

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Admission to the SACRe Ph.D program 2025

visual arts | film | music composition | design | art history and theory | performing arts | architecture

Call open from March, 13 2025 to May 13 2025, 4pm (UTC+1, Paris)

This call is open to international candidates, without age restrictions.

The Sciences, Arts, Creation, Research (SACRe) Ph.D program, within the Arts Graduate program of PSL University, is open to all candidates holding a Master's degree from any higher education institution, whether established practitioners (artists, architects, filmmakers, designers, composers, stage directors...) and/or researchers. When she/he applies, the candidate specifies if she/he wants to benefit from a 3-years doctoral contract or if she/he already benefits from a confirmed grant.

When applying, the candidate commits to completing the course plan of Ecole doctorale 540 "Lettres, arts, sciences humaines et sociales" at PSL University, which includes participation to the SACRe doctoral seminar, and to cross-disciplinary trainings, specific and general courses (see below).

After a successful defense, the Ph.D candidate will obtain the doctoral national diploma (Ph.D), issued by PSL University and prepared in the institute to which she/he is attached.

Overview

The objective of SACRe is to facilitate the emergence and development of projects which associate art and research, and which are original in both their methods and their results. Encompassing multiple domains, as indicated by the name of the PhD program (SACRe: sciences, arts, creation and research), this truly interdisciplinary doctoral program brings together practitioners, as well as researchers in the sciences, humanities, and social sciences, thus inculcating a close articulation of thought and sensitivity.

The program is a result of the cooperation between six institutes which are either full members or associate members of PSL University: the Conservatoire National Supérieur d'Art Dramatique (CNSAD-PSL : national theatre conservatory), Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse de Paris (CNSMDP: national music and dance conservatory), École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs (ENSAD-PSL: national school of decorative arts), École Nationale Supérieure des Métiers de l'Image et du Son (La Fémis: national school for film), École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts (Beaux-Arts : national school for fine arts), l'École Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture Paris Malaquais (ENSAPM-PSL : national school for architecture) and the École Normale Supérieure (ENS-PSL). Allowing research and creation projects to develop in an exceptional context, enabling practitioners in various creative fields and researchers to work and invent together: this is the mission of the SACRe Ph.D program.

The SACRe doctoral program consists :

- for practitioners: of the creation of works, objects or devices (dispositifs) and the redaction of a thesis, closely associated with a reflexive approach based on various theoretical and scientific fields. The thesis may be hybrid in nature, using written

expression as well as other types of expression depending on the discipline. These two types of corpus - artworks and thesis - form the PhD corpus.

- for theorists: of the production of a written thesis, and of an artwork closely linked to the thesis' topic.

Terms of the Ph.D program

Ph.D supervision

The Ph.D is supervised jointly by a scientific supervisor and, at least, one artistic supervisor, for "practitioners".

The Ph.D supervisors may preferably be chosen among SACRe / Laboratory members, or among PSL and particularly within one of the laboratories attached to the Doctoral school 540 (ED 540).

The artistic supervisor will preferably be chosen among the teaching or researching staff of the art schools attached to the SACRe program.

It is not mandatory to present a written agreement from a Ph.D supervisor in order to apply. The Ph.D supervision can be finalized after the candidate's selection by the school's jury. It is the candidate's responsibility to initiate a dialogue with a thesis supervisor, in consultation with the applying institution, in order to finalize the thesis supervisor before the admission committee (i.e. between the 2nd and 3rd rounds of the admission process).

The list of members is available on the [SACRe](#), [ED 540](#) and [PSL](#) websites.

The Ph.D program proceeds for three years, as follows:

- **Specific instruction is conducted in the SACRe art schools or conservatories.** Each institute arranges the facilities, the organization, and the functioning of the program for the Ph.D candidates.
- **A SACRe doctoral seminar,** within the Arts Graduate program, explores the links between research and creation for all doctoral students admitted to the program.
- **Complementary, professional, and cross-disciplinary trainings to be chosen** within the Ecole doctorale 540, Arts Graduate program, and PSL's Doctoral college.

The doctoral course plan of ED 540, including the three course categories listed above, must be completed before the Ph.D defense.

The program includes mandatory annual assessments and annual presentation of each student's work.

[f- consult the order](#)

The Ph.D candidates, all permanent members of SACRe research laboratory (EA 7410), must also participate in elaborating study days, seminars, conferences and symposia, as well as public events, especially within the frame of transdisciplinary projects.

This program is in line with the doctoral instruction fixed by the 12th article of the arrêté du 25 mai 2016 concerning the national doctoral degree.

By applying, the potential Ph.D candidates agree to the terms in line with the texts stating the frame of the national doctoral degree.

Financial aid and offers related to the program

In 2025, five PSL Ph.D. contracts are open to the call. They may be attributed to candidates wishing to start a thesis in one of the following establishments: ENS-PSL, CNSAD-PSL, l'École des Arts Décoratifs-PSL, ENSAPM-PSL, La Fémis, CNSMDP, ENSBA.

[f- consult the decree](#)

Ph.D. candidates admitted by PSL receive doctoral contracts which provide them with a stipend for three years, the legal duration of the program as stated within the decree n°2016-1173 of August 29th 2016 modifying the decree n° 2009-464 of April 23rd 2009. It is a full-time job and every other unrelated job will have to be officially authorized.

If applicable, candidates must specify in their application the contribution of other thesis funding (such as CIFRE, ANR, CDSN, HES-SO funding...).

[f- consult the decree](#)

The amount specified in the doctoral contract is 2200 euros gross per month, in accordance with the decree of December 26th 2022, modifying the decree of August 29th 2016, which set the salary of a doctoral student.

Ph.D. candidates can benefit from specific aid to mount events related to their doctoral project: support for artistic production (works, exhibitions, concerts, etc.) and scientific activities (seminars, publications, etc.).

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Thesis characteristics and defense and issuance of the SACRe PhD program

The SACRe PhD program is primarily for creative work by Ph.D candidates from the schools for the arts, and for interaction with creators by Ph.D candidates from the ENS-PSL.

The thesis consists jointly of works of art or design in the different formats and media proper to each discipline and of a thesis. The latter highlights the sources, experiences, research, and other practices, whether artistic or not, that have influenced the work. It provides a well-reasoned and critical reflection on the work accomplished during the three years of the thesis. Its form is defined based on the characteristics and approaches specific to each discipline and is matched to the candidate's research project, with the approval of the thesis supervisors.

The Ph.D defense for Ph.D candidates in the arts is based on the presentation of the works completed by the Ph.D candidate in diverse forms (exhibition, performance, concert, projection, event, or prototype) and the thesis. The Ph.D defense for theorists is based on the presentation of the written thesis and of the practical work carried out within the specific framework of this Ph.D. In both cases, on successful completion of the public defense, the national Ph.D diploma is issued by PSL and mentions the institute where it has been prepared.

Application

Conditions for admission

Candidates must meet university admission requirements and hold a five-year higher education diploma, among those listed below:

- Master’s degree
- French or foreign degree equivalent to a Master’s degree (“grade de Master”)

For foreign candidates, a minimum **B2-level** in French is required for PSL doctoral contracts when applying and, as a last deadline, before the admission committee. The thesis can then be written in English or in another international scientific language if the Ph.D supervision is favourable and if a long abstract is written in French, in accordance with the regulations.

Practitioner candidates must be able to present a portfolio as evidence of an established artistic practice.

Candidates must not currently be enrolled in another doctoral program. If you already benefit from a confirmed thesis funding, please expressly mention it in your application. There is no age limit for candidates. Candidates may not apply more than three times. It is not possible to apply simultaneously to several SACRe institutes.

Application process

According to each institute, the candidate can apply for a **free topic of research** she-he proposes.

Candidates first apply **to the partner institute** of their choice depending on their type of project:

CNSAD	CNSMDP	ENS	ENSAD	La Fémis	Beaux-Arts	ENSAPM
Performing arts	Music composition	Art history and theory	Visual Arts Design	Film	Visual Arts	Architecture

The website of each institute specifies the application process and the list of supporting documents required.

The availability date of application forms and the deadline for submission goes:

**from 13 March 2025
to 13 May 2025 at 4pm
(Paris time, UTC +1)**

Selection process

1. Admissibility

The admissibility procedure is the responsibility of each applicant institution.

Schools of arts and design : After a pre-selection on the basic applications (**1st step**), the school selects a number of candidates and invites them to an audition (**2nd step**).

ENS-PSL : Pre-selection is based solely on applications (**1st step**), *and if necessary ENS-PSL reserves the right to organise an audition (2nd step)*.

At this stage, the candidates selected by each institution are **admissible**.

2. Admission

The admission process is the responsibility of the **PSL Admission Committee**, composed of a representative of PSL University's Research Vice-Presidency, the direction of Doctoral School 540 and the direction of the SACRe and the Arts Graduate program at PSL.

On the basis of the selection made by each institution during the admissibility phase, **the PSL Admission Committee** establishes the list of candidates proposed for thesis registration and the allocation of doctoral contracts at PSL University (main list), and draws up a complementary list (waiting list).

The committee also decides on the admission of candidates not financed by PSL doctoral contracts.

The Executive Board of Université PSL pronounces the final results, which are published on the SACRe website and the SACRe institutes websites.

On admission, dual registration at one of the institutes as well as at ED 540 (ENS-PSL) is required to participate in the program. PhD students preparing their thesis at the ENS-PSL are registered only at this school



Contact

For any question about the general procedure, please write to sacre@psl.eu. For specific questions about the institute where you want to apply, please write to the specific contact mentioned on the website of the institute.

Useful links

psl.fr PSL website
collegedoctoral.psl.fr PSL Doctoral College website
sacre.psl.eu SACRe laboratory website

cnsad.psl.eu CNSAD-PSL (Conservatoire National Supérieur d'Art Dramatique)
conservatoiredeparis.fr The Paris Conservatoire (Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse)
ens.psl.eu ENS-PSL (École Normale Supérieure)
ensad.fr ENSAD-PSL (École des Arts Décoratifs-PSL)
femis.fr FÉMIS (École Nationale Supérieure des Métiers de l'Image et du Son)
beauxartsparis.fr Les Beaux-Arts de Paris (École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts)
paris-malaquais.archi.fr ENSAPM-PSL (École Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture Paris-Malaquais)



call for candidates sacre for
L'ÉCOLE DES ARTS DÉCORATIFS -
SPECIFIC TERMS AND CONDITIONS AND TIMETABLE

Each year, the École des Arts Décoratifs - PSL recruits several SACRe doctoral students via specific funding who will prepare their theses at EnsadLab, the school's research unit.

For this 2025 call, the school is opening up two possible sources of funding:

- **1 doctoral contract financed by PSL University: free proposal for a thesis subject in line with EnsadLab's research areas.**
- **The Etablissement Public du Parc et de la Grande Halle de la Villette (EPPGHV) and the École des Arts Décoratifs are recruiting a doctoral student on a CIFRE contract, focusing on an EnsadLab research group (Designs, Territoires).**

NB:

- **Each of these recruitments is subject to specific procedures.** These procedures are described in the following pages. Any procedural error on the part of the candidate will invalidate the application.
- **Application fees for both calls :**
The registration fee for the 2025 call has been set at 55 €. These fees must be paid online using a secure procedure. No money orders or cash payments will be accepted. If payment is made by bank transfer, the costs will be borne by the applicant, a sine qua non condition for the registration to be taken into account. Once the form and online payment have been validated, the administrative pre-registration process generates an email to the candidate's attention and his/her personal space is updated. The payment of the registration fee remains the property of the School, even in the event of withdrawal. If candidates are in receipt of a grant for 2024/2025, they must download the notification in order to be exempted from the registration fee.

Link to apply: <https://sco.ensad.fr/>

1 - SACRE DOCTORAL CONTRACT FINANCED BY PSL

Application deadline: to **13 May 2025 at 4pm** (Paris time, UTC +1)

[Link to apply: SACRe doctoral contract funded by PSL](#)

The two eligibility stages :

- pre-selection, after examination of the applications by an internal jury at the École des arts décoratifs - PSL ;
- an audition and interview of shortlisted candidates with the SACRe / École des arts décoratifs - PSL jury lasting approximately 30 minutes, focusing in particular on the candidate's motivations and thesis project.

This hearing is scheduled for the week of 16 June 2025.

Registration is online only.

The complete application must be submitted no later than 13 May 2025 before 4 p.m. to this address:

[SACRe doctoral contract financed by PSL](#)

Documents to download :

- a copy of the required degree (Master 2 or equivalent) ;
- a covering letter explaining the applicant's interest in taking this course;
- a CV listing the institutions where the candidate has trained, the teachers with whom he or she has worked, any awards or distinctions obtained in academic examinations and competitions, etc. ;
- a letter (optional) indicating the support of the proposed thesis supervisor;
- the thesis proposal (10 typed pages, maximum 20 pages with visual documents) presenting the candidate's project and his or her suitability for enrolment in the SACRe doctoral programme, the subject of which must relate to at least one of EnsadLab's three areas of research - Materials, Interactions, Environments - in conjunction with the research groups.
- the artistic dossier (art, design), tracing the evolution and recent developments of the candidate's work; for digital works that may accompany the dossier, indicate the link to access the videos. Only a selection of extracts lasting a maximum of 10 minutes will be viewed by the jury;
- a one-page summary containing the main information about your application: marital status, educational background, summary of thesis project, and any other information you feel would be useful;
- a copy of your identity card, passport or residence permit;
- for candidates who are not nationals of French-speaking countries, a certificate issued by a body approved by the French government, attesting to a level of French at least equal to B2 on the Council of Europe's scale of common reference levels

Any application that is incomplete or sent in several separate parts will be deemed inadmissible.

EnsadLab contact: Martine Nicot - martine.nicot@ensad.fr

2 - SACRe / CIFRE DOCTORAL CONTRACT (PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN EPPGHV AND ÉCOLE DES ARTS DECORATIFS-PSL)



Application deadline: to 13 May 2025 at 4pm (Paris time, UTC +1)

[Link to application form: SACRe / CIFRE doctoral contract](#)

NB: this CIFRE doctoral contract is subject to acceptance of the project by the ANRT.

Specific environment for this contract :

The Etablissement Public du Parc et de la Grande Halle de la Villette (EPPGHV) is launching a call for CIFRE applications with a view to recruiting a doctoral student to carry out a doctoral research project in design as part of a research-through-practice approach

A model of humanist architecture designed by Bernard Tschumi at the end of the 1980s, the Parc de la Villette stretches over 55 hectares to the north of Paris, criss-crossed by the Canal de l'Ourcq, where meadows, gardens and buildings are the hallmark of its vocation: to host cultural, educational and sporting activities for all. The EPPGHV's mission is to run, operate and promote the cultural and urban complex of the Parc de la Villette - with the exception of the areas belonging to the 3 other public establishments in the park, namely the Philharmonie - Cité de la musique, the CNSMD and the Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie. Today, the establishment's activities focus on three areas: support for artistic creation and dissemination, artistic innovation for the benefit of all audiences, and management and development of the Park. In addition to the park, its scope of action includes several programming spaces (Grande Halle de la Villette, Espace Chapiteaux, Pavillon Villette, Espace Périphérique, Little Villette and the various Folies) and some forty buildings under concession. For full details of La Villette's missions and activities, [click here](#).

This doctoral project, if accepted by the ANRT, will be carried out in collaboration with Marion Nielsen, head of the Designs, Territoires research group at Ensadlab, as part of the Sciences Art Création Recherche (SACRe) doctoral programme at the Université Paris Sciences et lettres (PSL).

Arrow theme :

The Parc de la Villette, unique in its size and ambition, was inaugurated in 1987. Over the last forty years, the EPPGHV has pursued a development policy aimed at preserving the existing heritage and developing it in line with identified needs, in order to welcome all kinds of visitors and enable it to present its cultural programme. In order to pursue this mission, it is now necessary to think about the future of this space in order to make it more resilient and more inclusive, particularly in the face of the pressing challenges of climate change, while preserving its architectural and natural heritage.

In particular, the urban, social and environmental concerns mentioned below must be taken into account, and those that will emerge in the years to come must be anticipated as far as possible. On the one hand, it is necessary to take stock of and define the changes in uses that have taken place since the Park was created, and the challenges they pose for the use of public space. Secondly, the aim is to preserve and improve the provision of an island of nature and freshness with a high quality of welcome for visitors and residents alike.

La Villette wishes to initiate the definition of a development strategy for the park, in order to set a clear course and structure the development and intervention projects for the park's outdoor spaces over the short and long term. This is the context for this call for applications.

Objectives of the research project

The research project will provide input for the teams at La Villette on the Park's strategy and development scenarios. This planning revolves around several issues:

- a review of the sustainable and ecological management of the Park and its green spaces. A number of issues have already been identified by the teams at La Villette and are the subject of initial discussions: management of the tree stock, management of the meadows and embankments, preservation of wildlife and management of water resources;
- Consideration of the design of outdoor spaces and their adaptation to different uses. A number of issues were also raised, including the creation of islands of coolness, support for spontaneous practices (sports facilities, attention to gender inequalities in public spaces), the cohabitation of users (particularly cyclists and pedestrians), improving the way in which the public is received (adapting street furniture, changing lighting systems and signage), and reconciling the Park's conservation objectives with the use of the outdoors through programming.

It will be up to the researcher to determine, in a structured way and based on a corpus and on his/her experiments, the direction of his/her contribution to these different subjects and perspectives, by entering into dialogue with the teams at La Villette and the EnsadLab supervisory team.

Positioning of the doctoral student

To meet these challenges, La Villette wishes to develop a site-based approach, faithful to Bernard Tschumi's project and the legacy of his thinking and architecture. The doctoral student will have to adopt a position that is both technical and sensitive, taking into account the multiplicity of uses, the history of the park and its evolution.

The research project will require multiple points of view, both global and detailed, including various spatial and temporal scales, which the doctoral student will identify during his/her research work. He/she will objectify them on the basis of robust and conceptually explicit methodologies. He/she will draw on knowledge of the issues involved in 'making the city', at the intersection of architecture, design, art, landscape planning and sociology, while remaining within the framework of a doctoral thesis specialising in Design.

In order to facilitate the integration of the doctoral student within the EPPGHV, he/she will be able to participate in ongoing projects related to his/her research project, while ensuring that this participation in the life of the

institution remains limited in terms of workload so as not to encroach on the doctoral student's actual research work. Nevertheless, such involvement is essential to gain a good understanding of the issues and the unique way in which La Villette operates, and to ensure that the researcher's project and the work of the teams are closely interlinked.

The doctoral student will report to the General Management at . His/her research work will be based on regular exchanges with the teams in the Operations and Development Department, as well as with the other departments and services involved in the Park's development (Programming Department, Communications and Public Relations Department, Security Department, Concessions Department, etc.).

At Ensallab, the project will be monitored by Marion Nielsen, coordinator of the Designs-Territoires research group.

The co-supervisor of the thesis, who must be an Habilité à Diriger les Recherches (HDR), will be defined with the candidate according to the theoretical and practical orientations developed in his/her proposal.

Candidate profile:

The candidate will hold a master's degree in architecture, landscape, urban planning, development or design. Their training and experience should demonstrate that they have already begun to think about issues relating to the environment and the development of public space in an urban environment. Their technical know-how and ability to develop an architectural, landscape and urban project must be sufficiently solid to carry out project-based research on a complex site.

They must also be able to carry out a detailed analysis of the built context and a survey of its uses, placing all this research in the historical, heritage, economic and cultural context of the site. It is important to emphasise that the methodologies used in the various design professions can be put to good use, but they are not sufficient on their own. All doctoral projects must be based on both practical and theoretical references in the field of design research and creation. The doctoral project must fall within a clearly defined field of research that is coherent with its objectives, taking into account the achievements and advances proposed by other researchers. It must therefore propose an original thesis topic and relevant issues that will contribute to the creation of new knowledge for the scientific design community. At the application stage, although the doctoral project does not yet answer the questions posed, which will be the subject of the thesis, it must incorporate the requirements of all research and include a provisional work plan.

Specific knowledge of the Parc de la Villette and its issues would be an asset but is not compulsory.

Direction of the thesis :

Thesis supervision will be organised as follows:

- a director (Dr HDR): to be determined (PSL or external)
- a co-director (Dr) : Marion Nielsen (École des Arts Décoratifs - PSL)
- a co-supervisor: within the EPPGHV DG

One or more tracks of HDR supervision will be appreciated at the application stage but is in no way compulsory. It is also important to note that the direction of the HDR thesis will be subject to the decision of the Doctoral School 540 in which the doctoral student will be registered. Candidates must apply to the SACRe call for applications and comply with its rules, in particular by consulting the list of preferred HDRs, with the possibility of looking for HDRs outside this list if the skills sought do not correspond to the thesis project.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE FOR THE SACRe / CIFRE CONTRACT

Conditions of eligibility :

The candidates :

- must meet the conditions for enrolment at the university;
- must hold one of the following French or foreign diplomas awarded on completion of five years of higher education: national Master's diploma or diploma conferring the grade of Master;
- must not already be enrolled in a thesis;
- must be proficient in French in a professional context.

There is no age limit

The registration fee for the 2025 call is 55€. This fee must be paid online using a secure procedure. No money orders or cash payments will be accepted. If payment is made by bank transfer, the fees will be charged to the applicant, which is a sine qua non condition for registration.

Once the form and online payment have been validated, the administrative pre-registration process generates an email to the applicant, and his/her personal space is updated.

Registration fees remain the property of the School even in the event of withdrawal.

If candidates are in receipt of a grant for year n, they must download the notification in order to be exempted from registration fees.

Timetable for the call for applications

The selection process will take place in three stages:

1 and 2 - Selected by **Établissement de la Villette and EnsadLab**

- Pre-selection of applications by a jury made up of members of the La Villette teams and the EnsadLab laboratory.
- Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed by a panel of judges for around 30 minutes, focusing on the candidate's motivations and thesis project.

This hearing will take place in the week of 10 June 2025.

The selected candidate will then have to appear before the Sacre jury to validate his/her enrolment in the PSL doctoral programme.

3- Selection by the **SACRe jury of the École des Arts Décoratifs -PSL**

- Audition by the SACRe / École des Arts Décoratifs - PSL jury on 18.06.2025

Composition of the application file

Documents to download :

- a copy of the required degree (Master 2 or equivalent) ;
- a covering letter explaining the applicant's interest in taking this course;
- a CV specifying in particular the institutions where the candidate has trained, the teachers with whom he or she has worked, any awards or distinctions obtained in academic examinations and competitions, etc. ;
- a letter (optional) indicating the support of the proposed thesis supervisor;

- the dissertation proposal (10 typed pages, maximum 20 pages including visual documents) presenting the candidate's project based on their understanding of the Parc de la Villette and the issues that run through it and their suitability to enrol in the SACRe doctoral programme, the subject of which must relate to at least one of EnsadLab's three areas of research - Materials, Interactions, Environments - in conjunction with the research groups.
- the artistic dossier (art, design), tracing the evolution and recent developments of the candidate's work; for digital works that may accompany the dossier, indicate the link to access the videos. Only a selection of extracts lasting a maximum of 10 minutes will be viewed by the jury;
- a one-page summary containing the main information about your application: marital status, educational background, summary of thesis project, and any other information you feel would be useful;
- a copy of your identity card, passport or residence permit;
- for candidates who are not nationals of French-speaking countries, a certificate issued by a body approved by the French government, attesting to a level of French at least equal to B2 on the Council of Europe's scale of common reference levels. Candidates must also have a good command of the French language in a professional context.

Any application that is incomplete or sent in several separate parts will be deemed inadmissible.

The complete application must be submitted no later than 13 May 2025 at 4pm (Paris time, UTC +1) 4pm to the following address: [contrat doctoral SACRe / CIFRE](#)

Contact at EPPGHV: Eliott Pinel - General Management project manager - e.pinel@villette.com

Contact École des Arts Décoratifs-PSL/EnsadLab: Martine Nicot - martine.nicot@ensad.fr
