

CALL FOR CANDIDATES

Practice-based and design-led PSL SACRE PhD position in smart textiles/wearable design

Presentation of PSL SACRe Ph.D program

This call is open to international candidates.

The Sciences, Arts, Creation, Research (SACRe) Ph.D program is open to all candidates without age restrictions, holding a Master's degree.

When applying, the candidate commits to completing the training program of the doctoral school ED 540 of ENS-PSL "Lettres, arts, sciences humaines et sociales", which includes participation to the SACRe common doctoral seminar, and to specific and general courses (see below).

After a successful defense, the Ph.D candidate will obtain the doctoral national diploma (Ph.D)

Overview

Allowing research and creation project 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 PSL SACRe Ph.D program. This doctoral program brings together six institutions: 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: 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), and the École normale supérieure (ENS-PSL).

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 doctorate (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 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 PSL- SACRE program

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

- **Specific training 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 seminar** (12 sessions) explores the links between research and creation for all doctoral students admitted to the program.
- **Specific training to be chosen** within the Ecole doctorale 540 of ENS, PSL's "Graduate program in the Arts", and PSL's Doctoral college.

The doctoral training plan of ED 540 of ENS-PSL , including the three course categories listed above, must be completed before the PhD defense.

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

The Ph.D candidates must also participate in elaborating study days, seminars, conferences and symposia, as well as public events, especially within the frame of transdisciplinary projects.

[f – read the arrêté](#)

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

The Ph.D candidate will be recruited for three years, the legal duration of the program as stated within the decree n°2016-1173 du 29 août 2016 modifying the decree n° 2009-464 du 23 avril 2009. Postponement of the thesis defense presentation beyond the legal duration of three years is only possible under exceptional circumstances and, if approved, does not prolong the doctoral contract or the financial aid. It is a full-time job and every other unrelated job will have to be officially authorized.

[f – read the decree](#)

The Ph.D candidate will have a dedicated budget to support the artistic production (works, exhibitions, concerts, etc.) and scientific activities (seminars, publications, etc.).

[f – read the decree](#)

Thesis characteristics and defense and issuance of the SACRe Doctorate in the Arts

The SACRe doctorate 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.

Call for Candidates – Practice-based and design-led PhD position in smart textiles/wearable design

L'Ecole des Arts Décoratifs invites applications for a 3 years, full-time practice-based PhD position in smart textiles/wearable design within the Soft Matters research group of Ensadlab, the research laboratory of Ensad, in the framework of the SOFTWARE project funded by the European Commission (HORIZON EUROPE-MSCA).

SOFTWARE Doctoral Network

The candidate will participate to the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Doctoral Network SOFTWARE. The network will comprise 12 PhD students from 10 European Universities. SOFTWARE is a highly interdisciplinary Doctoral Network (DN) in the emerging and rapidly growing field of wearables, with a unique focus on soft actuators for wearables and exoskeletons. The primary objective of SOFTWARE is to train young researchers in the multidisciplinary science of soft actuators for integration in wearables and augmenting textiles. This will be achieved by merging chemistry, physics, mechanics, electronics, textile technology, design, human-technology interaction and ethics in a truly interdisciplinary manner, while teaching essential skills in ethics, product development, IPR and industrial realisation, thus providing a unique added value to the careers of the Researchers. This will be accomplished by on-the-job training on innovative research projects developing beyond-the-state-of-the-art soft actuator technology and integrating this into active garments and soft exoskeletons. The research will be carried out at leading academic groups and by immersion in applied projects at the industrial partners. The position will require traveling to participate in Training Schools and secondments of several months to academic and industrial associated partners.

For more information see www.softwear-dn.eu

About the position

Amongst the 12 Phd projects, this PhD position will be affiliated to the Soft Matters research group of EnsadLab. It will be centred on a practice-based and design-led approach to research with a background in textile design or clothing design.

By embedding sustainable design thinking and textile crafts from inception, the PhD student will develop an integrative approach to soft actuators conception addressing their multiple scales of design from molecule to object and thereby bridging the gap between science and design. The experimentations will focus on the appropriation of electro-active polymers (EAPs) – plastic changing shape with electricity- through textile design processes and through specific design criteria including aesthetics and sustainability. The student will be introduced to the specific technologies of in-air, dielectric elastomers and 3D printed EAPs. Outcomes will showcase potential new expressions, applications or crafting techniques for soft actuators at the intersection of smart textiles, wearables and sustainable design. They will include innovative design scenarios for electro-active textile applications, their probing through a collection of swatches & full-scale prototype(s) underpinned by sustainable principles or ecologic criticisms. As such, the PhD student will develop an ability for science-design dialogue and a unique expertise as a textile/fashion designer with cutting-edge knowledge in various EAPs technologies and their integration into sustainable design-led processes.

The PhD student will carry an independent research with the opportunity to develop multiple collaborations within the network and eventually outside. He/she will benefit of the overall ecosystem of this European doctoral network, including training schools focused on soft & hard skills and 3 secondments in partner's institutions (see below for further details). Academic publications as well artistic dissemination will be encouraged with the overall aim to advance the field of soft actuators and wearables in a poetic and sustainable design perspective.

Soft Matters

Soft Matters is one of the 4 research groups of Ensadlab, the French pioneering arts-and-design-led research lab of Ecole des Arts Décoratifs. It explores how new materials and new technologies (as much as forgotten ones) can contribute to the design of a more resilient culture. The focus is on a design-led and practice-based approach to research with a core expertise in the area of textile design, colour-material and finishing design and sensory design in an interdisciplinary dialogue with disciplines such as architecture, fashion, object design, material science or biology. It articulates its current research around the following axes: (1) *active materials* (2) *circular design* (3) *bio-digital crafting* (4) *sensory design* (5) *architectural textility*.

Placing the conceptualisation and materialisation of artefacts at the centre of its research, the group examines how the materiality of the soft (textiles, flexible materials, digital and biological technologies) influence the practice of design, affects our everyday spaces and practices, but especially questions its potential for the design of more resilient a futures. To do so the group develops national and international collaborations, whether scientific or industrial, through established industrial or academic PhD programmes, consultancy, training and research collaboration at the intersection of science, design and engineering. Soft Matters is further more strongly connected with the Textile and Material design department of Ecole des Arts Décoratifs.

<https://softmatters.ensadlab.fr/>

Requirement/profile

You are creative, highly motivated and autonomous with a strong material sensitivity. You share a deep motivation, if not experience, in practice-based and design-led research. You have already a consistent experience with sustainable design methods and textile/ clothing crafts, ideally e-textiles/smart materials and wish to engage with electro-active polymers integration into textiles & garments within a sustainable perspective.

The candidate should meet the following criteria

- has a master degree (M2) in textile or fashion design or a M2 in other fields with a solid professional experience in fashion or textile design
- has a full working proficiency in English (speaking and writing)
- has already an experience in the area of sustainable design
- demonstrate high design and creative skills
- has a collaborative and interdisciplinary attitude towards research
- is willing to engage a conversation with science and engineering-led approaches to research
- For candidates whose mother tongue is not French, a B2-level in French is required. If the B2-level is not acquired by the time of recruitment, it must be achieved during the 1st PhD year.
- must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in France for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before their recruitment date.

Experience in the area of smart materials/electro-active polymers is an asset but not a pre-requisite. Some prior experiences of academic publications will also be valued.

PhD supervision: the thesis will be supervised by Dr. Aurélie Mosse (Ensadlab, Ecole des Arts Déco, FR), Ass. Prof. Edwin Jager (Linköping University, SE) and Prof. Benoit Roman (ESPCI-PSL University, FR).

Environment

As a PhD student, you will be primarily based at Ecole des Arts Décoratifs in Paris within the Soft Matters research group of Ensadlab, with 3 secondments from 1 to 3 months within institutions of the SOFTWEAR network (EPFL, CH; Ars Electronica, AT; Linköping university, SE). You will be affiliated to the doctoral school ED540 of the Ecole Normale Supérieure and to the Sciences Arts Creation Research (SACRe) PhD programme of Paris Sciences et Lettres University (PSL), of which ENSAD is partner. The thesis will be written in English and is funded by the European Commission in the framework of the SOFTWEAR MSCA DN.

Start Date and duration: 3 year-contract (full-time) starting in the beginning of January 2023

How to apply:

Applications must be written in English and composed of the following elements:

- an up-to-date and detailed curriculum vitae including a list of academic publications if relevant
- a cover letter arguing of the relevance of your profile and of your PhD proposal for the position
- a creative portfolio demonstrating the practice-based and design-led experience of the candidate relevant for the position
- a fashion/textile design-led and practice-based PhD proposal (5 to 10 A4 pages max including illustrations) aligned with the framework of the position¹.

Applications must be addressed/ registered online <https://concours.ensad.fr/> no later than the 9th of September 2022 by 16h (French local time). NB: Online registration requires a registration fee of 53 €.

Calendar:

- **Opening of the call:** 27th of June 2022
- **Closing date for applications:** 9th of September 2022 by 16h
- **Pre-selection jury:** Thursday 15th of September 2022
- **Interviews:** Tuesday 27th of September 2022

Selection process

The jury is composed of the PhD supervisors, of Ensadlab members and the head of Ecole des Arts Decoratifs. The jury evaluates applications (1st round). Together they decide on the eligibility of candidates who are then invited to an online / hybrid audition (2nd round). The audition will be conducted in English. After the audition, the jury elects the successful candidate. This decision is subsequently validated by the following SACRe board and then the pedagogic committee of ED540 of ENS.

We welcome applicants with different backgrounds, experiences and perspectives: diversity enriches our work and helps us grow.

Contact

Scientific queries – Dr. Aurélie Mosse aurelie.mosse@ensad.fr

Administrative queries – Martine Nicot, martine.nicot@ensad.fr

¹ To be submitted online in the “note d’intention” section. Please do not submit a letter of intent in this category but a PhD proposal .



About Ecole des Arts Deco

École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs is a public institution of higher education under the authority of the French Ministry of Culture and Communication. Over 250 years of history, a unique educational model, and an international outlook that encompasses more than 130 partnerships with the best universities, top cultural institutions and the most innovative businesses around the world places Ecole des Arts Déco within a select group of major art and design institutions. Its mission is to provide artistic, scientific, and technical training for artists and designers, preparing them for careers in design and research in all the decorative arts fields.

Ecole des Arts Deco has also developed an ambitious research dynamic in the form of EnsadLab, the French pioneering arts-and-design-led research lab founded in 2012. Besides, since 2011, it is a member of Paris Sciences et Lettres University that brings together 20 higher-education and research institutions (including the Collège de France, the ENS, the ESPCI, the Observatoire de Paris, the Institut Curie, and others). Former students of the School include famous figures such as Charles Garnier, Hector Guimard, and Henri Matisse, as well as major creators in the contemporary art scene: Philippe Apeloig, Ronan Bouroullec, Mohamed Bourouissa, Jean-Paul Goude, Annette Messager, Anri Sala, Jérôme Savary, Jacques Tardi, Xavier Veilhan, Zao Wou Ki, Yiking Yin, and others.

<https://www.ensad.fr/>



Contact

For any question about the general SACRe 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: Martine Nicot – martine.nicot@ensad.fr – tél : +33 (0)1 42 34 97 06