

CALL FOR CANDIDATES

Admission to the SACRe Ph.D program 2021

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

Call open from March 9, 2020 to May 6, 2021, 4pm (UTC+1, Paris)

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

The Sciences, Arts, Creation, Research (SACRe) Ph.D program 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 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 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 SACRe Ph.D program.

The program is a result of the cooperation between six institutes which are either full members or associate members of PSL: the Conservatoire national supérieur d'art dramatique (CNSAD: 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).

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 document named a "portfolio", closely associated with a reflexive approach based on various theoretical and scientific fields. The portfolio can combine texts and other means of expression (photographie, sound, etc.) depending on the artistic field in question. The two types of corpus – artworks and portfolio – form the "thesis".

- **for theorists:** of the production of a written thesis following the usual norms of a PhD dissertation in the humanities or in science, and of a portfolio closely associated with a creative approach.

Terms of the Ph.D program

Ph.D supervision

The PhD is supervised jointly by a scientific supervisor and an 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.

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

The Ph.D supervision can be finalized after the admission.

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

The doctoral course plan of ED 540, 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

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 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 amount specified in the doctoral contract is 1 758 euros gross per month (amount in force since 29 August 2016).

[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 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.

The thesis consists jointly of **works of art** or design in the different formats and media proper to each discipline and of a **portfolio**. 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 portfolio. The thesis 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:

- French national master's degree
- French or foreign degree conferring the grade of master's ("Master 2")

For foreign candidates, a **B2-level** in French is required. 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.

Candidates in the arts must be able to present a portfolio as evidence of a real artistic practice. Candidates must not currently be enrolled in another doctoral program. If you already benefit from a fund, please expressly mention it in your application. There is no age limit for candidates. Candidates may not apply more than three times.

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 9
to May 6, 2021
(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).

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

After reviewing the applications and the eligibility reports for candidates prepared by each institute, **definitive admission** (3rd round) is announced by a plenary jury composed by the heads of research of each institute and the Director of the ED 540.

The final results will be published on the PSL Doctoral College website and the SACRe website in mid-July 2021.

On admission, dual registration at one of the institutes as well as at PSL, 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	PSL website
collegedoctoral.psl.eu	PSL Collège doctoral website
sacre.psl.eu	SACRe Laboratory website
cnsad.fr	Le CNSAD (Conservatoire national supérieur d'art dramatique)
conservatoiredeparis.fr	Le Conservatoire de Paris (Conservatoire national supérieur de musique et de danse)
ens.fr	L'ENS (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 DOCTORAL PROGRAM APPLICATION REQUIEREMENTS AT LA FÉMIS

Applicants who want to apply to the SACRe Ph.D in the field of cinema must do so via La Fémis. The SACRe program track recruits one candidate a year, who benefits from a doctoral stipend. The SCARe Ph.D track implies a full-time commitment, and allows no other professional commitment – unless specifically authorized.

I. REGISTRATION PROCESS

Online registration opens from March 9 to May 6 (at 4 PM, Paris-time).

Candidates apply by creating their applicant page thanks to a link provided on La Fémis website (« Admission » > « How to apply » > « Doctorat SACRe (PSL) »), then filling the form and uploading the requested documents in PDF format before May 6 at 4 PM.

REQUESTED DOCUMENTS

1) A detailed resume

The resume must introduce the projects in which the candidate was involved, and any other activity related to the training and the scientific and artistic activities of the candidate.

2) A cover letter

The cover letter (up to two pages) exposes the reasons for which the candidate wishes to apply and what he or she expects from this program.

3) A Ph.D project

The thesis project is a written document (up to twenty pages, appendices and pictures included). It introduces a research project for the 3-year length of the Ph.D, which articulates an artistic practice and a scientific project. It exposes the research subject, by relying on an

adequate body of literature and on an artistic practice. It explains the artistic projects which are to be developed as part of the Ph.D project. It exposes why the project can benefit from the research environment provided by the program.

4) An artistic file

The candidate's filmed works (full length or extracts) must be sent to the jury (indicative viewing time by the jury: 30 minutes). It is preferable that the candidate send these video documents via one or several link(s) to a video platform (such as Vimeo). These links can be indicated on a dedicated page of the artistic file. It is also possible to send the documents thanks to an online file-sharing tool (such as WeTransfer) or, if otherwise impossible, as a DVD sent by mail (to « Département recherche, Concours SACRe, La Fémis, 6, rue Francoeur, 75018 Paris).

These works must be sent along with a portfolio which introduces an overview of the former artistic works of the applicant. It can include written elements and images, which recount the recent evolution and development of the candidate's works. This portfolio has no imposed format but cannot exceed 10 pages.

5) Recommendation letters and thesis supervisor's acceptance letter

Optionally, two recommendation letters written by researchers or personalities of the art or film worlds, who are familiar with the candidate's work can be included in the application file. One of these two letters can be an acceptance letter written by a thesis supervisor for the scientific or the artistic part of the research project.

6) French language certification

For the candidates who are not citizen of a French-speaking country, a certificate from a organisation recognized by the French government is required. It must at least certify a B2 level (according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages). Alternatively, the candidate can provide a copy of a graduation diploma obtained in a French-speaking curriculum which certifies an adequate level of mastery of the French language.

The applicants have to name their file in the following manner:

« NAME_Diploma(*or Application file, etc.*)_SACRe2021 ».

Incomplete or unreadable files will not be taken into account.

II. SELECTION PROCESS

The SACRe selection process includes three steps.

A. PRE-ADMISSIBILITY

The pre-admissibility is decided by a jury on account of the **application file online**.

The results of this first stage will be announced at the end of May.

B. ADMISSIBILITY

The candidates whose application file is selected will be invited to take part in an audition. It consists of a single and public oral audition which lasts between 30 and 45 minutes before a jury comprising researchers, artists, and representative members of La Fémis and the SACRe Ph.D program. This oral exam is in French. The candidate will especially be asked about his or her motivations and thesis project. The jury can establish, where appropriate, a waiting list.

The admissibility oral exam will occur on June 11, 2021 (this date is liable to change).

C. FINAL ADMISSION

A jury consisting of representative members of both PSL and the institutions which are part of the SACRe program, and presided by a representative member of École doctorale 540 of the ENS, will then announce the final admission of the selected candidates, after consulting the application files and the report which will be established by each institution about the candidates they selected. This announcement is planned to occur on July 8, 2021 (this date is liable to change).

After the final admission, it is necessary for the candidate to register both at La Fémis and at Ecole normale supérieure of Paris, in order to start his or her training. The Ph.D contract starts on October 1st, 2021.