UNIVERSITÉ PARIS-SACLAY IN 2020
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UNIVERSITÉ PARIS-SACLAY IN 2020
A NEW RESEARCH-INTENSIVE UNIVERSITY WITHIN FRANCE’S HIGHER EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION LANDSCAPE

highlights from the past year
1 JANUARY 2020
#University news

UNIVERSITÉ PARIS-SACLAY IS BORN

On 1 January 2020, Université Paris-Saclay officially replaced the former Université Paris-Sud and the Université Paris-Saclay Community of Universities and Institutions (COMUE). The new University also joined forces with four component institutions: the Institute of Technology for Life, Food and Environmental Sciences (AgroParisTech), CentraleSupélec, the Ecole Normale Supérieure Paris-Saclay and the Institut d'Optique Graduate School. It also integrated the Institut des Hautes Études Scientifiques (IHES), a recognised non-profit research organisation.

The new University brought together the universities of Versailles-Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines and Evry-Val-d'Essonne as associate institutions via an official agreement. They are part of the University's governance structure and are set to merge by 2025.

Six national research organisations also confirmed their close partnerships with the new University: the French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission (CEA), the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), the French National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment (INRAE), the National Institute for Research in Digital Science and Technology (Inria), the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research (Inserm) and the French Aerospace Lab (ONERA).

https://www.universite-paris-saclay.fr/en/about/governance

2 MARCH 2020
#Governance

SYLVIE RETAILLEAU IS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF UNIVERSITÉ PARIS-SACLAY

Sylvie Retailleau was elected President of Université Paris-Saclay on 2 March 2020 during the first round of voting at the first governing board meeting of new staff and student representatives and external members. Sylvie Retailleau was the only candidate for the position. She had previously chaired the Université Paris-Saclay Community of Universities and Institutions (COMUE) from 2 January to 31 December 2019.


18 MARCH 2020
#Lockdown #Learning Continuity #Solidarity

NATIONAL LOCKDOWN: CLOSURE OF THE UNIVERSITY’S CAMPUSES

Following French President Emmanuel Macron's announcement of a national lockdown, all of the University's sites were closed on Wednesday 18 March and an operational continuity plan introduced. Despite the new lockdown measures, learning continuity was nevertheless guaranteed. The University's teams developed new teaching resources, adapted planned content, and put in place synchronous and asynchronous means of communication with students. In addition, Université Paris-Saclay set up emergency social aid commissions and a reinforced emergency office. Many of the University's key players (Fab Labs, Makers, its network of foundations and sponsors, start-ups and SMEs) all came together to manufacture and provide protective equipment to healthcare workers, and in particular hospital staff within the University's scope.

29 JUNE 2020
#Shanghai Rankings #Excellence

UNIVERSITÉ PARIS-SACLAY RANKED 1ST IN THE WORLD FOR MATHEMATICS IN THE SHANGHAI RANKINGS 2020

On 29 June 2020, the Shanghai Jiao Tong University published its annual Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU). It ranked Université Paris-Saclay as the world's top university for Mathematics and the world's 9th best university for Physics (1st in Europe). Université Paris-Saclay was awarded a place in the top 25 universities for Medicine and Agriculture, cementing the University's position as a research-intensive university of international standing.

“This ranking gives our laboratories and graduates a high level of visibility, particularly among international students, as well as for our work with institutions from around the world but also with businesses and civil society,” said Sylvie Retailleau, President of Université Paris-Saclay. “This is a first reward for the collective energy that we have invested in conceiving and implementing a new institutional model that brings together universities, grandes écoles and national research organisations.”

https://www.universite-paris-saclay.fr/sites/default/files/media/2020-07/uk_paris_saclay_shanghai_maths.pdf

15 AUGUST 2020
#Shanghai Rankings #Excellence

SHANGHAI RANKINGS 2020: UNIVERSITÉ PARIS-SACLAY RANKED 14TH WORLDWIDE

Every year on 15 August, Shanghai Jiao Tong University publishes its ranking of the World's Top 1,000 Universities. Appearing in the ranking for the first time, in 2020 Université Paris-Saclay was awarded 14th place among the internationally recognised institutions.

“Being ranked first for Mathematics and our excellent performance in the Top 50 for ten other subjects in the rankings published in July was an early indication of this new international recognition. I am delighted that the University has been ranked 14th as it is a tribute to those who, for years now, have believed in the new university model we have created so that the potential of French higher education and research can be shown at its best”, said Sylvie Retailleau, President of Université Paris-Saclay.

https://www.universite-paris-saclay.fr/sites/default/files/2021-01/PR%202020%20Shanghai%20Rankings%20Paris-Saclay%20University%20is%20ranked%2014th%20worldwide.pdf

5 NOVEMBER 2020
#University News #Idex

THE INITIATIVE OF EXCELLENCE LABEL DEFINITIVELY AWARDED TO UNIVERSITÉ PARIS-SACLAY

The international IdEx jury (Initiative d'Excellence), which has supported the founding members of Université Paris-Saclay since 2012, rewarded the University for its new institutional model, in place since January 2020. The label will act as a new springboard for Paris-Saclay helping to boost awareness of French higher education and research internationally. The label awarded marks the beginning of a new chapter for the institution and the University's development.

A look back on

UNIVERSITÉ PARIS-SACLAY’S FIRST YEAR
6 JANUARY 2020
#Research

MARS, A HIDDEN CONTINENT?

A team of French and American planetary scientists led by lecturer and researcher Sylvain Bouley from the Paris-Saclay Geosciences Laboratory (GEOPS - Université Paris-Saclay, CNRS) have uncovered a singular piece of crust from the highlands of the southern hemisphere of the planet Mars. The crust suggests that a former continent may in fact be hidden under the surface of the red planet. The team’s findings were published in *Nature Geoscience* on 6 January 2020.


14 JANUARY 2020
#Research #Inauguration

A POWERFUL SUPERCOMPUTER ON THE PARIS-SACLAY CAMPUS

The new Jean Zay supercomputer was inaugurated on 14 January 2020 at the CNRS’ Institute for Development and Resources in Intensive Scientific Computing (IDRIS) on the Université Paris-Saclay campus in Orsay. It provides French research with significantly increased computing power for the first time in the field of artificial intelligence.


OUR RESEARCHERS

Cécile Martinat
>> Demystifying the use of stem cells in research

Director of the Institute for Stem Cell Therapy and Exploration of Monogenic Diseases (I-Stem - Université Paris-Saclay, Inserm, Université d’Evry)
A look back
• FEBRUARY

10 FEBRUARY 2020
#Research #Space

SOLAR ORBITER HEADS FOR THE SUN WITH A MISSION TO EXPLORE THE HELIOSPHERE

On 10 February 2020, Europe’s Solar Orbiter probe left Earth from Florida, headed for the Sun’s poles. Its mission? To learn about our star’s solar winds, activity and cycles in order to deepen our understanding of its eruptive phenomena and how it influences its environment.

On board were ten instruments, many of which were supplied by laboratories at Université Paris-Saclay, and which combine in situ measurements (as close as possible to the probe) and remote sensing measurements. Four of them will measure the plasma and magnetic field of the solar winds, and six will analyse the light emitted by the Sun and take pictures of the star.


16 FEBRUARY 2020
#Student life #Entrepreneurship

16 STUDENT ENTREPRENEURS FROM UNIVERSITÉ PARIS-SACLAY SET OFF FOR THE SILICON VALLEY

They may be students but they already have an appetite for entrepreneurship. In November 2019 they won the Challenge Startup competition coordinated by Université Paris-Saclay and the association Start in Saclay. On Sunday 16 February, the group of young talents set off for an immersive entrepreneurial adventure in the Silicon Valley.


OUR RESEARCHERS
Laurence Zitvogel
>> Gut bacteria that cure cancer

Clinical oncologist, researcher at the Laboratory of Tumour Immunology and Immunotherapy (Université Paris-Saclay, Institut Gustave Roussy, Inserm) and professor at Université Paris-Saclay.
A look back

• MARCH

3 MARCH 2020
#Research #Science and Society

E3N-E4N, FRANCE’S LARGEST FAMILY COHORT STUDY, RECEIVES NEW FUNDING FROM THE FRENCH NATIONAL RESEARCH AGENCY (ANR)

The E3N-E4N study follows families through three different generations, collecting an unprecedented amount of genetic information to understand the influence of lifestyle, family environment and genetics on health. Coordinated by Université Paris-Saclay, Inserm and the Institut Gustave Roussy, the project has been awarded three million euros worth of funding from the French National Research Agency (ANR).


12 MARCH 2020
#Covid-19 #Education #University news

PRESIDENT EMMANUEL MACRON ANNOUNCES THE CLOSURE OF UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES FOR STUDENTS

The President of the French Republic announced new lockdown measures to reduce the spread of Covid-19. For a minimum period of two weeks people were only allowed to leave their homes to buy food, attend medical appointments and commute to work when homeworking was not possible. All of the University’s students and staff were asked to stay at home. Only staff whose presence was absolutely necessary in maintaining the University’s essential activities were allowed on campus and they were issued with an exemption certificate. All of the University’s sites closed as of Wednesday 18 March.


OUR RESEARCHERS
Tatiana Giraud
>> Domesticated Cheese

Senior researcher and Assistant Director at the Ecology, Systematics and Evolution Laboratory (ESE - Université Paris Saclay, CNRS, AgroParisTech).
A look back

• APRIL

15 APRIL 2020
#Research #Notre-Dame

RESEARCH INTO THE NOTRE-DAME DISASTER: ONE YEAR ON

On 15 April 2019, the Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris was destroyed by a fire. The world was gripped by a sense of great loss and the scientific community immediately rushed to help. For scientists, it was a question of offering their expertise to aid the cathedral’s restoration and future preservation. The research into the disaster, some of which is being carried out at Université Paris-Saclay, has begun to uncover some new insights into the landmark building.


20 APRIL 2020
#Media #Covid-19 #Science and Society

COVID-19 AND THE LOCKDOWN: RESEARCHERS, DOCTORS AND LECTURERS FROM UNIVERSITÉ PARIS-SACLAY SPEAK OUT IN THE FRENCH PRESS

The Covid-19 pandemic has disrupted all aspects of our daily lives and has had a major impact on current events and scientific and ethical issues in many fields. Scientists, economists, virologists, physicists and doctors from Université Paris-Saclay share their opinions and expertise on the crisis in the French media.


OUR RESEARCHERS

Philippe Dillmann
>> Archaeological physical chemist

Research director at the CNRS and head of the Archaeomaterials and Weathering Prediction Laboratory (LAPA - Université Paris-Saclay, CNRS, CEA)
A look back

• MAY

14 MAY 2020
#Research #Covid-19

SARS2BLOCKENTRY: USING PROTEINS TO PREVENT THE VIRUS FROM ENTERING CELLS

The French National Research Agency's (ANR) Flash Covid-19 call for proposals was launched in March 2020 to encourage the development of new projects that would help study and combat the Covid-19 pandemic. The SARS2BlockEntry project, led by Bernard Delmas from the Laboratory of Virology and Molecular Immunology (VIM - Université Paris-Saclay, UVSQ, INRAE), was one of the agency's shortlisted projects. The goal is to develop “nano-ligands” capable of inhibiting or blocking the entry of SARS-CoV-2 into target cells. The work should lead to the development of antiviral drugs targeting Covid-19.


18 MAY 2020
#Research #Europe #International

A RICH AND VARIED PROGRAMME OF ONLINE SUMMER SCHOOLS

Several researchers joined forces to organise specialised online international summer schools allowing students, PhD students and researchers alike to enjoy a unique scientific learning experience from their very own homes. The schools give participants the chance to broaden their knowledge, develop both a scientific and professional network, take part in virtual laboratory visits and exchange with fellow participants. Schools included: the EUGLOH Summer School on Large Scale Facilities for Global Health from 29 June to 2 July 2020, the Integrated Exercise Physiology Summer School from 6 to 11 July 2020 and the Quantum Future Academy Europe from 1 to 7 November 2020.


OUR RESEARCHERS
Nicolas Morange
>> The Origin of the Universe

Particle Physics researcher at the Irène-Joliot Curie Physics of Two Infinities Laboratory (IJCLab - Université Paris-Saclay, CNRS)
**A look back**

• JUNE

9 JUNE 2020

#University news #Covid-19 #Sustainable development

"COVID-19: A NEW ERA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT?": A NEW WEBINAR SERIES

Université Paris-Saclay organised a series of webinars on the future of sustainable development in light of the Covid-19 health crisis and the questions and research the pandemic has prompted. The “Covid-19: a new era for sustainable development?” webinars featured experts from the University and were created in collaboration with the media website The Conversation and the Agence universitaire de la Francophonie. The webinars tackled the question of sustainable development with an interdisciplinary approach in an attempt to understand the health crisis in light of current environmental challenges. The webinar series started with a first event on 9 June.


24 JUNE 2020

#International #Student life

BUDDY PROGRAMME OPEN FOR REGISTRATION – JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL MENTORING PROGRAMME AT UNIVERSITÉ PARIS-SACLAY!

The Université Paris-Saclay Buddy Programme is a free mentoring programme for international students who have recently arrived in France. The programme's second edition has been launched for the 2020/2021 academic year. In partnership with the association Erasmus Student Network France, the Buddy System platform pairs students with a designated buddy. The platform is now available for students and PhD candidates at Université Paris-Saclay. Students simply sign up and fill in their profile details to be paired up with their buddy for the coming academic year.


30 JUNE 2020

#Education #Undergraduates

UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES AT UNIVERSITÉ PARIS-SACLAY: ENGAGING, STIMULATING AND INNOVATIVE COURSES!

An integral part of Université Paris-Saclay's academic, scientific and economic environment, the University's undergraduate degrees offer dynamic educational programmes, centred around students' personal goals and aspirations. The range of courses on offer include classical, vocational and technical degrees and scientific and technical university diplomas (DEUST). In 2021, the programme is set to welcome just over 13,000 students.


OUR RESEARCHERS

Sophie Morin-Delerm

>> *When innovation meets marketing and responsible development*

Director of the University's Technical Institute (IUT) and researcher at the laboratory for Networks, Innovation, Territories and Globalisation (RITM - Université Paris-Saclay)
16 JULY 2020
#Research

GRANDMA - THE ‘SWISS ARMY KNIFE’ OF MULTI-MESSENGER ASTRONOMY

GRANDMA (Global Rapid Advanced Network Devoted to the Multi-messenger Addicts) is an international telescope network that works to develop a multi-messenger approach to astronomy. Researchers from the Irène-Joliot Curie Physics of Two Infinities Laboratory (IJCLab – CNRS, Université Paris-Saclay) actively contribute to the network’s research.

Set up by the Gravitational Waves group at the IJCLab, GRANDMA helps to fill in the missing gaps in the observing sequence. With its 25 telescopes from 20 observatories in both hemispheres, GRANDMA covers multiple time zones and can monitor rapidly and efficiently in the event of an alert. The network is capable of identifying visible counterparts of gravitational wave signals.


20 JULY 2020
#Innovation #Entrepreneurship

I-LAB 2020: SEVERAL WINNERS LINKED TO UNIVERSITÉ PARIS-SACLAY

Eight of the award-winning projects from this year’s i-Lab competition were born in laboratories at Université Paris-Saclay or developed by University alumni, including one Grand Prize.

i-Lab is a national innovation competition that promotes French research though the creation of innovative technology companies. This year’s 22nd edition rewarded 73 projects out of 424 applications. The competition is coordinated by the French Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, in partnership with Bpifrance, and accompanies projects with significant financial aid and support.


26 AUGUST 2020
#Research #Our Scientists

WHO WERE UNIVERSITÉ PARIS-SACLAY’S 35 MOST HIGHLY CITED SCIENTISTS IN 2019?

Biology and Biochemistry, Clinical Medicine, Genomics, Pharmacy, Nanosciences, Signals and Systems, Geosciences, Environment, Ecology, Immunology, Physics, Plant and Animal Sciences, Space, Astrophysical Astronomy...The list of Highly cited Scientists from Université Paris-Saclay covers a vast array of fields. Meet the researchers at the crossroads of science and innovation.


OUR RESEARCHERS

Cécile Coquet-Mokoko

>> “We needed an icon for our times and that icon was George Floyd”

American Civilisation professor at the Cultural History of Contemporary Societies Centre (CHCSC - Université Paris-Saclay, UVSQ) and deputy director of training at the Institute for Cultural and International Studies
A look back  
• SEPTEMBER

23 SEPTEMBER 2020  
#Education #Health studies

LABFORSIMS: SIMULATION-BASED TRAINING
LabForSIMS is one of the oldest and most active simulation training centres in France. It was founded in 2012 with the support of the Kremlin-Bicêtre Faculty of Medicine (Université Paris-Saclay) and provides official simulation-based training for medical students.

Before the LabForSIMS centre was founded, Professor Dan Benhamou’s team of anaesthetists at Bicêtre Hospital (AP-HP) had spent over twenty years providing continuing education for external anaesthetists. Today, the centre’s simulation-based training has broadened its outreach and is also open to medical students and nursing or physiotherapy students.


28 SEPTEMBER
#Innovation #Research #AI #Public-private partnership

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FOR DIGITAL AUTOMATION (AIDA): A PROMISING PUBLIC-PRIVATE PROJECT IN AI
IBM, Université Paris-Saclay, Softeam, Decisionbrain and STET have come together to create AIDA; a major development project aimed at boosting the competitiveness of French companies and positioning France as the leader of operational AI for businesses. The R&D project AIDA aims to develop a learning platform that will allow companies to improve their performance by making artificial intelligence a core part of their operational systems. Researchers from Université Paris-Saclay have made considerable contributions to the project.


OUR RESEARCHERS
Yves Balkanski
>> From dust particles of the past to climates of the future

Researcher at the Laboratory for Sciences of Climate and Environment (LSCE - Université Paris-Saclay, CEA, CNRS, UVSQ) and the Institut Pierre Simon Laplace (IPSL)
7 OCTOBER 2020

Awards and distinctions #Research #Women and Science

WINNERS OF THE YOUNG TALENTS AWARDS FRANCE 2020 INCLUDE 4 YOUNG WOMEN RESEARCHERS FROM UNIVERSITÉ PARIS-SACLAY

On 7 October 2020, the L’Oréal Foundation announced the 35 winners of the Young Talent Awards for Women in Science 2020. Four of them were PhD students in Université Paris-Saclay-affiliated laboratories. Léa Bonnefoy is a PhD student at the Laboratory of Atmospheres, Environments and Spatial Observations (LATMOS – UPSaclay, UVSQ, CNRS, Sorbonne Université). Charlotte Canet-Jourdan is a PhD student at the Dynamic Tumour Cell Laboratory (TCD – UPSaclay, Inserm, Institut Gustave Roussy). Élodie Hinnekens is a PhD student at the Laboratory of Complexity, Innovation, Sports and Motor Activities (CIAMS – UPSaclay Faculty of Sports Sciences). Solène Marie is a PhD student at the Paris-Saclay Multimodal Biomedical Imaging Laboratory (BIOMAPS – UPSaclay, CEA, CNRS, Inserm).


27 OCTOBER 2020

International

UNIVERSITÉ PARIS-SACLAY AWARDED THE “BIENVENUE EN FRANCE” LABEL

Université Paris-Saclay was awarded the Bienvenue en France label (2 stars) by Campus France. The label recognises the quality of the University’s welcome support for international students, such as the digital e-International Welcome Office platform which helps students and international audiences step-by-step in their administrative procedures. The Welcome Desk for International Talents (GATE) also accompanies international students with all their administrative dossiers in one single place, helping them to get settled in France during their stay. The University also coordinates the Buddy programme, a free international mentoring initiative for international students who have recently arrived in France.


OUR RESEARCHERS

Patrick Couvreur
>> Nanomedicine Pioneer
Emeritus Professor at the Institut Galien Paris-Saclay (IGPS - Université Paris-Saclay, CNRS)
A look back
• NOVEMBER

10 NOVEMBER 2020
#International #Europe

FIRST ALLIANCE DAY FOR THE EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY ALLIANCE FOR GLOBAL HEALTH (EUGLOH)

On 10 November 2020, the five members* of the EUGLOH Alliance organised their very first Alliance Day, celebrating the Alliance's first birthday and educating the public about the many opportunities it has to offer. The all-online event was packed with debates, presentations and activities, giving students, researchers and administrative staff alike the chance to learn about the different facets of global health that the European University Alliance for Global Health deals with.

*Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (Germany), Lund University (Sweden), Porto University (Portugal), Szeged University (Hungary) and Université Paris-Saclay (France).

https://www.universite-paris-saclay.fr/actualites/first-alliance-day-eugloh-european-alliance-universities

23 NOVEMBER 2020
#International #iGEM Competition

TWO TEAMS FROM UNIVERSITÉ PARIS-SACLAY SHINE AT THE IGEM COMPETITION

Launched by MIT in 2003, iGEM is an international synthetic biology competition that brings together thousands of students from across the world. Two teams from Université Paris-Saclay were among the 248 teams who presented their projects this year: Evry Paris-Saclay and GO Paris-Saclay. Evry Paris-Saclay brought home a Gold medal for its project, "Rosewood", while GO Paris-Saclay was awarded a Silver medal for its project, "HuGenesS".


24 NOVEMBER 2020
#Awards and distinctions

NINE PRIZES FROM THE FRENCH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AWARDED TO RESEARCHERS FROM UNIVERSITÉ PARIS-SACLAY

On 24 November 2020, the French Académie des Sciences announced the names of the 68 winners of the 65 prizes awarded in 2020. Nine of the winning researchers work in laboratories linked to Université Paris-Saclay.


OUR RESEARCHERS
WENDY MACKAY

>> People and computers, a pleasure shared

Research director at Inria Saclay, ACM fellow and winner of the Suffrage Science Award from the MRC London Institute of Medical Sciences
2 DECEMBER 2020
#Space #Start-up #Deep Tech

**EXOTRAIL: THE SUCCESS STORY OF A DEEP TECH START-UP WHICH ALMOST NEVER SAW THE LIGHT OF DAY**

Exotrail is currently one of the most promising “New Space” Deep Tech start-ups in France and its technology was born in the GEMAC Laboratory (Université Paris-Saclay, UVSQ, CNRS). The story behind its creation and success is the result of a series of chance circumstances, an innovative funding scheme and new technology.


4 DECEMBER 2020
#Continuing Education #Covid-19

**NASOPHARYNGEAL ANTIGEN TESTS: THE FACULTY OF PHARMACY ORGANISES CONTINUING EDUCATION SESSIONS**

The Faculty of Pharmacy at Université Paris-Saclay is organising continuing education sessions for professionals authorised to carry out nasopharyngeal antigen tests for the detection of SARS-CoV-2. Managing the Covid-19 health crisis effectively requires mass testing and as a result, rapid antigen tests can now be carried out in pharmacies across France. In accordance with a national decree issued on 16 October 2020, pharmacists are now authorised to administer nasopharyngeal antigen tests to detect SARS-CoV-2.


**OUR RESEARCHERS**

Albert Fert

>> *The Art of Physics*

Emeritus Professor, member of the Académie des Sciences and Nobel laureate in Physics
UNIVERSITÉ PARIS-SACLAY:

A few facts & figures

- 10 constituent faculties and institutes
- 4 component institutions – *grandes écoles*
- 1 Institut des Hautes Études Scientifiques (IHES)
- 6 national research organisations
- 275 laboratories
- 9,000 researchers and academic staff members
- 15,000 scientific articles per year
- 48,000 students
- 4,500 PhD candidates
- 12,000 Master’s students per year
- 100 start-ups created per year

PRIZES & DISTINCTIONS

- 2 Nobel Prizes
- 10 Fields Medals
- 8 CNRS Gold Medals
- 35 Highly Cited Scientists