



PSL 
RESEARCH UNIVERSITY PARIS



/ GUIDE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

2017-2018

/ A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

How can I present the École normale supérieure in just a few words? I should speak of its tradition, name some of its most famous students (from Césaire to Bourdieu, Sartre, Foucault or Jacqueline de Romilly, from Kastler to Cohen-Tannoudji, Ngô Bao Châu and Jean-Pierre Serre); I should mention the charm of its legendary buildings (a school of the French Republic housed in a kind of medieval cloister); I should also mention its singularity, because in spite of its small size (2,400 students, including the doctoral students and international students) the ENS stands out as one of the world's very best universities. I should also mention its situation at the core of a network of Parisian universities and institutions and its involvement in the setting up of PSL Research University Paris; I should also go back over its tremendous growth during the last decades, thanks to its exceptional research centers in which students are directly in contact with the major issues of cutting-edge research.



Nevertheless I think that, in spite of all these elements, the essential would be missed: intellectual freedom, customized courses, synergies between Arts and Humanities and Sciences, ad hoc seminars, the priority given to the tutorships, the rich Parisian intellectual life, and, of course, those all-night discussions between the rosebushes and the pond in the Cour aux Ernests (with its legendary goldfish)...

But the École is first and foremost what its students and researchers who work there make of it. As you prepare to enter this place for the first time, you can be sure of being truly a part of the community of our École, you will help to make it lively, to shape it, to enrich it through your eyes, your ideas, your expectations; and from now on, we rely on you: welcome to the ENS, we hope you will feel at home!

Marc Mézard

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/ THE ÉCOLE NORMALE SUPÉRIEURE



WHAT IS THE ÉCOLE NORMALE SUPÉRIEURE?

/ A FRENCH GRANDE ÉCOLE

The École normale supérieure is a French "grande école". It was **founded in 1794**, during the French Revolution, and its main purpose was to train secondary-school teachers. The present form of ENS dates back to 1985, with the merging of the École normale supérieure de la rue d'Ulm, for young men, and the École normale supérieure de jeunes filles, for young women (founded in 1882 and located in the Jourdan and Montrouge campuses). Now the École normale supérieure is a co-ed school preparing its students to teach and do research, but also to work in the government and even in public firms.

The French *élèves normaliens* receive a stipend during their four years of studies, but in return they have to work for the French state for six years after they have finished their studies at the École.

Since 2005, the École normale supérieure has also recruited 120 *normaliens étudiants* each year, on examination of their application. Most of these students come from universities or the French "classes préparatoires"; they receive no pay and their courses last three years.

/ THE DIFFERENT STATUS OF THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

More than 20% of ENS students are international students, who contribute towards the vitality of the institution. The international students are divided into two groups: those who study at the ENS to obtain a degree, and those who study at ENS without obtaining a degree.

The following students will obtain a degree:

- *Elèves normaliens* from the International Selection: 20 are recruited each year, after successfully passing two competitive examinations specifically for International Students, one in Arts and Humanities, the other in Sciences. Successful applicants receive a grant from ENS and a room on one of the School's campuses. Their courses last three years.
- *Elèves normaliens étrangers*: they have passed one of the national competitive exams – all in French – to gain admission to the École. Successful applicants (all citizens of one of the European countries) benefit from the same status as the French *normaliens* and are remunerated. They receive a grant from ENS and a room on one of the School's campuses. Their courses last four years.
- *Normaliens étudiants étrangers*: they are recruited upon application and a motivation interview. They study here for three years, are not remunerated but they can obtain a room on one of the School's campuses on social grounds (and if a room is available).
- Students who are enrolled in the

School's Master's courses.

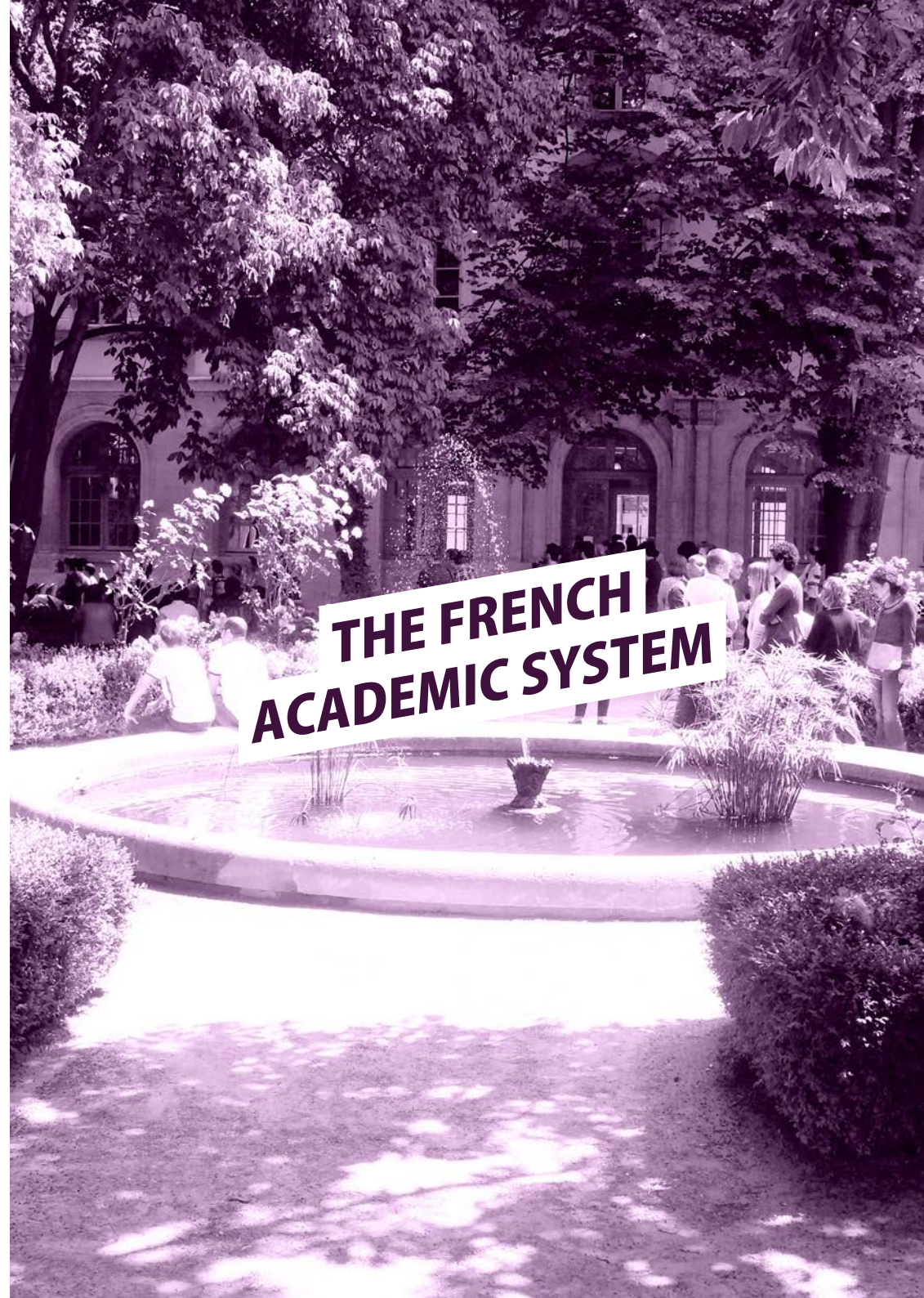
- Doctoral students who prepare a Ph.D. at ENS, in the doctoral school Paris Sciences et Lettres Research University: Physics in the Île-de-France doctoral school, the Interdisciplinary arts and humanities/sciences doctoral school, and the Astronomy and Astrophysics doctoral school.

The following students will not obtain a degree at ENS and do not have to validate ECTS credits:

- *Pensionnaires étrangers*: these students (about 100 each year) are enrolled at their home university (located abroad), and stay at ENS for up to a year. They come to ENS on an exchange program and obtain accommodation on one of the ENS campuses (in most cases).
- *Auditeurs étrangers*, who are at the École for one semester or one year on an exchange program or without an exchange program.
- Post-doctoral researchers, who come to ENS after obtaining their Ph.D.

The following students will not obtain an ENS degree but have to validate ECTS credits, under an agreement with their Home universities:

- ERASMUS+ students and interns (about 30 per year).
- Students enrolled in the *History and literature* Master's at Columbia University (about 10 per year).



/ LESSONS AT THE UNIVERSITY

The French academic system is made up of different institutions. Among them two are prominent: universities and *grandes écoles*. The *grandes écoles* select their students on the basis of the knowledge of a particular field, while universities offer a variety of courses, which are general or specialized.

The École normale supérieure is special in that it is a *Grande École* working with the universities. ENS students are selected on competitive examination or after an interview, but they are obliged to attend courses at ENS and also to be enrolled in a national degree course at the university. Only the *Pensionnaires Étrangers* who come here under a specific bilateral agreement do not have to attend the university.

Students in Arts and Humanities have to follow a whole program at the university, as soon as they enter the ENS. They thus obtain a Bachelor's degree and then a Master's degree. Science students benefit from a tailored program that allows them to validate their Bachelor's degree with the classes they attend at ENS. Afterwards, they attend their first year of Master's classes at the ENS in conjunction with the university, while during the second year of Master's they are at the university and will obtain a degree from both the university and ENS.

/ LICENCE (BACHELOR), MASTER AND DOCTORAT (PH.D.)

There are three French university degrees: the *licence* (bachelor's), the master and the *doctorat* (doctorate). French people count each year separately starting from the year the *baccalauréat* (high school degree) was passed: thus the licence is called "Bac +3", the master "Bac +5" and the *doctorat* "Bac +8". The *licence* and master programs are strongly differentiated. Under the Bologna process, each successfully-completed semester earns 30 ECTS credits (European Credits Transfer System); consequently, each academic year earns 60 credits. Thus the *licence* degree comprises 180 credits and the *master* degree comprises 120 additional credits.

- The *licence* is prepared in three years after obtaining the *baccalauréat*. These years are known as L1 (first year of licence), L2 (second year of licence) and L3 (third year of licence). The aim of this program is to give students a basic grounding in a given discipline. Most of the students who enter the first year at ENS have already completed the L2 and prepare their L3 at ENS. Universities offer two types of *licences*: general *licences* and *licences professionnelles* (professional licence). ENS students may not enroll in a *licence professionnelle*.
- The *master* is prepared in two years: M1 (first year of *master*) and M2 (second year of *master*). In Arts and Humanities, students have to attend lessons each year and also write a research paper of about a hundred pages, under the supervision of a dissertation director. At the end of each academic year, students have to present their work. The M2

research subject is in most cases the same as the one in M1, although it is still possible to change subjects and even the field of study between the two years of *master*. In Sciences, students attend lessons during the first semester and do an internship, in France or abroad, during the second semester.

- The *doctorat* is prepared in three or sometimes four years. Students are called *doctorants* (or colloquially *thésards*) and have to write a doctoral thesis of about 300 pages on a specific subject. They conduct thorough research in a laboratory for Science students and generally in a library for Arts and Humanities students. The thesis is supervised by a thesis director and *doctorants* defend the outcome of their research during the thesis defense. After the thesis has been submitted and defended, the *doctorant* becomes a *docteur* and is able to apply for post-doctoral positions or for *maître de conférences* (university lecturer) positions. Ph.D. students can prepare their degree either at the university or at ENS.

There are different types of Ph.D. contracts. Some offer remuneration to doctoral students, who in turn have to give lessons, or are assigned to the dissemination of scientific information, or to the development of research results, or receive a consultancy assignment. Doctoral students who receive no remuneration are not eligible for these assignments.

It is also possible to prepare a Ph.D. thesis with joint international tutors. In this case, the thesis is supervised by two directors, one from a French academic institution and the other from a foreign one. Doctoral students under joint tutorship are enrolled in both institutions and prepare their thesis alternatively in each institution. The lan-

guage in which the thesis is written must be recognized as such in both institutions. After defending their thesis, the new doctors receive a dual degree or two joint degrees, according to the institutions' regulations.

Students can also sign a Ph.D. contract in partnership with a firm: these contracts are called *contrats Cifre* and are managed by the ANRT (*Association nationale de la recherche et de la technologie*, the French national association for research and technology). Future doctoral students can submit their applications at any time for a scientific research project in a firm, an association, a French regional administration or a consular chamber, provided that the chosen structure is established in France. To set up the contract, students must contact the *pôle Contrat-recherche* at ENS. Students from outside the European Union must get a visa to obtain a "*scientifique-chercheur*" (scientific research) residence permit, valid for more than three months.



/ STUDYING AT ÉCOLE NORMALE SUPÉRIEURE

ACADEMIC STUDIES

All students enrolled at the École normale supérieure must take at least two courses per semester and one modern language course per academic year.

The ENS offers a wide range of courses, spread out in 15 different departments in Sciences or Arts and Humanities: Biology, Chemistry, Cognitive science, Computer science, Earth sciences, Mathematics, Physics, Economics, History, History and theory of art, Geography, Literature and languages, Philosophy, Social sciences.

There are several types of lessons, depending on the public and the department that organizes them.

In the Sciences, lessons are mainly *cours magistraux*, i.e. lectures for a class of students, *travaux pratiques*, i.e. lab work, *travaux dirigés*, i.e. supervised practical work, and research seminars on a precise subject. Training through research is validated when students do an internship in a laboratory, under the supervision of the ENS or a partner institution.

In the Humanities, lessons can take various forms: induction courses are for students, especially first-year students, wishing to become familiar with a general subject. Research seminars cover a specific subject on which several speakers share their points of view. There are also numerous classes in between. Training through research in humanities is validated by writing and defending a research paper, during each year of their Master's course.

The French grading system is based mostly on a 20-point grading scale. The lowest mark is 0/20, the highest mark is 20/20 and the pass mark, which allows the validation of the exercise or the semester of the academic year, is generally 10/20 (however it may be 12/20 in some specific cases). The minimal grade for a research paper to be accepted is 14/20.

Numerous foreign languages are taught, including some rare languages. The choice includes Arabic, Bambara, Chinese, Danish, English, French Sign Language, German, Modern Hebrew, Hindi, Icelandic, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Persian, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Swedish, Turkish, and Yiddish. Lessons in French as a Foreign Language are also taught for foreign students wishing to learn French or to improve their level.

The course description book, the *Brochure des enseignements*, is available on the ENS website.

While the competitive examinations admit students to ENS, the *diplôme de l'École normale supérieure* (the ENS diploma) signals the end of their studies at the École. To obtain the diploma, graduating students must have been enrolled at least three times for the diploma, must already have obtained their Master's degree and must have obtained at least 36 credits at ENS. At least one-third of these 36 credits must be in the same discipline as the department to which they belonged and as the Master's degree.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR DOING AN INTERNSHIP

Internship regulations in France are very strict. Only students enrolled on a national university degree or the *diplôme de l'École* may do an internship supervised by the ENS, generally in a scientific laboratory, a public administration or a firm. Before beginning the internship, students must complete a contract called *convention de stage*, signed by themselves, the ENS Director and the hosting organization. Interns must be paid (they receive an internship 'allowance' rather than a salary) if the internship lasts more than two months. Nevertheless, the amount of this allowance may not exceed €500 per month.

These conditions are compulsory for internships because the *convention de stage* plays the role of insurance. In order to obtain a *convention de stage* students must contact the *Service de la scolarité et des concours* (SAE).

Students who are not administratively enrolled at ENS but wish to do an internship, in France or abroad, must have their institutions of origin sign the *convention de stage*.

UNIVERSITY								
Licence (Bachelor)			Master		Doctorat (Ph.D.)			
1 st year	2 nd year	3 rd year	1 st year	2 nd year	1 st year	2 nd year	3 rd year	
1 st year	2 nd year	1 st year	2 nd year	3 rd year	4 th year			
Preparatory classes		École normale supérieure						
	Competitive examination							



**EDUCATIONAL
SUPPORT**

/ INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, DIRECTORS AND REPRESENTATIVES

ARTS AND HUMANITIES

LILA (LITERATURE AND LANGUAGES)

Marc PORÉE - Tel. +33 1 44 32 31 65 - marc.poree@ens.fr

Agnès DERAÏL - Tel. +33 1 44 32 38 10 - agnes.derail@ens.fr

Roland BÉHAR - Tel. +33 1 44 32 30 05 - roland.behar@ens.fr

Déborah LEVY BERTHERAT - deborah.levy-bertherat@ens.fr

PHILOSOPHIE (PHILOSOPHY)

Marc CRÉPON - Tel. +33 1 44 32 30 66 - marc.crepon@ens.fr

Mathias GIREL - Tel. +33 1 44 32 30 11 - mathias.girel@ens.fr

Jean-Paul MONOD - Tel. +33 1 44 32 30 04 - jean-claude.monod@ens.fr

HISTOIRE (HISTORY)

Sylvia ESTIENNE - Tel. +33 1 44 32 38 15 - sylvia.estienne@ens.fr

Jean-François LASSALMONIE - Tel. +33 1 44 32 38 19 - jean-francois.lassalmonie@ens.fr

Julien ZURBACH - Tel. +33 1 44 32 30 15 - julien.zurbach@ens.fr

GÉOGRAPHIE ET TERRITOIRES (GEOGRAPHY AND TERRITORIES)

Emmanuele CUNNINGHAM-SABOT - Tel. +33 1 44 32 25 93 - emmanuele.sabot@ens.fr

Frank DEBIÉ (Geostrategy) - Tel. +33 1 44 32 29 92 - franck.debie@ens.fr

Pauline GUINARD - Tel. +33 1 44 32 61 93 - pauline.guinard@ens.fr

Pauline GUINARD - Tel. +33 1 44 32 61 93 - pauline.guinard@ens.fr

Head of department | Director of studies | Representative of the International Affairs Department

SCIENCES SOCIALES (SOCIAL SCIENCES)

Jérôme DEAUVIAU - Tel. +33 1 43 12 62 26 - jerome.deauviau@ens.fr

Julien BONHOMME - Tel. +33 1 43 12 62 02 - julien.bonhomme@ens.fr

Blaise WILFERT-PORTAL - Tel. +33 1 43 12 37 71 - blaise.wilfert@ens.fr

ÉCONOMIE (ECONOMICS)

Daniel COHEN - Tel. +33 1 43 12 62 08 - daniel.cohen@ens.fr

Mathilde VIENNOT - Tel. +33 1 43 12 62 07 - mathilde.viennot@ens.fr

Marc GURGAND - Tel. +33 1 43 12 63 05 - marc.gurgand@ens.fr

SCIENCES DE L'ANTIQUITÉ (CLASSICS)

François BERARD - Tel. +33 1 44 32 30 17 - francois.berard@ens.fr

Camille RAMBOURG - Tel. +33 1 44 32 31 28 - camille.rambourg@ens.fr

Anne-Catherine BAUDOIN - Tel. +33 1 44 32 30 03 - anne-catherine.baudoin@ens.fr

HISTOIRE ET THÉORIE DES ARTS (ART HISTORY AND THEORY)

Nadeije LANEYRIE-DAGEN - Tel. +33 1 44 32 20 98 - nadeije.laneyrie-dagen@ens.fr

Antoine de BAECQUE - Tel. +33 1 44 32 20 95 - antoine.de.baecque@ens.fr

Béatrice JOYEUX-PRUNEL - Tel. +33 1 44 32 35 75 - beatrice.joyeux-prunel@ens.fr

ÉTUDES COGNITIVES (COGNITIVE SCIENCES)

Sharon PEPERKAMP - Tel. +33 1 44 32 26 24 - sharon.peperkamp@ens.fr

Benjamin SPECTOR - Tel. +33 1 44 32 26 62 - benjamin.spector@ens.fr

Benjamin SPECTOR - Tel. +33 1 44 32 26 62 - benjamin.spector@ens.fr

ECLA (LANGUAGES CENTER)

Estelle FIGON - Tel. +33 1 44 32 38 30 - estelle.figon@ens.fr

Estelle FIGON - Tel. +33 1 44 32 38 30 - estelle.figon@ens.fr

Michèle GHIL - Tel. +33 1 44 32 38 89 - michele.ghil@ens.fr

Head of department | Director of studies | Representative of the International Affairs Department

SCIENCES

BIOLOGIE (BIOLOGY)

Antoine TRILLER - Tel. +33 1 44 32 37 20 - antoine.triller@ens.fr

Patrick CHARNAY (AD) - Tel. +33 1 44 32 36 07 - patrick.charnay@ens.fr

Andrea DUMOULIN - Tel. +33 1 44 32 23 06 - andrea.dumoulin@ens.fr

Denis THIEFFRY - Tel. +33 1 44 32 23 52 - denis.thieffry@ens.fr

CHIMIE (CHEMISTRY)

Anne BOUTIN - Tel. +33 1 44 32 24 29 - anne.boutin@ens.fr

Jean-Bernard BAUDIN (AD) - Tel. +33 1 44 32 35 09 - jean-bernard.baudin@ens.fr

Clotilde POLICAR - Tel. +33 1 44 32 24 20 - clotilde.policar@ens.fr

Jérôme DELACOTTE - Tel. +33 1 44 32 24 50 - jerome.delacotte@ens.fr

INFORMATIQUE (COMPUTER SCIENCE)

Jean PONCE - Tel. +33 1 44 32 21 69 - jean.ponce@ens.fr

Patrick COUSOT - Tel. +33 1 44 32 20 64 - patrick.cousot@ens.fr

Marc POUZET - Tel. +33 1 44 32 21 66 - marc.pouzet@ens.fr

MATHÉMATIQUES ET APPLICATIONS (MATHEMATICS AND APPLICATIONS)

Olivier DEBARRE - Tel. +33 1 44 32 20 44 - olivier.debarre@ens.fr

Claude VITERBO - Tel. +33 1 44 32 20 87 - claudio.viterbo@ens.fr

Olivier DEBARRE - Tel. +33 1 44 32 20 44 - olivier.debarre@ens.fr

PHYSIQUE (PHYSICS)

Jean-Marc BERROIR - Tel. +33 1 44 32 33 59 - jean-marc.berroir@ens.fr

Olivier ABILLON - Tel. +33 1 44 32 33 14 - olivier.abillon@ens.fr

Frédéric CHEVY - Tel. +33 1 44 32 20 19 - frederic.chevy@ens.fr

Jean-François ALLEMAND - Tel. +33 1 44 32 33 73 - jean-francois.allemand@ens.fr

Head of department | Director of studies | Representative of the International Affairs Department

GÉOSCIENCES (GEOLOGY)

Éric CALAIS - Tel. +33 1 44 32 22 17 - eric.calais@ens.fr

Jean-Philippe DUVEL - Tel. +33 1 44 32 22 37 - jean-philippe.duvel@ens.fr

Sabrina SPEICH - Tel. +33 1 44 32 22 48 - sabrina.speich@ens.fr

ÉTUDES COGNITIVES (COGNITIVE SCIENCES)

Sharon PEPERKAMP - Tel. +33 1 44 32 26 24 - sharon.peperkamp@ens.fr

Benjamin SPECTOR - Tel. +33 1 44 32 26 62 - benjamin.spector@ens.fr

Benjamin SPECTOR - Tel. +33 1 44 32 26 62 - benjamin.spector@ens.fr

Head of department | Director of studies | Representative of the International Affairs Department

NB: Each department has a representative for the International relations office. All foreign students must introduce themselves to one of the two representatives of the departments they have chosen; they must also introduce themselves to teachers and researchers whose research subject is related to what they are studying. The *pensionnaires étrangers* can take lessons and validate them, in accordance with their universities of origin, for the course they follow there.

All *normaliens*, whether French or foreign, have to choose a tutor from the teachers of their department (*pensionnaires étrangers* can choose one too). Each semester they also have to sign a *contrat d'études* (learning agreement) on the software called GPS.

The *Service de la scolarité et des concours* (SAE) is in charge of the relations with the *préfecture*, in particular for the visas and residence permits.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

Dominique COMBE - Director of International Affairs Department, Professor, French Literature and Literary Theory

Stella DOSSA - Head of International Affairs Department, In charge of International Cooperation

Isabelle MISTRAL - International Student Mobility and International Selection

Contact : dri@ens.fr
Tel. +33 1 44 32 31 35

Office Hours :

- Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:30 to 12:00 / 14:00 to 17:00
- Thursdays and Fridays from 9:30 to 12:00
- Closed on Mondays

/ REMINDER OF THE BENEFITS FOR PENSIONNAIRES AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

- Free access to all ENS lessons and seminars. Students may also enroll in a French university (contact the university for information about the lessons).
- Academic tutoring (called *tutorat*). All ENS students should have a tutor. On their arrival foreign students and *pensionnaires* should contact the representative of the International relations office to find a tutor (if they want to).
- Access to the ENS libraries – students must fill out the registration form of each library.
- Access to computer facilities (internet in the halls of residence, e-mail address, computer room).
- Access to cultural, arts and sports activities organized by the students' union.
- Access to the ENS restaurant at subsidized prices.



/TEACHING AND RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS OUTSIDE THE ENS

Here is a non-exhaustive list of academic institutions in which the *normaliens* can take lessons, attend seminars or do research.

Information on the detailed lessons program or the library opening hours is available in each institution concerned.

UNIVERSITIES AND HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

🏛️ Paris I (Panthéon-Sorbonne)

12 place du Panthéon
Paris 75005
(Law, Economics, Human Sciences)
www.univ-paris1.fr

🏛️ Paris II (Panthéon Assas)

12 place du Panthéon
Paris 75005
(Law, Economics, Human Sciences)
www.u-paris2.fr

🏛️ Paris III (Sorbonne Nouvelle)

17 rue de la Sorbonne
Paris 75005
(Humanities)
www.univ-paris3.fr

🏛️ Paris IV (Sorbonne)

1 rue Victor Cousin,
Paris 75005
(Humanities)
www.paris4.sorbonne.fr

🏛️ Paris V (Université René Descartes)

12 rue de l'École de Médecine, Paris 75005
(Medicine, Pharmaceuticals, Science and Human Sciences)
www.univ-paris5.fr

🏛️ Paris VI (Université Pierre et Marie Curie)

4 place Jussieu
Paris 75005
(Science)
www.umpc.fr

🏛️ Paris VII (Université Denis Diderot)

2 place Jussieu
Paris 75005
(Humanities and Sciences)
www.diderotp7.jussieu.fr

🏛️ Paris VIII (Université Vincennes Saint-Denis)

2 rue de la Liberté
Saint-Denis (93)
(Humanities)
www.univ-p8.fr

🏛️ Paris IX (Paris Dauphine)

place du Maréchal de Lattre de Tassigny,
Paris 75016
(Economics and Management)
www.dauphine.fr

🏛️ Paris X (Nanterre)

200 avenue de la République
Nanterre (92)
(Law, Social Sciences and Humanities)
www.u-paris10.fr

🏛️ Paris XI (Université Paris Sud)

15 rue Georges Clemenceau
Orsay (91)
(Science)
www.u-psud.fr

🏛️ Paris XII (Val-de-Marne)

61 avenue du Général de Gaulle
Créteil (94)
(Science, Social Sciences and Humanities)
www.univ-paris12.fr

🏛️ Paris XIII (Paris Nord)

avenue Jean-Baptiste Clément
Villetaneuse (93)
(Science, Social Sciences and Humanities)
www.univ-paris13.fr

🏛️ Collège de France

11 place Marcelin Berthelot
Paris 75005
(All disciplines)
www.college-de-France.fr

🏛️ Collège International de Philosophie

1 rue Descartes
Paris 75005
(Philosophy)
www.ci-philosophie.asso.fr

🏛️ EHESS (École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales)

54 bd Raspail
Paris 75006
(Social Sciences)
www.ehess.fr

🏛️ EPHE (École Pratique des Hautes Études)

45-47 rue des Écoles
Paris 75005
(Science and Social Sciences)
www.ephe.sorbonne.fr

🏛️ École Nationale des Chartes

19 rue de la Sorbonne
Paris 75005
(Medieval Studies)
www.enc.sorbonne.fr

🏛️ Institut catholique de Paris (private university)

21 rue d'Assas
Paris 75006
(Science, Social Sciences and Humanities)
www.icp.fr

🏛️ Sciences Po (Institut d'études politiques et Fondation)

27 rue Saint Guillaume
Paris 75007
(Political Science)
www.sciences-po.fr

🏛️ INALCO (Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales)

2 rue de Lille
Paris 75007
(Foreign Languages)
www.inalco.fr

LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES

American Library in Paris

10 rue du Général Camou, Paris 75007

Archives nationales

60 rue des Francs-Bourgeois, Paris 75003
(French national archives)

Bibliothèque Forney

1 rue du Figuier, Paris 75004
(Fine arts)

Bibliothèque de l'IEP - Sciences Po

27 rue Saint Guillaume, Paris 75007
(Political Science)

Bibliothèque de l'INHA (Institut national d'histoire de l'art)

4 rue Vivienne, Paris 75002
(History of Arts)

Bibliothèque Mazarine (Institut de France)

23 quai de Conti, Paris 75006
(Manuscripts)

Bibliothèque de la MSH (Maison des sciences de l'homme)

54 bd Raspail, Paris 75006
(Human and Social Sciences)

BNF (Bibliothèque nationale de France)

11 quai François Mauriac, Paris 75013

BNF

58 rue de Richelieu, Paris 75002
(Maps, engravings, manuscripts, medals, music scores)

BNF

1 rue Sully, Paris 75004
(Arts and theaters)

BPI (Bibliothèque publique d'information du Centre Pompidou)

19 rue Beaubourg, Paris 75004
(All disciplines)

Bibliothèque Sainte-Geneviève

10 place du Panthéon, Paris 75005
(Humanities)

Bibliothèque de la Société de l'histoire du protestantisme français

54 rue des Saints-Pères, Paris 75007
(French protestantism)

Bibliothèque de la Sorbonne

1 rue Victor Cousin, Paris 75005
(Humanities and Social Sciences)

Bibliothèque de l'UNESCO (Organisation des Nations unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture)

7 place de Fontenoy, Paris 75007

IRHT (Institut de recherche et d'histoire des textes)

40 avenue d'Iéna, Paris 75016
(Manuscripts)

/ PRACTICAL
INFORMATION

THE START OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR IN SEPTEMBER

We are very pleased to welcome you during your stay in Paris, and we hope that the information you find in this short guide will help to make it a profitable and enjoyable one.

The academic year for the *normaliens élèves* and *normaliens* of the International selection starts on **Monday, September 4** and **Tuesday, September 5**.

The academic year for the *pensionnaires étrangers*, *auditeurs étrangers* (if applicable) and ERASMUS+ students of the International selection starts on **Wednesday, September 6**.

Those students must register on **September 6, salle des Actes (45 rue d'Ulm, 75005 Paris)**:

- **9.00 - 12.00:** Pensionnaires Étrangers (PE) housed on the Ulm campus
- **12:00 - 16.30:** Pensionnaires Étrangers (PE) housed on the Jourdan and Montrouge campuses, ERASMUS+ students and other students

NB: The three campuses open for accommodation from **Wednesday, September 6**. In order to access the dormitories from this date, you have to inform us of the date and hour of your arrival at the following addresses: hebergement@ens.fr ; dri@ens.fr and stella.dossa@ens.fr.

Your room key will be left at the reception office of your residential campus.

ORGANIZATION OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR AT THE ENS

- **First semester:** from September to mid-January
- **Mid-Term holidays:** one week at the end of October
- **Christmas holidays:** from December 22 to January 2, 2017
- **Second semester:** from the end of January to the end of May
- **Winter holidays:** one week during February
- **Spring holidays:** one week in April
- **Summer holidays:** variable dates, beginning or end of June



BEFORE YOU ARRIVE: FOR NEW STUDENTS

/ ADMINISTRATIVE FORMALITIES

RESIDENCE PERMIT

Applications for the residence permit are filled out at School during the induction day organized by the International Affairs Department and the SAE (Registrar's Office), **Wednesday, September 6.**

Since the beginning of the 2003 academic year, **all students who receive their first residence permit must pay a fee of €58** (this may increase) **and must take a medical examination by order of the préfecture.** This fee must be paid on the date on which the permit is granted: approximately a month and a half after the start of the academic year.

If you are renewing your residence permit made out by the Registrar's Office, you must pay a **fee of €50** directly to the préfecture, when you collect the permit.

NB: A biometric residence permit was introduced in June 2013. You will be requested to supply a fingerprint in order to obtain this.



VISAS

Nationals of countries in the European Union and the Swiss Confederation do not need a visa. In application of the law of 26 November 2003, they no longer need a residence permit.

Students from other countries must request a type D long-term student's visa (CESEDA R311-3 6°) from the French Consulate in their country of origin or residence. The consulate will give you a VLSTS (long stay visa which acts as residence permit), and an application form for an attestation from the OFII (French Office of Immigration and Integration), which you must take to the Registrar's office when you register. (Take the letter sent by the Head of International Relations at ENS to your consulate).

LANGUAGE ASSISTANTS

If you intend to ask for a position of **language assistant in a secondary school** (which is sometimes the case in exchanges with British or American universities), you should contact the French Embassy in your country and ask for a language assistant **visa which you must take to the Registrar's Office on your arrival. They will take care of the application procedures.**

We remind you that your first salary will not be paid until three months after you take up your position.

/WHAT TO BRING WITH YOU

PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS

Please bring the following documents to be handed in to the Registrar's Office:

- Passport
- Birth certificate - **COMPULSORY** (not applicable for nationals within the European Union): **this must be translated into French and be certified exact by an official body** (the parents' full names must be included).
- Long-stay visa: the visa stamped on your passport must be a type D long-stay student's visa or a language assistant's visa (only for language assistants in schools or universities). On your arrival in France, the ENS will take charge of obtaining your residence permit. This permit is compulsory except for nationals of European Union countries or Switzerland.
- Documents from the French Consulate (OFII)
- Grant certificate (scholarship) or personal or family means test (translated into French)
- Insurance - **COMPULSORY** (European insurance card, insurance from your university or family)
- Recent identity photos that are an exact likeness: bring at least 4 (taken from the front, head uncovered, size 3.5 x 4.5 cm). There is a photo machine in the ENS
- Letter(s) of recommendation from your university (not compulsory)

ONLY for registration for the ENS Diploma and/or in a university, you must provide:

- the originals of diplomas (from high schools and universities).
- their photocopies certified exact by a qualified body.
- their translation into French, done by a sworn translator.
- the corresponding grade sheets.
- their translation into French, done by a sworn translator.



/INSURANCE: VERY IMPORTANT!

MEDICAL INSURANCE

- Essential EXCEPT for students who receive French state grants.
- **You must take out insurance in your country** (university or family insurance), **BEFORE you leave.**
- Make sure you know the terms of cover and reimbursement, especially if there is an agreement between France and your country. **Remember to bring the certificate translated into French.**

NB: If you cannot take out insurance in your country, it is sometimes possible to register with the French social security system **provided that you register for a degree course in a Paris university (age requirement: under 28).**

THIRD PARTY INSURANCE

- It is **COMPULSORY** to take out insurance covering risks of accident (and fire, etc.). You must do this on the day you register at ENS.
- You will be offered a contract with the company **MAIF**. For this you must meet the MAIF representative, who is available during the registration days (from September 4 to September 6 2017).

NB: The premium is very good value:

- about €75 for students under 26
- about €150 for those over 26



PROCEDURES FOR ERASMUS+ STUDENTS

/ BEFORE YOUR ARRIVAL

The ERASMUS+ agreement coordinator or the representative of the International Affairs Department receive ERASMUS+ applications in spring for the 1st semester (**deadline May 31**) and in autumn for the 2nd semester (**deadline November 15**).

The ERASMUS+ agreement coordinator or the representative of the International Relations Department approves the applications with the International Relations Office no later than **June 30** for the 1st semester and **December 15** for the 2nd semester.

/ WHEN YOU ARRIVE

On arrival, ERASMUS+ students must go to the International Affairs Department in order to have their attendance sheet signed. Students should contact the IAD to know the openings hours.

ERASMUS+ students must also contact their ERASMUS+ coordinator or representative of the International relations department to finalize their study program.

/ BEFORE YOU LEAVE

All ERASMUS+ students must ask their professors to send an email to the IAD (dri@ens.fr) with the title of the lessons and seminars attended, the grade obtained and the number of ECTS.

This email must reach the IAD **no later than two weeks before the student's departure**.

One week before leaving, ERASMUS+ students must go to the International Affairs Department to collect a statement of all the courses attended (grades and ECTS) based on the emails received from the professors, addressed to their university of origin.



HOW TO GET TO THE ENS

/ FROM THE AIRPORTS

FROM ROISSY

Take the RER line B and get off:

- for **45 rue d'Ulm**: at *Luxembourg*
- for **48 boulevard Jourdan**: at *Cité universitaire*
- for **1 rue Maurice Arnoux in Montrouge**: Line 4 of the metro, get off at *Mairie de Montrouge*.

FROM ORLY

Take the ORLYBUS and:

- for **45 rue d'Ulm**: get off at *Denfert-Rochereau* (terminus), then take the RER B up to *Luxembourg* or the n° 38 bus to *Auguste Comte* bus stop.
- for **48 boulevard Jourdan**: get off at *Tombe Issoire* (opposite n° 48)
- for **Montrouge**: get off at 48 boulevard Jourdan (*Tombe Issoire* bus stop), then follow the route indicated for students arriving from ROISSY (see above).



/ FROM PARIS

The different campuses are accessible via the following public transport means:

45 RUE D'ULM

- Bus 38: *Auguste Comte* bus stop
- Bus 21 and 27: *Feuillantines* bus stop
- Bus 89 and 84: *Panthéon Mairie du 5^e* bus stop
- RER B: *Luxembourg* station

48 BOULEVARD JOURDAN

- Tramway T3: *Montsouris* stop
- Bus 28, 38 and 68: *Porte d'Orléans* bus stop
- Metro line 4: *Porte d'Orléans* station
- RER B: *Cité Universitaire* station

1 RUE MAURICE ARNOUX, MONTROUGE

- Bus 194 or 195: *Dépinoy* bus stop (the bus leaves from the *Porte d'Orléans*)
- Metro line 4: *Mairie de Montrouge* station

/YOUR ARRIVAL AT THE STUDENTS' RESIDENCE

Please inform the person in charge of welcoming you of the date and approximate time of your arrival by e-mailing or phoning any of the following addresses or numbers:

- This email address: hebergement@ens.fr
- Depending on the students' residence you will be staying in:

JOURDAN

Tel. +33 1 43 13 61 56

ULM

Tel. +33 1 44 32 32 42
Fax. +33 1 44 32 30 10

MONTROUGE

Tel. +33 1 58 07 65 10
Fax. +33 1 58 07 50 80

OFFICE HOURS

9:00-12:00

14:00-17:00

Monday to Friday inclusive

Outside the office hours indicated, you will find your room key at reception 45 rue d'Ulm, 48 boulevard Jourdan or 1 rue Maurice Arnoux in Montrouge, provided you have informed the person responsible for your welcome (hebergement@ens.fr) in advance of your approximate time of arrival.

Before you arrive, feel free to write to the following email addresses, to ask any questions you might have about your accommodation, restaurant opening dates, etc.: hebergement@ens.fr and dri@ens.fr



ACCOMMODATION

Only the *normaliens élèves* and the *pensionnaires étrangers*, and some *normaliens étudiants*, can benefit from an accommodation in one of the dormitories of three campuses of Ulm, Jourdan and Montrouge. Rent is €315 per month. Some *pensionnaires étrangers* do not pay rent from **September to June 30**, but they must ask permission to the *Pôle Hébergement* and must pay it if they stay in July.

NB: students in residence must take out a liability insurance and are strongly encouraged to open a bank account in a French bank.

For French and foreign *normaliens étudiants*, the School has around 60 rooms. These rooms are attributed for a maximum of one year according to students' means during the application selection process, and in January between the two semesters. This accommodation is on one of the three ENS campuses or in a studio flat in a dormitory of the Crous (national-managed residences for students). The School can also find accommodation for students in need, depending on the level of urgency. If this is the case, students must inform the Director of studies of their department of their situation.

Students who have to find their own accommodation can call on the Crous residences (NB: you must ask for accommodation in March or April if you want accommodation in September), in private student dormitories or in private accommodation. The School's website has housing information (*vademecum du logement*), which can help you avoid some traps and find proper accommodation. Foreign students must provide their residence permit (for a period longer than 4 months) as soon as they receive it.

/ RECEPTION AT THE ENS

- The ENS halls of residence are closed during the summer holidays. Reception is therefore not possible until **Wednesday September 6** for the 3 halls. NB: it is not possible to collect your key during the weekend.
- International students receiving an accommodation grant from their university of origin **MUST vacate their room by June 30, 2018** if they are only attending the first semester, rooms must be vacated by February 15, 2018.
- Only pupils and international students may live in halls of residence. Any incident or accident caused by or to a person not living in the halls is therefore likely to incur the liability of the resident who invited the unauthorized person.

COLLECTING YOUR ROOM KEY

When you arrive during opening hours and days, go to the reception desk at the hall of residence (Ulm, Jourdan, or Montrouge), where you will be given your key and all sorts of practical information.



/ EQUIPMENT

Rooms are furnished and the various campuses have a certain amount of equipment to meet most needs. If you intend to bring electrical or electronic appliances (razor, hair dryer, radio, etc.), you should know that domestic electrical current in France is 50 Hertz and 220 volts. Make sure you have the correct adapters (sockets).

In principle, you should have no difficulty bringing personal belongings into France. However, to avoid problems, especially if you bring valuable equipment (photography, video, computers, etc.), bring the original invoices which you can if necessary present to the customs authorities with your passport and your certificate of acceptance to the ENS.

If you have to send heavy objects (books for example), **be sure to arrange for them to arrive at the School after September 6st:** deliveries cannot be taken during the school holidays. Please note that no parcels can be stored: you must therefore be present on the campus when your parcels are delivered.

The rooms are furnished (but do not have individual refrigerators). **Bed linen and towels are not provided.**

All the bedrooms have cable (Internet access and e-mail): ask the student representatives or the computer department: cri@ens.fr.

If on your arrival you notice anything wrong with your room, please inform the reception service immediately or send an email to: hebergement@ens.fr and/or logistique@ens.fr.

/ EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE ON THE DIFFERENT CAMPUSES

ULM

- Washing machines and dryers
- Kitchens with refrigerators, hot plates and mini-oven (plates and kitchen utensils - saucapans, etc. - are not provided)
- Cafeteria
- Libraries (Humanities library and departmental libraries)
- Computer room (PC, Apple Macintosh and UNIX stations)
- Bédéthèque (library of comic books): see the COF (students' association)
- Sports room

JOURDAN

- Washing machines and dryers
- Kitchens with refrigerators, hot plates and mini-oven (plates and kitchen utensils - saucapans, etc. are not provided)
- Cafeteria (with newspapers)
- Literature library (Humanities and Social Sciences)
- Computer room with PC, Apple Macintosh and UNIX stations
- Sports facilities at the Cité universitaire
- Television room: see the COF
- Pianos.

MONTROUGE

- Washing machines and dryers
- Fully equipped kitchens on each floor, where you can make breakfast and simple meals
- Science library

EVERYDAY LIFE

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have to imperatively pass to the logistic service to obtain your multifunction card. This card gives you access to the buildings and the restaurants of the ENS, and includes you in the public directory. In case of an accident implying a person who is not included in the public directory, the École disclaims all responsibility. Moreover, each newly arrived person has to address the Computer resources center (CRI) in order to access the internet network of the ENS.

/ MEALS

The ENS has two restaurants, colloquially called pôts: one on the Ulm campus and the other on the Jourdan campus.

The price of a meal for all students, whatever their administrative status, is €3,80.

The two restaurants are open for lunch from 11.50 to 14.00; in the evening, only the Ulm restaurant is open, from 06.15 to 19.30 (please check with the restaurants).

In the morning, the Ulm restaurant serves breakfast from 7.30 to 9.20, for €1.70.

/ MAIL AND E-MAIL

All ENS students have a pigeonhole for mail on the Ulm campus (between the *salle informatique* (computer room) and the *bédéthèque* (comic book library)). This is where the administration sends the forms to be returned to the registrar's office (SAE).

The School communicates a lot by e-mail. On their arrival, all ENS students receive an e-mail address in the following form: firstname.lastname@ens.fr. As the administration and the departments essentially communicate by e-mail, you should check your e-mails very regularly.

It is important to **check it regularly** because ENS will send individual or group messages there. If you do not, it will automatically be canceled.



/BANKS

You will very probably have to open a bank account in France. Most banks have a network of branches in Paris and in the provinces. You can open a non-resident's account without any particular formalities.

If the bank in your country has a branch in Paris, opening an account and transferring money will no doubt be quicker than in another bank. The School has an agreement with the *Société Générale*, which makes it easy to open an account. This branch will be present on the first day of the semester.

Finally, international bankcards (American Express, Visa, Mastercard, etc.) may be useful in that they enable you to withdraw cash easily



/PUBLIC TRANSPORT

If you are under 26, you can get several reductions (*Carte jeune, billets BIGE*, Inter-Rail Card). Ask at the SNCF or Air France about how to obtain reduced-price tickets.

If you intend to travel widely in France or in Europe, ask for information at an agency in **your country** specializing in conditions for using the *Euro-pass*.

FOR TRANSPORT IN PARIS

2 season ticket systems are available:

- For people under 26: **Carte Imagine R** (approximately €300 a year): this will let you travel freely on the RATP networks (metro and bus) and the Paris section of the RER network (RATP and SNCF).
- For people over 26: **Carte Navigo** (approximately €700 a year, paid in monthly installments from your bank account): this will let you travel freely on the RATP networks (metro and bus) and the Paris section of the RER network (RATP and SNCF).

You can also buy tickets singly (about €2) or in booklets of 10 (about €14). The **metro** runs from 5am until 1:15am (and until 2:15am on Saturdays).

In general the **RER** runs until 12:30 or 1:00am.

Many **buses** however cease to run after 20:30 although certain lines run in the evenings and at night, others on Sundays. Just enquire!

LIFE AT
ENS

/ ADMINISTRATIVE RECEPTION

Please get in touch with the International Affairs Department as soon as you arrive at the: dri@ens.fr or +33 1 44 32 31 35.

Go to the *administrative reception*, 45 rue d'Ulm, on Monday September 4 ; Tuesday September 5 or for *Pensionnaires Étrangers* and Erasmus+ students **Wednesday September 6 (closed at weekends)**, to settle a few administrative matters and receive various documents.

- Receive the **ENS' «tug bag»** containing all the useful information about classes and life at the School.
- Receive the **ENS multi-purpose card**.
- Prepare the application for a **residence permit**.
- Pick up your **certificate of accommodation** (necessary for example to open a bank account).
- Obtain an **ENS email address: COMPULSORY Please consult your emails regularly throughout the year: firstname.lastname@ens.fr**. If you do not, it will be canceled automatically.
- Open a **bank account** in France.

/ THE STUDENT'S ASSOCIATION: THE COF

WHEN YOU ARRIVE IN SEPTEMBER

You will meet the ENS student who is informally in charge of showing you around the ENS.

THE INTEGRATION WEEK-END: THE MEGA

In the 3rd week of September the COF organizes a three-day tour somewhere in France to allow newcomers to get to know each other.

The ENS is a very stimulating environment, with its open-access libraries, its numerous conferences on various subjects, and also its several students' clubs and activities. For further information, have a look at the bulletin boards, read the student's journal, the *Bocal*, and go to the informal events organized on the Ulm campus in September.

INFORMATION WEEKS

At the beginning of each academic year, the ENS organizes two information weeks for pupils from the 1st to the 4th year. Don't miss these, as you will learn a lot about classes and life at the École. There will be lectures as well as compulsory tours of the departments, laboratories and libraries.

WELCOME TO THE ÉCOLE
NORMALE SUPÉRIEURE!



École normale supérieure - 45 rue d'Ulm, 75005 Paris
Tél. +33 (0)1 44 32 30 00 - Fax. +33 (0)1 44 32 20 99 - com@ens.fr
www.ens.fr