Located in the heart of Paris, PSL is a global university. Its ambition is to have an impact on society, both now and in the future.

PSL brings every area of knowledge, innovation and creativity together in a dialogue encompassing the sciences, the humanities and social sciences, the arts and engineering. Its wide range of disciplines represents a major asset in addressing the great political, social, cultural, economic and public health challenges of our time.

Selective and committed to equal opportunity, PSL is a public university focused on student talent. It offers students research-based training in close connection with its laboratories. The university produces citizens mindful of their individual, social, and environmental responsibilities.

With its ties to leading international universities, PSL contributes to the free movement of ideas, talent, and brainpower. It is ranked among the 50 top global universities. It has also been distinguished by the French government as a participant in the “Investments for the Future” program.
PSL's mission is to educate future leaders from a wide variety of backgrounds with the ability to shoulder the highest level of responsibility, both in the public and private sectors, and to contribute to major innovations in academic, cultural and artistic fields.

PSL grants degrees from bachelor levels to doctorate, prepared within PSL schools. These degrees are all recognized by the French government.

These programs all share certain principles:
- Education informed by ongoing research
- A customized curriculum
- Free movement among schools and disciplines
- Exceptionally low student to faculty ratios and high selectiveness and job placement rates
- A proactive policy on behalf of equal opportunity and diversity

The CPES fulfilled all my expectations: a multidisciplinary curriculum, a highly demanding academic program, and free accommodation for scholarship recipients. I never would have thought I could do an entrepreneurship exchange at UC Berkeley and then enroll at ENS - PSL. My experience shows that not everything is written in stone; you have to believe in your dreams.

Pierre Amougou
CPES graduate

Our teaching draws on the latest scientific progress and developments in climate issues. Our students are immersed in research and conduct their M1 internship in a laboratory abroad.

Laurent Bopp
Director of the Geosciences Department at ENS - PSL

Research-based education
PSL has organized its Master's and PhD course offerings into a flexible, evolving network of 18 graduate programs centered on the students.

Each program is based on state-of-the-art scientific assets, a sine qua non for its existence, visibility, and appeal.

When they choose a graduate program, students opt for a clearly identified field of study that serves as their major. They enroll in a 5-year (Master's and PhD) program in specific disciplines or topics offered across multiple PSL schools.

They are assigned to a research team starting from their first year. Based on their field of study and their future plans, students can customize their program by choosing from different minors or cross-disciplinary curricula that expand the breadth of their disciplines and skills through classes at multiple schools.

The graduate programs are part of international scientific networks. They ensure that program graduates can embark on academic and non-academic careers both in France and internationally.

Students in PSL's graduate programs have access to the cross-disciplinary Data Science Program. Our aim is to disseminate knowledge of artificial intelligence in every scientific field that generates data.

Jamal Atif
Vice President for Digital Technology at Dauphine – PSL, Scientific Director of PRaIRIE

My Master’s program in Energy took me to all three of PSL’s engineering schools. Today, I’m a consultant in sustainable development and life cycle analysis, and I’m making practical use of the solid skills I acquired at PSL. It’s a real source of pride for me to be able to make a mark in the world.

Natacha Wonneberger
Master’s degree holder in Energy, Engineering graduate program

18 programs

- Computer Science
- Mathematics and Applications
- Astrophysics
- Physics
- Engineering
- Life Sciences
- Earth Science and Biodiversity
- Chemistry
- Law
- Finance
- Economics
- Management
- Arts
- Historical Science
- Religious Studies
- Social Sciences
- Cognitive Science
- Translitterae

THE GRADUATE PROGRAMS COMPLEMENTARY UNIVERSITY-WIDE COURSES

- Innovation
- Career development and soft skills
- Scientific culture
- Languages
At the heart of major contemporary issues

Fundamental and applied research conducted at PSL covers a vast spectrum of scientific, cultural, and artistic disciplines.

The university’s 2,900 researchers and 140 laboratories draw on the strengths of this wide array of disciplines to build large-scale research programs focusing on major and emerging contemporary issues, including artificial intelligence, sustainable development, religion, digital health, cancer, space technology, design and research, digital humanities, etc. These programs enhance PSL’s educational programs and constitute the core of its international strategy. The university’s research is broadly disseminated and informs public policy and discussion; it also contributes to economic growth and the well-being of the community, and it fosters artistic and cultural creativity.

The aim of the PSL-QLife Convergence Institute is to create an internationally renowned site that is home to research in quantitative biology at the crossroads of multiple disciplines (biology, physics, chemistry, mathematics, computer science). The Institute brings together 160 teams and provides funding for innovative interdisciplinary projects in basic research, projects that have a significant socioeconomic impact and programs in education and the dissemination of knowledge.

Bruno Goud
Director of the Institut PSL-QLife, CNRS Research
Director of the Cell Biology and Cancer unit at Institut Curie

Examples of our major programs

Artificial Intelligence
The PraIRIE interdisciplinary AI research institute (one of four nationally certified 3IA units in France), Artificial Intelligence for the Sciences (European Cofund program).

Digital Health
The PariSanté Campus, a project to convert the Val-de-Grâce hospital into an international hub for digital health (in partnership with Inserm, INRIA, Health Data Hub and the French digital health agency).

Environment
Study of the impact of climate change on coral reefs, CORAIL Laboratory of Excellence (Awarded a grant from the “Investments for the Future” program).

Cancer
DEEP, DBCi, Celtischbio Laboratories of Excellence (“Investments for the Future” program winners), industrial collaborations (Institut Carnot Curie Cancer).

From the Brain to Society
Cognitive science combines the natural sciences, humanities, and social sciences in a comprehensive approach to both the brain’s functioning and products (art, culture, language) and collective intelligence (graduate program in Cognitive Science, which has been awarded multiple grants from the “Investment for the Future” program; Institut Carnot Cognition).
From basic research to disruptive technology

PSL’s ties with the business world take a variety of forms. The university operates:

• Education programs (initial training and continuing education) and entrepreneurship training, including corporate internships and assignments.
• A policy of transferring and capitalizing on the fruits of its research (creating, incubating and supporting start-ups; technology transfer); PSL has received a grant from the Fonds National de Valorisation (FNV-PIA, French technology transfer fund).
• Research programs conducted jointly with businesses (research partnerships and contracts, industrial chairs, CIFRE dissertations).

It maintains comprehensive funding channels ranging from the pre-maturity stage to seed funding.

PSL’s ability to bring a wide range of disciplines together while combining basic research with applications is a major asset in supporting the emergence of disruptive technologies.

Basic research that benefits a variety of industries. Some examples:

The Institut Langevin and the Institut Pierre-Gilles de Gennes, both “Investments for the Future” program awardees, mobilize wave physics and microfluidics respectively on behalf of health care, energy and information and communication technologies.

Yamina Ghomchi
CEO, Millidrop Instruments

Millidrop is a spin-off from ESPCI ParisTech – PSL that specializes in the culture and high-flow-rate analysis of microorganisms based on millifluidics. We have completed a proof of concept of the technology and its applications with a first-generation instrument and we are launching our commercial product this fall.

Aqemia is an ENS – PSL start-up specializing in drug research. Our disruptive technology is based on algorithms developed over eight years of laboratory research. Barely two years after creating Aqemia, we are now beginning our A round of fundraising. We owe our success to the unwavering support of PSL Valorisation and Elaia.

Maximilien Levesque
Researcher in the Chemistry department of ENS – PSL and co-founder of Aqemia

The PSL Innovation Fund
Launched in 2018 in partnership with Elaia, the PSL Innovation Fund has raised €76 million. It supports and fosters technology transfer and seed funding for promising start-ups that got their start in PSL laboratories.

70 start-ups created each year
80 priority patents filed each year
1,000 research contracts signed each year
€300 million in research partnerships since 2015
approx. 500 CIFRE doctoral students (supported by businesses)

approx. 500 CIFRE doctoral students (supported by businesses)
Acting on a global scale

As a global university, PSL is a member of the European University Association (EUA) and the U7+ Alliance, an international group of some 50 top global universities committed to tackling the primary challenges facing our planet (climate, social inequity, sustainable development).

PSL has put the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the heart of its international strategy. It is the co-founder of SDSN France (Sustainable Development Solutions Network), playing an active role in that global network operated under the auspices of the UN.

With eight other European partner institutions, Université PSL is a participant in the EELISA alliance (European Engineering Learning Innovation & Science Alliance), funded under the Erasmus+ program. EELISA’s ambition is to train a new generation of engineers that are committed to the SDGs and can lead the transitions they entail.

PSL has established strategic partnerships with universities around the world. This strong network benefits the entire PSL community, from researchers to students and university staff.

TOP 50 worldwide in the Shanghai, THE and QS rankings

TOP 3 of universities in the European Union (QS and Shanghai rankings)

3rd in THE Young University Ranking

No. 1 “Millennial” university in THE ranking

MARIE CURIE
Physicist and chemist, two-time Nobel Prize winner, ESPCI ParisTech - PSL, Institut Curie

CLAUDE LEVI-STRAUSS
Anthropologist and ethnologist, EPHE - PSL, Collège de France

ESTHER DUFLO
Economist, Nobel Prize winner, ENS - PSL, Collège de France

ISABELLE HUPPERT
Actress, two César Awards, one Molière Award, one BAFTA Award, CNSAD - PSL

JEAN-PIERRE CLAMADIEU
Chairman of the Board of Directors at Engie, Mines ParisTech - PSL

PIERRE-LOUIS LIONS
Mathematician, Fields Medal winner, ENS - PSL, Dauphine - PSL, Collège de France
For me, commitment is a necessity, it’s a drive to always be pushing the limits. Our organization offers 12 months, 12 schools, 12 lectures on the climate, by and for students at PSL and elsewhere.

Esther Loiseleur, president of JAC – Youth Ambassadors for Climate

While I was a student at PSL, I had an opportunity to work at the Welcome Desk. We help international students and researchers at PSL with government paperwork. We also organize a host of events to bring people together and encourage dialogue.

Mazzarine Dotou, PSL Welcome Desk staff