

Call for Candidates

2016 SACRe Doctoral Program

The *Sciences, Arts, Création, Recherche* (SACRe) doctoral program is open to all candidates holding a master-level degree from any higher education institution, whether established artists or researchers, who wish to pursue an education within *Paris Sciences et Lettres* Research University (PSL).

Candidates may benefit from a doctoral contract or a grant for a period of three years. This Call is open to international candidates and has no age limit.

1. Overview

Exploring the common ground between research and the arts; enabling artists in various creative fields and researchers to work and invent together: This is the mission of the SACRe doctoral program.

The program is a result of the cooperation between six institutes: five major national *grandes écoles* for arts— *Conservatoire National Supérieur d'Art Dramatique* (CNSAD: national theatre academy), *Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse de Paris* (CNSMDP: national music and dance conservatory), *Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs* (ENSAD: national decorative arts academy), *Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts* (ENSBA: national fine arts academy), *Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Métiers de l'Image et du Son* (*La Fémis*: national film academy) — and the *Ecole Normale Supérieure* (ENS). These institutes are all members of PSL Research University.

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

The SACRe doctorate places the creation of works of art within the heart of a research environment, strictly associated with a critical approach based on potentially diverse academic fields – human and social sciences, pure and applied sciences, and the aesthetics of the different arts. Depending on the type of doctoral project, specific collaborations can be forged with PSL researchers and laboratories.

2. Terms of the doctoral program

Thesis direction and co-advisorship

Throughout the program each doctoral student benefits from co-advisorship:

- First, for all doctoral students, a nationally accredited thesis director (HDR - Habilitation à Diriger des Recherches), who may or may not come from a PSL member institution. Doctoral students register at the ENS doctoral school 540 (ED 540), which has a special status.

- Second:

- for doctoral students in the arts: an advisor who is an artist, where possible a teacher at the art school or conservatory to which the student is attached, and who is designated by the director of that establishment at the request of the student. This co-advisor is of course a member of the thesis examining committee.

- for doctoral students in research from ENS: a professor or an HDR-certified lecturer or a teaching artist associated with a PSL establishment co-directs the thesis. This co-advisor is of course a member of the thesis examining committee.

At least one advisor or director of the PhD must be a member of a PSL institution.

The program proceeds for three years, as follows:

1. Field-specific studies

Instruction for artists and designers is conducted in the SACRe arts schools or conservatories. Each institution arranges the type of reception, the organization, and the functioning of the program for the doctoral students attached to it: common workspaces, access to workshops, laboratories, documentary resources, collections, and rehearsal rooms, depending on the discipline, as well as access to other training or classes, access to equipment, etc.

2. Common SACRe studies

All doctoral students admitted to the program attend a general SACRe seminar (mandatory attendance for 2 hours every two weeks, for 3 semesters of 6). Based on a common annual theme, this seminar aims to explore the relations between the arts and research.

The program includes mandatory annual assessments and annual presentation of each student's work. It also seeks to help students develop their portfolios and to prepare them to defend their theses. In addition, the seminar includes conferences, meetings, or visits linked to the range of disciplines covered by SACRe.

Doctoral students are invited to participate in the development of publications, study days, and public events, as well as conducting activities in partnership with others. In second year, students are encouraged to spend a semester abroad; PSL attempts, logistically and financially, to help make this possible.

Financial aid and offers related to the program

Doctoral students admitted by PSL receive doctoral contracts that provide them with an allocation during three years, the legal duration of the program; postponement of thesis defense beyond the legal duration of three years is only possible under exceptional circumstances and, if approved, does not grant the right to prolong the doctoral contract or the financial aid.

The amount specified in the doctoral contract is 1,684.93 euros gross per month (amount in force since 1 July 2010).

Under certain conditions, doctoral students can benefit from specific aid to mount events related to their doctoral project: support for artistic production (works, exhibitions, concerts, etc.) and scientific activities (colloquies, publications, etc.).

Thesis characteristics and defence and issuance of the SACRe Doctorate of Art

The SACRe doctorate is primarily for creative work by students from schools for the arts. It is the culmination of three years of research to obtain a Doctorate in Art. The thesis consists jointly of works of art 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 personal work, with the approval of the thesis director and co-advisor as well as the host institutes, including ENS ED 540. The portfolio is in written form and employs other forms of expression: photography, set design, diorama, film...

The thesis defense for doctoral candidates in the arts is based on the presentation of the works completed for the doctorate in diverse forms (exhibition, performance, concert, projection, event, or prototype) and the portfolio. On successful completion of the public defense, the national Ph.D. diploma is issued by PSL.

3. Conditions for admission and application process

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
- French or foreign master's equivalent diploma

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.

There is no age limit for candidates.

Candidates may not apply more than three times.

Application process

The admission process takes place in two phases.

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

- CNSAD national theatre academy (*Conservatoire national supérieur d'art dramatique*) <http://www.cnsad.fr>
- CNSMDP national music and dance conservatory (*Conservatoire national supérieur de musique et de danse de Paris*) www.conservatoiredeparis.fr
- ENSAD national decorative arts academy (*École nationale supérieure des arts décoratifs*) www.ensad.fr
- ENSBA national fine arts academy (*École nationale supérieure des beaux-arts*) <http://www.beauxartsparis.com/>
- ENS (*École normale supérieure*) www.ens.fr
- Femis national film academy (*École nationale supérieure des métiers de l'image et du son*) www.femis.fr

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

The availability date of application forms and the deadline for submission follow the academic calendars of each institute, but fall within the following range:

from Tuesday 15 March to Saturday 30 April 2016

On completion of a selection process, each institute decides on the eligibility of successful candidates. Definitive admission is then announced by the PSL plenary jury, after reviewing the applications and the eligibility reports for candidates prepared by each institute. The final results will be published on the PSL website in mid-September 2016.

On admission, dual registration at one of the conservatories or academies as well as at the *Ecole Normale Supérieure de Paris* is required to participate in the program.

For more information, [PSL SACRe](#) page on the PSL website.