

CALL FOR CANDIDATES

Admission to the SACRe Ph.D program 2023

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

Call open from March, 7 2023 to May 15, 2023, 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, 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: 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). 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 3^d rounds of the admission process).

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

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.

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.

[f – read the arrêté](#)

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 2023, five PSL Ph.D. contracts are open to the call.

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.

[f – read the decree](#)

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

The amount specified in the doctoral contract is 2044,12 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.

[f – read the decree](#)

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.).

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.

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
Performing arts	Music composition	Art history and theory	Visual arts Design	Film	Visual arts

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 March, 7
to May, 15 2023
(4 p.m., Paris local hour UTC+1)**

Selection process

School of arts and design. On completion of a selection process **upon the application form** (1st round), each institute decides on the eligibility of candidates who are then invited to an **audition** (2nd round). After the audition, the institute elects its successful candidate(s). Each institute applies the SACRe call for applications according to a specific audition schedule and protocols.

ENS. The whole selection is made upon the application form (1st round) and, optionally, a meeting (2nd round).

After consulting the applications and the eligibility reports for candidates prepared by each institute, an **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, establishes the list of candidates proposed for the attribution of a doctoral contract (main list) and may, if necessary, establish a complementary list (waiting list). The main list and any complementary list are submitted to the PSL University Board of Directors for validation.

The final results will be published on the SACRe website and the SACRe institutes websites by mid-July 2023. On admission, dual registration at one of the institutes as well as at ED 540 (ENS), is required to participate in the program. PhD students preparing their thesis at the École normale supérieure 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.eu	Le site Web de PSL
collegedoctoral.psl.eu	Le site Web du Collège doctoral de PSL
sacre.psl.eu	Le site Web du laboratoire SACRe
cnsad.psl.eu	Le CNSAD-PSL (Conservatoire National Supérieur d'Art Dramatique)
conservatoiredeparis.fr	Le Conservatoire de Paris (Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse)
ens.fr	L'ENS-PSL (École Normale Supérieure)
ensad.fr	L'EnsAD (École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs)
femis.fr	La 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)

SACRe APPLICATION CONDITIONS AT LA FÉMIS

Candidates to the SACRe PhD program in the field of cinema must apply to La Fémis. The SACRe PhD implies a full-time commitment, and is exclusive of other professional commitments (except for specific authorizations to do so).

I. REGISTRATION FORMALITIES

Online registration is open **from March 7 to May 15, 2023** (at 4:00 pm Paris-time). Candidates register by creating their candidate space via the link provided on the La Fémis website ("Admission", "Registration", then "Doctorat SACRe"), then by filling out the form and uploading the required documents in PDF format, no later than on May 15, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

1) A detailed resume

The resume must present the projects in which the candidate has already participated and any other activities related to the candidate's scientific and artistic education and activity.

2) A letter of motivation

The cover letter (maximum two pages) must explain why he or she wishes to follow this training and what he or she expects from this program.

3) A thesis project

The thesis project is a written document of no more than 20 pages (including appendices and possible images). It presents a research project for the three years of the PhD, articulating an artistic practice and a scientific project. It presents a research question, based on a relevant bibliographic corpus and on an artistic practice. It explains the creative projects envisaged in the framework of the thesis project. Finally, it updates the appropriateness of this project to be included in the SACRe PhD program.

4) An artistic portfolio

The candidate's **filmed works** must be transmitted to the jury. The transmission of these video documents should preferably take the form of one or more **links to a video platform** (such as Vimeo). These links can be indicated on a dedicated page of the artistic portfolio. It is also possible to send them via a file-sharing tool (such as WeTransfer) or, in default thereof, a DVD sent by mail (addressed to the Département Recherche, Concours SACRe, La Fémis, 6, rue Francoeur, 75018 Paris).

These works must be accompanied by a **portfolio** giving an overview of the candidate's past artistic work. The portfolio may include written elements and

images, tracing the evolution and recent developments of the candidate's work. This portfolio should not exceed 10 pages, although there is no set format.

5) Optional: letters of recommendation

Optionally, **one to two letters of recommendation**, written by researchers or personalities from the world of the arts and creation who are familiar with the candidate's work, may be attached to the application file. Among these two letters, a letter of acceptance from a thesis director for the scientific part or for the artistic part is to be preferred.

6) Certificate of proficiency in French

For applicants who are not nationals of French-speaking countries, a certificate issued by an organization 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. Alternatively, a copy of a higher education diploma obtained in a French-speaking program attesting to an equivalent level of French.

Applicants are asked to title their files according to the following template : « NOM_Diplome(ou Dossier de candidature ou Identite, etc.)_SACRe2023 ».

Illegible or incomplete files will not be considered.

II. THE CONTEST PROCEDURE

The SACRe contest consists of three parts.

A. PRE-ELIGIBILITY

Pre-eligibility is based on the examination of an **application file** by an internal jury at La Fémis.

The results of the pre-admission step will be announced in early June.

B. ELIGIBILITY

Candidates whose applications have been selected will be allowed to take part in an oral test. This is a single public oral exam lasting 30 to 45 minutes before a jury composed of researchers, artists, representatives of La Fémis and the SACRe PhD program. This oral exam will be held in French. The candidate will be questioned on his or her motivations and thesis project. The jury may establish, if necessary, a complementary list (waiting list).

The oral eligibility test will take place in **mid-June 2023**.

C. FINAL ADMISSION

Following the selection procedure, La Fémis decides on the eligibility of one or more candidates. After consulting the applications and the eligibility reports for candidates prepared by each institute, an **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, establishes the list of candidates proposed for the attribution of a doctoral contract (main list) and may, if necessary, establish a complementary list (waiting list). The main list and any complementary list are submitted to the PSL University Board of Directors for validation.

The final results are announced mid-July on the La Fémis's website.

After the final admission, dual registration at La Fémis on the one hand, and at the Ecole Normale Supérieure de Paris on the other, is required to complete the program. The PhD contract begins on October 1, 2023.