

PSL PhD Tracks 2022 - REGULATIONS

In 2022, PSL is renewing its call for applications for its PhD track programs of excellence. These are 5-year programs, fully funded and intended for high-potential students hoping to become top level researchers in the public or private sector, in France or abroad.

Article 1: Description of the PSL PhD Tracks

The PhD tracks at Université PSL are highly selective and taught entirely in English, preparing students for a research career in France or abroad, in academia or industry. These 5-year courses are intended for high-potential students wanting to take up the scientific challenges of tomorrow as they prepare their research project, from Master's degree level to PhD.

Article 2: Types of funding

Funding for the Master's degree consists of a gratuity granted directly to the student; the doctoral contract is an employment contract within the meaning of the regulations in force. Thus, the PhD student receives a salary that entitled him or her to benefits and is subject to social contributions. The PhD student is considered as an employee for the duration of the contract.

Tuition fees, as well as the cost of housing, transport, and living expenses in general are paid by the student.

Article 3: Eligibility requirements

In order to apply to PSL PhD Tracks, applicants must meet the requirements specific to the Master's degree concerned, as described on the program website. In particular:

- For PhD Tracks that admit students in Master's year 1, applicants should hold a Bachelor's degree or any other diploma equivalent to 180 ECTS credits ("Baccalauréat+3" equivalent) (or be in the last year of preparing such a course in the year they apply)
- For PhD Tracks admitting students in Master's year 2, applicants should hold an equivalent of MSc / MA 1st year ("Baccalauréat + 4", (240 ECTS)).

Only the PSL Master's degree courses listed below are offering a PhD Track for the 2022/23 academic year (starting September 2022) and will therefore be open to applications:

PhD track	Master's degree courses eligible for PSL PhD Tracks 2022/23
Chemistry	- Chemistry and Life sciences (Master's in Chemistry) - Integrative chemistry and innovation (Master's in Integrative Chemistry and Innovation)
Physics	- ICFP Physics (Master's in Physics)
Life sciences	- Interdisciplinary Master's in Life Sciences / IMaLiS (Master's in Life Sciences) - Biomedical engineering (BME Paris Master's in Biomedical Engineering)
Earth science and biodiversity	- Planetary sciences (Master's in Earth and Planetary Sciences, Environment) - Interdisciplinary Master's in Life Sciences / IMaLiS (Master's in Life Sciences)
Astrophysics	- Space science and technology (Master's in SUTS / Space Science and Technology)
Mathematics & applications	- Applied and Theoretical Mathematics (Master's in Mathematics and Applications)
Finance	- Research in Finance (Master's in Finance)

This list is specific to applications for 2022/23 and may change for future sessions.

Given the very high selectivity of the PSL PhD Tracks, candidates are strongly recommended to apply in parallel via the “traditional” admissions procedure to the Master’s degree courses (2-year course). Admission procedures and calendars are given on the course website.

Note: admission to a PhD Track is equivalent to admission to a Master’s course.

Article 4: Admissions calendar 2022/23

- Application submissions: **15 November to 15 December 2021**
- Interviews with eligible candidates: from 31 January to 22 March 2022 (depending on the PhD track concerned)
- Admission results: late March / early April 2022

Article 5: Admissions procedure and applications

Application procedure

Based on an application package (to be submitted online from 15 November 2021 [on the PSL portal](#)) and interview.

Eligible candidates will be invited for an admissions interview (face-to-face or remote) from the end of January 2022. These interviews will be held in English.

Application package

All documents must be submitted in English (an official translation is not required). Only complete applications submitted within the deadlines will be considered by the committee. Applicants should submit the following documents:

- **Academic CV**
- **Transcripts and diplomas** from each higher education institution / university attended
- **Statement of purpose**
The purpose of this document is to explain who you are and what you expect from your postgraduate studies. Give details about your interest in the field and your career goals. You can use this document to clarify anything unusual in your CV or your transcripts. One page maximum.
- **Research project**
This project should clearly define your interests within your area of research and specialization. You should present a structured research project showing your commitment and describing what you plan for the future of your research if you join a PSL graduate program. One to two pages.
- **Proof of English proficiency**, level C1 recommended. Proof not mandatory but highly recommended
 - *If your first language is English or if you have earned a higher education diploma (BA, MA) in an English-speaking university, you should include a statement to this effect.*
 - *If not, you should include the official results from a recent test of English, e.g. TOEFL or IELTS. If you have no recent official results, you can submit some older test results provisionally. This will not detract from the assessment of your application, but we reserve the right to ask for more recent official results later in the selection process.*
- **References**: contact details (name, position title, email) of at least two academic referees.
Note: For some PhD tracks, a recommendation from an internship supervisor is also advisable to lend support to your application.

Article 6: Selection criteria and organization of committees

Each stage of the selection process (assessment of applications and interviews with eligible applicants) is organized by an admissions committee set up by the graduate program concerned.

Committee members and chairs are all either research professors, university professors or research directors. Representatives of the Master’s programs concerned will be involved at every stage of the selection process.

A final cross-disciplinary committee bringing in the different graduate programs involved in this call for applications will approve the final list of successful candidates.

The committees’ assessments will be based on **criteria of academic excellence**. Particular attention will be paid to students’ interest in **research** and the maturity of their project.

Article 7: Confidentiality and applicants' personal data

Université PSL is responsible for processing data in accordance with European Regulation no. 2016/679, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Université PSL undertakes to keep all information transmitted as part of the applicant selection process confidential. Applications and related data will only be passed on to committee Chairs and Members, and to the administrative departments involved in the selection of applicants (admissions, academic office).

Article 8: Obligations of PSL PhD Track students

PSL PhD Track students who are beneficiaries of a grant undertake to comply strictly with the funding conditions set out in Article 2 of these regulations.

Students receiving funding must fulfil the academic conditions of the Master's degree in which they have enrolled. Once the Master's degree has been validated, an ad hoc committee appointed by the Graduate Program concerned will determine whether students should benefit from additional funding to continue with their PhD at PSL.

Payment of the grant is dependent on students' good attendance and hard work during the course. In order to receive the first payment of the monthly allowance, students must begin the course at the school in which they have enrolled.

According to the regulations in force, students may request a gap year. In this case, the grant will be suspended for this year.

Applicants should remember that they can apply in parallel for a Master's degree grant, if this is offered.

However, the grant obtained by PSL PhD Tracks students cannot be combined with other grants (notably Eiffel scholarships), unless permission is expressly granted by the committee of the graduate program concerned. The program will then rule on the compatibility of the 2 funding methods.

Article 9: Acceptance of the regulations

Confirmed admission to a PSL PhD Track is deemed to constitute acceptance of all the provisions of these regulations.