

MASTER'S DEGREE IN COGNITIVE SCIENCE

U N I V E R S I T É P S L

The Master's degree in Cognitive Science at the Ecole Normale Supérieure, within PSL University and co-accredited by the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (EHESS), is an interdisciplinary program with a dual focus on foundational cognitive science principles and advanced disciplinary courses. Welcoming students from both scientific and humanities backgrounds, it offers a rich curriculum that spans psychological science, cognitive neuroscience, cognitive modeling, neurotheory, AI, social sciences, humanities, linguistics, and philosophy. In addition, it emphasizes practical skills through hands-on methodological courses and allows students to complete a long internship in any research laboratory around the world. This master's degree is part of PSL's graduate program in Cognitive Science.

EDUCATIONAL APPROACH

Our master's program is characterized by a highly personalized educational experience and small class sizes. Beginning in the second semester of the first year, all courses are electives, allowing students to tailor their learning path and resulting in small, intimate classes. This facilitates high-quality teaching and meaningful interaction with professors and peers.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

The master's program is designed to produce high-level scientists with a broad understanding of key concepts in cognitive science, advanced expertise in at least one cognitive science discipline, and the ability to creatively address research questions.

It also emphasizes strong methodological training in experimental design, imaging techniques, data analysis, meta-analysis, modeling, and philosophical writing. Finally, the program ensures direct immersion in research through internships in the world's leading cognitive science labs.

MAIN ASSETS

- An intensive and interdisciplinary training programme with a wide variety of fundamental and advanced classes given by world-renowned scholars.
- Immersion in an advanced international research ecosystem, working closely with major laboratories and scientific innovation.
- Small class sizes ensuring personalized attention and high-quality teacher-pupil interaction.
- All lectures in English and international student body, with at least 30% non-Francophone students, fostering a fully international environment.
- The opportunity to follow classes in other departments and validate a minor in a variety of fields such as data science, public policy, digital humanities, or environmental science.
- A localization at the very lively and cultural heart of Paris.
- Access to the vibrant campus life of ENS-PSL, including student clubs and all PSL services.

English track

CURRICULUM

First year (Master 1)

- Conceptual and methodological foundations of cognitive science
- Advanced specialized classes
- Hands-on training
- Internship in a research laboratory

(60 ECTS)

Second year (Master 2)

- Interdisciplinary courses on current research topics in cognitive science
- Long-term internship in a research laboratory
- Master thesis in cognitive science

(60 ECTS)

COURSES

First year

In the first semester, students follow a pluridisciplinary core curriculum that introduces them to the conceptual and methodological foundations of cognitive science. In the second semester, students complete a two-day per week internship in a research laboratory and choose advanced specialized courses.

Second year

In the first semester, students are exposed to current research topics in cognitive science through interdisciplinary courses. In the second semester, students complete a five-month research internship in a laboratory of their choice in France or abroad. The internship culminates in the writing of a thesis in the form of a scientific article and an oral presentation of their work.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Our master's program prepares students for a variety of career paths, from pursuing a PhD and becoming an academic to entering industry or government in fields such as AI, public policy, education, or neurotechnology.

To facilitate this, we offer career training designed to equip students with the tools and knowledge for their future careers, as well as opportunities to meet and network with professionals from academia, industry, and government.

To apply

psl.eu/en/education/cognitive-science

Contact

Jean-Baptiste ANDRÉ (CNRS – ENS)
secretariat-master-cognitive-science@ens.psl.eu

ADMISSIONS

Prerequisites

The vast majority of students enter our program in the first year, with the only requirement being a bachelor's degree in any field, science or humanities. A very limited number of students may be admitted directly to the second year under very restrictive conditions.

Admission process

Online application and interview for preselected candidates.

Tuition fees

French & international students: ~243 euros / year + 100 euros for the Student & Campus Life Contribution (CVEC)

Detailed information (applications & funding):
master-cognitive-science.ens.psl.eu/en

TEACHING LOCATION

In the heart of Paris, at the École normale supérieure – PSL.

DIPLOMA DELIVERED

French Master's degree diploma from Université PSL, (prepared at ENS – PSL).



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