

PhD studies

A doctoral degree (PhD) is training through and for research, over a period of three years, enabling students to develop high-level skills and knowledge. It is recognised with the award of a national doctoral degree, which confers the status of doctor (PhD) – the most internationally-recognised university qualification.

PhD studies at Université Paris-Saclay

- Research work is led in a research unit, also known as a lab, under the management of a PhD supervisor and possibly a co-supervisor and co-advisors.
- Each PhD supervisor is a member of a Doctoral School (<https://www.universite-paris-saclay.fr/ecoles-doctorales>), which provides doctoral training in close connection with labs and research teams. The Doctoral Schools are connected to one or more **Graduate School(s)** depending on their research area.
- **The Maison du Doctorat** (Doctoral Centre) implements cross-disciplinary measures to support Doctoral College students and supervisors: alongside their research activity, PhD students benefit from complementary scientific and cross-disciplinary training to develop specific skills during their PhD: **PhD training courses**
- At the end of their research, PhD students write a PhD thesis and defend their work to a panel in order to obtain their doctoral degree.

Université Paris-Saclay has about 4,000 PhD students, of whom over 40% are international, and nearly 1,000 PhD students graduate per year. 90% PhD graduates from Université Paris-Saclay are employed three years after their thesis, and more than half are in permanent employment. They are equally divided between the public and private sectors.

BECOMING A PHD GRADUATE

You must hold a Master's degree, or a degree of a similar standard, to be able to complete a PhD. All details are available on the Université Paris-Saclay website: <https://www.universite-paris-saclay.fr/recherche/doctorat-et-hdr/comment-postuler>

Research subjects are published by PhD supervisors and can be jointly developed with them. They are published on different sites - the university website as well as: <https://www.adum.fr/psaclay/pt>
<https://doctorat.campusfrance.org/phd/offers>
<https://www.abg.asso.fr/fr/candidatOffres>
<http://financements.andes.asso.fr/>

We strongly encourage you to contact your future PhD supervisor as early as possible in order to discuss your research project, but also to find out about your new working environment. You can also contact current PhD students and / or former PhD students from the lab you are going to join so they can provide you with useful information.

DOCTORAL STUDENT STATUS

• Student status

Upon registration, you will receive a student card, which gives access to University libraries and to CROUS facilities (Regional Centres for University and School Institutions), as well as a certificate of attendance at a higher education institution.

• Depending on your funding, employee status or scholarship holder

Your employer will draw up an employment contract upon your arrival.

All PhD students must be funded throughout their thesis work. Funding may come from different sources. Your thesis advisor will help you find this funding.

• Main sources of funding:

- Doctoral contracts, after completing competitive exams at Doctoral Schools, or funding from universities or research institutes
- Fixed-term contracts (FTC) from institutes or companies, for example in the framework of a CIFRE agreement (thesis in partnership with a private company which employs the PhD student and an academic host team)
- The PhD student is employed by a company that authorises him or her to spend between 50 and 100% of their time on their research project
- International scholarships (without an employment contract)

• International joint supervision:

International joint supervision enables a PhD student to be registered with two higher education institutions (Université Paris-Saclay and an institution abroad). The PhD student must register for a minimum of 12 months at each of the institutions. A joint supervision agreement must be established between the two institutions, setting out the details of the thesis, the rules for the defence and, enabling mutual recognition of the research work by both institutions. Contact: cotutelles.internationales@universite-paris-saclay.fr

Planning your departure

PRE-REGISTRATION FOR A PHD

Once your application has been accepted by the Doctoral School, you can proceed with your pre-registration on the ADUM portal - the registration platform for doctoral students. Please contact your Doctoral School to find out about the registration process.

Documents will be required at the time of registration. You can take the following steps in advance:

- Search for accommodation as you will need a postal address (see 'Accommodation' section)
- Contact the CPAM - Caisse Primaire d'Assurance Maladie (national healthcare agency) to join the social security system (see 'Healthcare' section)

- Ask for a public liability insurance certificate (see 'Insurance' section)
- Open a bank account to pay registration fees and the CVEC (Student and Campus Life Contribution)
- Prepare a copy of your Master's degree or equivalent (translation into English if necessary)
- For an international joint supervision, you must have a copy of the agreement signed or in the process of being signed

PREPARING YOUR ARRIVAL IN THE LABORATORY

Depending on your situation, different hosting or cooperation agreements will have to be drawn up before you come to France and work in your laboratory (research unit).

This will be done with your future PhD supervisor and the human resources manager of the research unit. You will either sign:

- an employment contract
- a host agreement (see 'Visa and residence permits' section)
- a cooperation agreement

Upon arrival

COMPLETE YOUR REGISTRATION

As soon as you arrive, you should complete your registration online on the ADUM platform.

- You will have to pay the registration fee and the CVEC (Student and Campus Life Contribution). Payment of the registration fee is made online by credit card - please note only Visa cards are accepted.
<https://www.universite-paris-saclay.fr/recherche/doctorat/frais-dinscription-en-doctorat>

When you register:

- You must read and accept **The PhD Student Charter**
- You must read and sign the internal regulations of the University and the Doctoral School
- You must complete and accept, with your PhD supervisor, the individual training agreement

Find all the information about registration and pre-registration for PhDs **by clicking here**.

Your Doctoral School will support you with the registration process.



During the course of your PhD

- **Registration renewal** (by special dispensation from the 4th year onwards) must be done at the beginning of every academic year with payment of registration fees (in France, registration runs from 1 September to 31 August and cannot be split)
- **A review of the PhD** is carried out by the individual PhD monitoring committee, which must meet every year
- **Training courses and seminars** must be completed by doctoral students throughout the PhD. These are planned with the PhD supervisor and the doctoral school
- **Assignments for PhD students: Additional research assignments** are offered to PhD students with a doctoral contract. Holidays can also be arranged after discussion with the PhD supervisor
- **Documentary resources and University libraries**
- **You will have to complete your defence** at the end of your research work

At the end of your stay

- **Graduation Ceremony:** you will be invited(e) to a Graduation Ceremony the year after you have defended your PhD thesis
- **Surveys:** we will regularly keep in touch with you through surveys
- **Alumni:** you will be invited to join the Université Paris-Saclay alumni association for doctors
- **Preparation of the post-thesis period:** skills booklet, employability

