

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.

A PhD 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 College) 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 4,500 PhD students, more than 30% of whom are of foreign nationality, and nearly 1,000 PhD students graduate per year. Over 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/en/research/doctorate/registration-and-re-registration>

Research subjects are published by PhD supervisors and can be jointly developed with them. They are published on different websites - the university website as well as:

<https://www.adum.fr/psaclay/pt>

Students can also find out about opportunities via the following link: <https://doctorat.campusfrance.org/phd/offers>

As far as funding options are concerned, you can find out what is available via the website:

<https://www.universite-paris-saclay.fr/en/admission/doctorate-and-habilitation-supervise-research-hdr-french>

Or on the following websites:

<http://financements.andes.asso.fr/> and on the Campus France website: [CampusBourses - v1.3.6 \(campusfrance.org\)](https://campusfrance.org)

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.

You will benefit from the same academic advantages as PhD students with student status. For scholarship holders, a research residence agreement will be drawn up if the funding is equal to the minimum authorised threshold of €1,690 net per month for obtaining a researcher talent passport visa prior to arrival. (Please see the 'visa and residence permits' section) All PhD students must be funded for the entirety of their thesis work. The funding may come from different places and the thesis advisor will work with students to find this funding.

• Main sources of funding:

- Doctoral contracts, after completing competitive exams at Doctoral Schools, or funding from universities or research institutes
- Private sector PhD contracts from institutes or companies, for example in the framework of a CIFRE agreement (Convention industrielle de formation par la recherche), a 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 (Registration in FTLV, lifelong learning).
- Scholarships from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or from foreign institutions (scholarship status does not lead to a contract of employment, but a research residence agreement can be established).

• International joint supervision:

International joint supervision is an international exchange system which allows a PhD student enrolled in two institutions (Université Paris-Saclay and an institution abroad) to obtain a PhD from the two partner countries following a single defence. The PhD student must spend a minimum of 12 months in each institution. The joint supervision requires a joint-supervision agreement to be set up between the two institutions which outlines the administrative, academic and financial arrangements. This arrangement allows for the mutual recognition of the activity carried out in both institutions by the two research teams.

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:

<https://www.universite-paris-saclay.fr/ecoles-doctorales>.

You can see the information about registration here: <https://www.universite-paris-saclay.fr/en/admission/doctorate-and-habilitation-supervise-research-hdr-french>

At the time of registration, your file must comprise several documents. The list of documents will be communicated to you by your doctoral school.

You should also take the following steps as soon as possible:

- 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 and a research residence 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. If you are under joint supervision, payment of the registration fees is made according to the breakdown specified in the wording of your agreement.

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

- **Re-registration** (by dispensation from the 4th year onwards) with payment of the registration fee is required each academic year. Please note that each registration is valid from September 1st to August 31st and not for shorter periods.
- **A review of the PhD** is carried out by the individual PhD monitoring committee, which must meet every year.
- **Training sessions** must be completed by doctoral students throughout the three years of the PhD course. These are planned with the PhD supervisor and the doctoral school.
- **Additional research assignments:** Additional assignments not related to research are offered to PhD students with a public or private sector PhD contract, as well as to scholarship holders with a research residence agreement. These additional assignments enable the acquisition of skills in teaching, science outreach, research promotion or expertise. You can find further information about the various types of assignments available here: <https://www.universite-paris-saclay.fr/recherche/doctorat-et-hdr/missions-doctorales>.
- **Information resources and University libraries (BU)**
- **The defence** prepared by a PhD student at the end of their work: <https://www.universite-paris-saclay.fr/en/recherche/doctorat-et-hdr/phd-defense>

At the end of your stay

- **Graduation Ceremony:** you will be invited 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

