

## **PRESS RELEASE**

Paris-Saclay, February 2 2026

### **Université Paris-Saclay joins U21, a prestigious international network of research-intensive universities**

**On Monday 2 February 2026, Université Paris-Saclay joins the Universitas 21 (U21) network, becoming its 31st member and the first French institution to do so, thereby strengthening the global community of research-intensive universities.**

Universitas 21 (U21) is a global network bringing together leading, research-intensive universities across six continents, united by a shared commitment to collaboration and internationalisation. From Belgium to Chile, via Japan and South Africa, U21 delivers programmes and activities specifically designed for students, researchers and staff at its member institutions. The Universitas 21 network also provides a platform for collaboration, knowledge exchange, the sharing of good practice and joint initiatives, enabling its members to develop collective responses to major societal challenges.

A world-class research-intensive university at both European and global level, Université Paris-Saclay will bring to the U21 network the excellence of its fundamental and applied research in science and engineering, life and health sciences, and the humanities and social sciences, underpinned by strong support for interdisciplinarity and a leading role in innovation. Together, the members of Université Paris-Saclay account for around 13% of France's R&D, forming a powerful scientific hub that helps address major societal challenges, particularly in health and wellbeing; energy, climate, environment and sustainable development; biodiversity, agriculture and food; knowledge sharing; digital transformation and AI; transport and mobility; aeronautics and space; and industrial renewal. By joining U21, the university will also enable other members of the network to benefit from the rich partnerships it has developed in Africa, Latin America, India and more broadly across Asia.

#### **Encouraging international mobility, partnerships and the sharing of experiences**

Membership will strengthen Université Paris-Saclay's international engagement and create new opportunities for mobility, interactions and partnerships for its students, researchers and staff. Through the U21 network, Université Paris-Saclay's approximately 50,000 students will have access to a range of activities promoting intercultural engagement, including collaborative programmes, challenges, and numerous networking initiatives, with a particular focus on sustainability, equity, diversity and inclusion. For example, U21 will offer them the opportunity to take part in sustainable micro-internships, bringing together student teams from different nationalities to develop and present joint solutions to real-world challenges posed by global organisations.

For the university's researchers, the network will provide opportunities at every stage of their careers, including doctoral thesis competitions that enhance research communication, early-career researcher workshops focused on international networking and interdisciplinary collaboration, and mid-career development programmes emphasising leadership and resilience. U21 also supports the development of new collaborative research initiatives and emerging partnerships between member universities.

Finally, for staff, U21 provides access to seed funding to support international collaborations, as well as professional communities that allow staff to share expertise, exchange best practices, and build

rewarding professional relationships with peers around the world.

“Université Paris-Saclay is delighted to formalise its membership of the Universitas 21 network. By combining our strengths in research, education and innovation with those of thirty of the world’s leading universities, we aim to contribute to developing new solutions to today’s and tomorrow’s economic and societal challenges, while fostering world-class interdisciplinary research, supported by student mobility and international collaborations,” said Camille Galap, president of Université Paris-Saclay.

“We are delighted to welcome Université Paris-Saclay to the U21 network. Its strengths in science, innovation and R&D, combined with a strong international outlook and a commitment to addressing major societal challenges, make Université Paris-Saclay an ideal partner for our global community. We look forward to the expertise, leadership and collaborations it will bring to the network, building on the strong relationships it already maintains with several U21 members,” said Professor Jenny Dixon, Provost of Universitas 21.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **ABOUT UNIVERSITÉ PARIS-SACLAY**

Université Paris-Saclay was born from the shared ambition of French universities, grandes écoles and national research organizations. As a leading university in Europe and the world, it covers the fields of science and engineering, life sciences and health, and humanities and social sciences. The university’s science policy closely intertwines research and innovation, incorporating both basic and applied science to tackle major societal challenges. Université Paris-Saclay offers a varied range of undergraduate to doctorate level degrees, including programmes with its grandes écoles, all of which are focused on achieving student success and employability. The university prepares students for an ever-changing world where the ability to think critically, remain agile and renew one’s skills are crucial. Université Paris-Saclay also offers a comprehensive range of lifelong learning courses. Located to the south of Paris, the university extends across a vast and rich local area. Its location strengthens both its international visibility and its close ties with its socio-economic partners (major companies, SMEs, start-ups, local authorities, charities). [www.universite-paris-saclay.fr](http://www.universite-paris-saclay.fr)



### **International Press Contact :**

Eléonore de Narbonne  
[eleonore.denarbonne@universite-paris-saclay.fr](mailto:eleonore.denarbonne@universite-paris-saclay.fr)