working in the Arctic or in relation to the Arctic to develop integrated analysis tools thanks to a thorough knowledge of the fragile balance between ecosystems and the human ecology of the Arctic. In parallel, the Master is designed to give students interested in research the opportunity to develop a project that will be pursued in the form of a doctoral thesis after validation of the Master. The master offers four areas of complementary skills: -studies in all major areas essential to decision-making

- scientific skills reinforced by intercultural skills that will enable students to act as experts and facilitators but also as advisors and advisers-an international dimension with courses in English-formation to analysis and action

Débouchés

Career prospects

Environment / Biodiversity Officer

Environment / Biodiversity Project Manager

R&D Project Manager

R and D Project Manager

Chargé de mission environnement

Project officer sustainable development

Research officer environment

Research officer in sustainable development

Design engineer in the industrial sector

Design engineer in the research / scientific sector
Design engineer industry / public research
Evaluation and Forecasting Officer
Chargé d'études technico-économiques, stratégiques, environnementales
Project Manager / Researcher in biodiversity and sustainable development
CSR Manager / Officer
Project and regional development officer / manager

Further Study Opportunities

Head of development
Research officer
Chef·fe de projet/de mission
R&D researcher or data modelling and analysis expert in leading-edge companies or laboratories.
Consultant
PhD
Interdisciplinary PhD in Sustainability Science (many disciplines possible)
train international specialists, producing competitive work within reputable teams from public scientific and technological institutions (EPST), in particular the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research (Inserm) and French National Centre Engineering, research and development
Students with a 2nd year Master's degree have the possibility to pursue doctoral research.
PhD thesis

Calendar

Start of programme (indicative date)
02/10/2025
End of programme (indicative date)
31/08/2026
Admission

Admission Route

Law
Economics and Management
Political Science
Humanities
Histoire
Geography and planning
Educational sciences
Social sciences
Human sciences, anthropology, ethnology
Foreign and Regional Languages, Literatures and Civilizations
Physics
Life Sciences
Life and Earth Sciences
Engineering Sciences
Cultural studies

Capacity

Available Places

20

Target Audience and Entry Requirements

Applicants must have a good level of English and a research or professional project consistent with the objectives of the Master. Conditions of admission- four years of higher education validated: Bachelor degree (four-year programme) Master degree (at least first year of master validated), MBA (Equis), PhD High Schools of Engineering and Science High Schools of Business

Période(s) de candidature

Inception Platform

From 30/01/2026 to 15/09/2026

Supporting documents

Compulsory supporting documents

Motivation letter.

All transcripts of the years / semesters validated since the high school diploma at the date of application.

Curriculum Vitae.

Detailed description and hourly volume of courses taken since the beginning of the university program.

Additional supporting documents

Certificate of English level (compulsory for non-English speakers).

VAP file (obligatory for all persons requesting a valuation of the assets to enter the diploma).

Document indicating the list of local M2 choices available here : <https://urlz.fr/i3Lo>.

Supporting documents :

- Residence permit stating the country of residence of the first country
- Or receipt of request stating the country of first asylum
- Or document from the UNHCR granting refugee status
- Or receipt of refugee status request delivered in France
- Or residence permit stating the refugee status delivered in France
- Or document stating subsidiary protection in France or abroad
- Or document stating temporary protection in France or abroad.

Programme

Produce and integrate specialized expertise in sustainability science

Subjects	ECTS	Semester	Lecture	directed study	practical class	Lecture/directed study	practical class	directed study/practical class	d
UE libre Catalogue S1	2.5	Semestre 1							
■									

UE libre Catalogue S1

ECTS : 2.5

Semester: Semestre 1

Language(s) of instruction

Français

Remote teaching

non

Type of assessment

Evaluation Terminale

[Environmental Sciences for the Arctic](#)

3	Semestre 1	10	6
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Subjects	ECTS	Semester	Lecture	directed study	practical class	Lecture/directed study	Lecture/practical class	directed study/practical class	d
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Environmental Sciences for the Arctic

ECTS : 3

Semester: Semestre 1

Detail

Lecture: 10

Directed study: 6

Language(s) of instruction

Anglais

Remote teaching

non

Programme/contents

This unit introduces an array of scientific instruments and models used in polar sciences. Different passive and active remote sensor techniques will be presented along with associated studies and relevant physical processes, all connected to key scientific questions. A focus is put on the lidar instrument (ground based and spaceborne) for the study of aerosols and clouds in polar regions. Spaceborne spectrometers used for monitoring the atmospheric chemical composition are introduced as valuable resources for students engaged in scientific works. Regional atmospheric models applied to studies on aerosol and clouds are introduced through case studies of specific polar events and campaigns.

Type of assessment

Détail renseigné au niveau Élément Constitutif

[Arctic Travel Literature](#)

4

Semestre 26
1

Subjects	ECTS	Semester	Lecture	directed study	practical class	Lecture/directed study	Lecture/practical class	directed study/practical class	d
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Arctic Travel Literature

ECTS : 4

Semester: Semestre 1

Detail

Lecture: 26

Language(s) of instruction

Anglais

Remote teaching

non

Programme/contents

This seminar focuses on the history of exploration of the Arctic and the representation of the circumpolar Arctic in travel literature and cultural productions. Though the course is largely dedicated to Anglophone texts, we will also consider material in translation. Travel writing studies have developed spectacularly in the past decades and travelogues have received increased critical attention from a variety of fields including history and ethno-history, literary and cultural studies, as well as postcolonial studies. Within the context of the latter, the decisive role of Indigenous guides, interpreters, helpers and assistants is increasingly commented upon as part of an effort to decolonize Arctic Humanities and to acknowledge Indigenous knowledge and achievement. Students will be asked to give an oral presentation in class of some twenty minutes duration on a travelogue they will have chosen from the list provided.

Type of assessment

Détail renseigné au niveau Élément Constitutif

[Physical Sciences of the Earth](#)

3	Semestre 1	10	6
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Subjects	ECTS	Semester	Lecture	directed study	practical class	Lecture/directed study	Lecture/practical class	directed study/practical class	d
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Physical Sciences of the Earth

ECTS : 3

Semester: Semestre 1

Detail

Lecture: 10

Directed study: 6

Language(s) of instruction

Anglais

Remote teaching

non

Programme/contents

This module aims to provide a better understanding of certain phenomena specific to polar regions, such as the polar vortex and ozone depletion. Lectures will cover the use of satellite constellations for climate analysis and statistical analyses applied to long-term studies. Practical exercises involving the analysis of data from observations and models will be conducted, focusing on the evolution of the Arctic climate in winter.

Type of assessment

Détail renseigné au niveau Élément Constitutif

Arctic Geography	2	Semestre 1	18
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Subjects	ECTS	Semester	Lecture	directed study	practical class	Lecture/directed study	Lecture/practical class	directed study/practical class	d
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Arctic Geography

ECTS : 2

Semester: Semestre 1

Detail

Directed study: 18

Language(s) of instruction

Anglais

Remote teaching

non

Programme/contents

This course provides an overview of current issues in Arctic Geography both in human and physical geography. The Arctic has been receiving increasingly intense media attention in the past decades, no doubt due to the high impact of climate change in the region, on average four times higher than elsewhere in the world, and the prospect of new opportunities of development as well as geopolitical challenges. To understand and analyse current political, economic and socio-cultural debates in and about the Arctic, it is indispensable to base oneself on solid geographical knowledge about the region. Experts from different fields will intervene in this seminar for which students are expected to prepare a presentation on a contemporary or historical challenge in an Arctic region, discussed by drawing on geographical sources, be they maps, criticism, interviews, blogs etc.

Type of assessment

Détail renseigné au niveau Élément Constitutif

[Initiation to](#)

[French](#)

[language and culture OR](#)

[optional](#)

[course](#)

2

Semestre

1

20

Subjects	ECTS	Semester	Lecture	directed study	practical class	Lecture/directed study	Lecture/practical class	directed study/practical class	d
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Initiation to French language and culture OR optional course

ECTS : 2

Semester: Semestre 1

Detail

Directed study: 20

Language(s) of instruction

Anglais

Remote teaching

non

Programme/contents

This course for foreign students is designed to be an introduction to French language, oral and written, as well as a panorama of French society and culture (classical, pop, modern, regional and multi-ethnic), both past and modern. In the classroom context, using an original interactive pedagogical approach, students experience presentation of objects, food tasting, interviews and songs, screening of still pictures, videos, movies), etc.

Type of assessment

Détail renseigné au niveau Élément Constitutif

Support transformative processes within professional environments

Subjects	ECTS	Semester	Lecture	directed study	practical class	Lecture/directed study	Lecture/practical class	directed study/practical class	c
Initiation to Observation Methodologies	2	Semestre 1	6	8					

Subjects	ECTS	Semester	Lecture	directed study	practical class	Lecture/directed study	Lecture/practical class	directed study/practical class	d
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Initiation to Observation Methodologies

ECTS : 2

Semester: Semestre 1

Detail

Lecture: 6

Directed study: 8

Language(s) of instruction

Anglais

Remote teaching

non

Programme/contents

This unit is dedicated to a better understanding of the technical side of instruments, basics in instrumental physics for measurements and general observational methodologies. Field visits (depending on yearly availability) of various monitoring stations are organized around Paris. Instrumental capabilities are presented on site along with practicals allowing for database handling, data processing and a deeper analysis of the measurement uncertainties, especially in large data pool or time series. A focus is put on atmospheric lidars, meteorological soundings and air quality platforms.

Type of assessment

Détail renseigné au niveau Élément Constitutif

AS - Analyser des problématiques de durabilité (à partir de différentes disciplines et différentes échelles spatiales)

Subjects	ECTS	Semester	Lecture	directed study	practical class	Lecture/directed study	Lecture/practical class	directed study/practical class	d
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[Science de la durabilité 3: dimensions éthique, épistémique et esthétique.](#)

3

Annualisé

Subjects	ECTS	Semester	Lecture	directed study	practical class	Lecture/directed study	Lecture/practical class	directed study/practical class	d
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Science de la durabilité 3: dimensions éthique, épistémique et esthétique.

ECTS : 3

Semester: Annualisé

Language(s) of instruction

Anglais

Remote teaching

oui

Type of assessment

Evaluation Terminale

Arctic	3	Semestre	24
Anthropology	2		



Arctic Anthropology

ECTS : 3
Semester: Semestre 2
Detail
Lecture: 24
Language(s) of instruction
Anglais
Remote teaching
non
Programme/contents

A Circumpolar approach: this course analyses classic and current Arctic anthropology and the remarkable contribution of indigenous peoples to Arctic exploration whose traditional knowledge and viewpoints are now taken into account in research projects. This circumpolar approach, based on case studies in Greenland, Canada, Alaska, Siberia and Fennoscandia, covers impacts of climate change, pollution and new maritime routes; traditional lifestyles and sustainable development; indigenous governance issues; education; identity; ritual and religious phenomena; cultural and linguistic transmission and revitalization; adoption of new digital technologies, etc.
This includes specific lectures developed in collaboration with Siberian and Scandinavian native reindeer herders about environmental and societal topics.

Type of assessment
Détail renseigné au niveau Élément Constitutif

Arctic Geopolitics	2	Semestre 1	18
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Subjects	ECTS	Semester	Lecture	directed study	practical class	Lecture/directed study	Lecture/practical class	directed study/practical class	d
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Arctic Geopolitics

ECTS : 2

Semester: Semestre 1

Detail

Directed study: 18

Language(s) of instruction

Anglais

Remote teaching

non

Programme/contents

This course examines the geopolitical impacts of climate change in the Arctic in terms of shipping, natural resources exploitation, continental shelf claims and government policies. The complex stakes involved requires a multidisciplinary approach. Key issues will be addressed through the interactions between different fields such as legal affairs (maritime law), economy (traditional, global, sustainable), politics (sovereignty) and diplomacy (Arctic organisations, international institutions).

Type of assessment

Détail renseigné au niveau Élément Constitutif

Climatic System	3	Semestre 1	14	4
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Subjects	ECTS	Semester	Lecture	directed study	practical class	Lecture/directed study	Lecture/practical class	directed study/practical class	d
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Climatic System

ECTS : 3

Semester: Semestre 1

Detail

Lecture: 14

Directed study: 4

Language(s) of instruction

Anglais

Remote teaching

non

Programme/contents

This course provides a comprehensive introduction to the fundamental mechanisms governing the Earth's climate system at global and regional scales. Students will learn about interactions between the atmosphere, hydrosphere, and cryosphere, analysing how energy balance and heat transport shape our environment. A main portion of the curriculum is dedicated to the Arctic region, serving as a critical case study for climate sensitivity especially around the so-called arctic amplification and arctic's role as early warning system of global warming.

Type of assessment

Détail renseigné au niveau Élément Constitutif

Develop actionable solutions and policy recommendations aligned with sustainability goals

Subjects	ECTS	Semester	Lecture	directed study	practical class	Lecture/directed study	Lecture/practical class	directed study/practical class
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[Science de la durabilité 4:](#)

[transdisciplinarité\(s\) - action et méthode.](#)

3

Annualisé 18

Science de la durabilité 4: transdisciplinarité(s) - action et méthode.

ECTS : 3

Semester: Annualisé

Detail

Lecture: 18

Language(s) of instruction

Anglais

Remote teaching

oui

Type of assessment

Evaluation Terminale

Arctic Climate and Meteorology	3	Semestre 1	18
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Arctic Climate and Meteorology

ECTS : 3

Semester: Semestre 1

Detail

Lecture: 18

Language(s) of instruction

Anglais

Remote teaching

non

Programme/contents

This course is composed of several courses related to Climate Change and to Arctic weather in general. Severe events such as polar lows and wind blasts in relation to climate change will be presented. The teachers will introduce the Arctic climate and offer them a more detailed understanding of the work furnished by UVSQ's weather station. Comparison with other poles in the solar system will be presented, as well as the statistical analysis needed to study climate changes. The Arctic observed by satellites will complete this series of lectures. Group work will exploit weather archive data obtained from the ground and from space.

Type of assessment

Détail renseigné au niveau Élément Constitutif

Subjects	ECTS	Semester	Lecture	directed study	practical class	Lecture/directed study	Lecture/practical class	directed study/practical class	distance learning
Arctic Societies	3	Semestre 1	16						

Arctic Societies

ECTS : 3

Semester: Semestre 1

Detail

Lecture: 16

Language(s) of instruction

Anglais

Remote teaching

non

Programme/contents

This circumpolar comparative overview of the main human issues of the Arctic today focuses on the relationship between Arctic peoples and their environment. It provides knowledge about geography, history, economy, politics and culture of these northernmost people of the world including indigenous and non-native communities as well as Arctic states. A presentation of classic movies and film archives of the Arctic conclude the programme of this course.

Type of assessment

Détail renseigné au niveau Élément Constitutif

Conference cycle	2	Semestre 2	6
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Conference cycle

ECTS : 2
Semester: Semestre 2
Detail
Directed study: 6
Language(s) of instruction
Anglais
Remote teaching
non
Programme/contents

Students will attend a series of guest lectures and talks. They will write a report on one of the presentations.

Type of assessment
Détail renseigné au niveau Élément Constitutif

Internship	20	Semestre 2	8
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Internship

ECTS : 20
Semester: Semestre 2
Detail
Directed study: 8
Language(s) of instruction
Anglais
Remote teaching
non
Programme/contents

In the second semester, students do an internship in a company, institution, organisation of their choice (in France or elsewhere). The minimum duration varies between the Humanities and natural sciences. Research internships in one of the laboratories of Paris-Saclay or other research organisations are possible. At the end of the internship, students write an internship report which will be defended during a viva.

Type of assessment
Détail renseigné au niveau Élément Constitutif

Subjects	ECTS	Semester	Lecture	directed study	practical class	Lecture/directed study	Lecture/practical class	directed study/practical class	distance learning course
Scientific Writing (English or French)	2	Semestre 1		18					
■									

Scientific Writing (English or French)

ECTS : 2

Semester: Semestre 1

Detail

Directed study: 18

Language(s) of instruction

Anglais

Remote teaching

non

Programme/contents

This interactive course provides the student with new methodologies for management of writing and projects' conception tasks. It uses an American method of 'writing group' to help the students to organise their writings and thoughts (thesis, dissertations, internship report, oral presentation with Power Point, project proposal, mind mapping), to search and reference scientific literature, to analyse scientific papers, to build theoretical discussions and to plan projects.

Type of assessment

Détail renseigné au niveau Élément

Constitutif

Teaching Location(s)

GUYANCOURT

Contact

•

Jan BORM

Co-director of the programme

-

Julien Jumelet

Institut Pierre-Simon-Laplace

<http://www.universite-paris-saclay.fr/formation/master/sciences-de-la-terre-et-des-planetes-environnement/m2-arctic-studies>