université
PARIS-SACLAY

# PhD Track 2026-2027

# PhD Track of Université Paris-Saclay :

- A distinctive program designed to engage students in research-based education
- An innovative approach to retain our best students

➔ PhD Track students are our ambassadors for research-based education during their master and their PhD.

# Awardees

Alongside their Master (M1, M2) and PhD studies, awardees are encouraged to promote research-based education program in several forms :

→ Participation in initiatives proposed by the university (events hosted by the University's direction) or by the GS - organization, promotion, hosting, or taking part in panel discussions …

Examples include:

- Research Week (or equivalent) organized by the GS
- Graduate student recruitment fairs
- Open days, master's orientation sessions, and welcome events for first-year master's students
- Special outreach activities such as *"My Thesis in 180 Seconds"*
- The promotion of research-based education program at both the national and international levels

These students, with excellent academic background, benefit from a mentor who is a university faculty member, fully familiar with the program. This mentor will guide the student throughout their academic progress and will be able to advise them in their research activities as well as in their role as an ambassador.

# PhD Track of Université Paris-Saclay: Report

## 2023-2026: Experimental phase

Three initial cohorts:

- Cohort 1 : 15 students admitted in 2023-24, now in PhD
- Cohort 2 : 15 students admitted in 2024-25, now in PhD
- Cohort 3 : 10 students admitted in 2025-26, now in M2

## For 2026-2027

PhD Track recruitment at M1 level: at the beginning of April 2026, allowing selection committees to consider early M1 results, rather than relying solely on undergraduate (L3) results, which for many applicants were obtained at other institutions.

# Recrutement 2026-2027

**Recruitment Process:**
Pre-selection of applicants by the GS for presentation to the jury, followed by selection by a jury representing the scientific and academic communities (GS, Doctoral Schools, Master, etc.), including an application's review and an oral interview with the candidate

- Students submit an application file
- Pre-selection is carried out by each GS according to its own procedure (maximum of 3 candidates per GS).
- Pre-selected students are interviewed by the jury
- Final selection of 10 candidates (4 in *Sustainable Development* and 6 with no specific domain)
- A waiting list may be established.

# Sustainable development

- **Sustainable development** must be at the heart of both research and teaching missions in a research-intensive university. This also entails ongoing efforts to minimize resource demand and the environmental impact of university activities, while ensuring equity among staff and students. Pursuing sustainable development trajectories will require profound transitions across all areas of human activity (energy production, infrastructure and land use planning, food production, industrial processes, etc.). Various levers for action must be implemented during these transitions. These may be technological or nature-based, but must always be accompanied by careful management of resource demand, with each solution considering ethical, equitable, and just practices essential for resilient and sustainable development.
- The University conducts many research programs tackling environmental challenges. Accordingly, students may align their projects with one of the following broad domains:
- **Environmental changes** and the associated risks for human societies and living systems
- **Transformational pathways** toward sustainability
- **Resource sharing and equity.**

# Recruitment schedule 2026-2027

- Applications: 5 January to 5 March 2027
- Selection by the Graduate School : 23 March 2027
- Auditions: 5 to 9 April 2027
- Admission: 9 April 2027

# Interactions with the mentor - 1

## Mentor Selection

- The student and the GS jointly determine who will serve as the mentor
- The mentor is appointed for the entire 2 years Master
- The mentor is a university faculty member or a research colleague closely involved in the program and its administration (e.g., an adjunct professor)
- An internship or thesis supervisor cannot serve as the mentor, except in duly justified exceptional cases.

# Interactions with the mentor - 2

## Roles of the mentor

- Guides, supervises, and advises the student throughout the program up to the start of the PhD, during which a handover between the mentor and the PhD supervisor will be organized (at least one meeting between mentor and supervisor before the PhD begins)
- May be invited to the PhD follow-udiverse research experiences prior to starting the PhD
- Meets with the student:
  - At the end of M1: at least 2 meetings
  - During M2: 3 meetings
- Serves as a link between the student, the GS, committee, if applicable
- Ensures that the student gains and the PhD Track follow-up committee
- Provides a recommendation to the follow-up committee regarding the continuation or discontinuation of the program at the end of each academic year (end of M1 and end of M2)
- Takes into account that it is preferable for the student to complete internships and the PhD in different research teams/units to maximize the diversity of research experiences.

# Student financial support

- Financial support consists of a €3,000 scholarship during the M1 year and €10,000 in M2. This is a living allowance and does not include internship compensation, which remains the responsibility of the host internship team
- The doctoral grant is €120,000, covering the 3 years of the PhD conducted in one of the laboratories at University Paris-Saclay.
- During the M2 year, the amount will be paid in two installments: at the start of the academic year and in April
- At the end of M1 and after the first semester of M2, the student must submit a portfolio compiling academic results and activities undertaken as an ambassador of the research-based program. This portfolio will serve as a basis for evaluation by the PhD Track follow-up committee.

# Ambassador activities and Congrès Junior Pluridisciplinaire

## Student Ambassadors of research-based program

- Awarded students will be invited to propose activities that can engage other undergraduate and Master students
- They will also participate in events promoting research-based education at the University, within their Master's program, their field of study, or any other university entity

## Université Paris-Saclay's Congrès Junior Pluridisciplinaire

- All M1 students selected for the PhD Track auditions are strongly encouraged to submit an application to present at the Congrès Junior Pluridisciplinaire
  PhD Track awardees are expected to participate systematically when they reach M2

# Webinars

- 27 octobre 2026 à 12h30 (en français)
- **https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/330900869769165 8?p=HzILQzgdAm6k1vduCF**
- Numéro de réunion : 330 900 869 769 165 8
- Code secret : rK9Pg3m4

- 30 octobre 2026 à 12h30 (en anglais)
- https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/3773541862132785?p=gLKen53R4YKcNZNE8H
- Numéro de réunion : 377 354 186 213 278 5
- Code secret : iE3CG3bi