

# PHD PROGRAM IN COGNITIVE SCIENCE

UNIVERSITÉ PSL

The Ph.D. program in cognitive science is a fully funded 5-year program offered by the Département d'Etudes Cognitives (DEC) at the world-renowned Ecole Normale Supérieure (ENS). The DEC is an exciting training and research environment covering the full breadth of human cognitive abilities (perception, attention, decision making, reasoning, language, emotions, action, and social skills).

The program encourages original and risk-taking research, aiming to train the next generation of cognitive scientists. The taught component of the Program draws on our highly competitive MA program in cognitive science (Cogmaster), bringing together researchers from ENS and Université Paris Descartes.

## MAIN FEATURES

- **Interdisciplinarity:** students benefit from an interdisciplinary training in neuroscience, psychology, linguistics, cognitive social sciences, and philosophy.
- **Expert teaching:** the program is implemented by over 60 leading researchers working on four strategic research programs
  1. Language and communication
  2. Social and collective cognition
  3. Perception, attention and consciousness
  4. Decision-making and rationality.
- **Training in research through research:** from day one, students are encouraged to conduct original research projects and to take internships in different teams and different labs, promoting interdisciplinarity.
- **International exposure:** the DEC is an international community with strong ties with other top-tier research centers around the world. The program promotes student mobility and collaborations.

- **Access to funding:** all PhD students will receive funding for the five years of the program, regardless of citizenship. Funding packages provide a monthly stipend, tuition remission, access to subsidized ENS housing, as well as travel and research funds.

- **Admission:** unlike most PhD programs in Europe, and in the spirit of PhD programs in North-America, admission in our program does not require an MA-level degree.

- **Mentoring:** each student's individual curriculum will be determined jointly by the student's adviser, the director of the PhD, and the student.

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The PhD program in cognitive science is fully oriented toward research. Graduates will leave the program prepared to join the academic market as the next generation of cognitive scientists.

## CURRICULUM

### The five years will follow the structure below

<b>Year 1</b>	Semester 1	3 courses
	Semester 2	3 courses + lab rotations
<b>Year 2</b>	Semester 3	3 courses + lab rotations
	Semester 4	3 courses + lab rotations
<b>Year 3</b>	Semester 5	2 courses + lab rotations
	Semester 6	2 courses + lab rotations
<b>Years 4, 5</b>	Research, dissertation and paper writing, preparation of the postgraduate career.	

The instruction is given in the heart of Paris on the campus of the Ecole normale supérieure.

### COURSES

Students in our PhD program take three years of courses drawing from our MA program (Cogmaster)\* and they will be doing research in a DEC lab. Spreading out the coursework over three years instead of two allows them to conduct original research from the moment they begin our program. Students then continue onto the dissertation phase of their PhD. Students will introductory core courses in the different subfields of cognitive sciences, advanced courses and research seminars. In addition, students' training includes the following:

- Lab rotations
- Scientific skills (e.g. statistics, experimental methods, programming)
- Professional skills (e.g. Abstract writing, Reviewing, Job market training)

#### Three admissions tracks proposed:

1. Philosophy and linguistics
2. Psychology and social science
3. Neuroscience and modeling



#### More information

[graduateschool.dec.ens.fr/en](http://graduateschool.dec.ens.fr/en)

#### Contact

[decgradschool@ens.fr](mailto:decgradschool@ens.fr)

### ADMISSION

#### Prerequisites

Applicant must have earned a bachelor's degree or equivalent from a college, university, or technical school of acceptable standing. They do not need an MA to apply. Students in their final year of undergraduate study may be admitted on the condition that their bachelor's degree is awarded before they enroll in our graduate program in September.

#### Online application

The next call for applications will open in early Fall 2019. More information about applications and selection procedures are available on the Program's website.

\* More information about the Cogmaster:  
[psl.eu/en/formation/cognitive-science-cogmaster](http://psl.eu/en/formation/cognitive-science-cogmaster)

### FRONTIERS IN COGNITION

Our Graduate School, which includes the PhD Program, is funded by Frontiers in Cognition, a large-scale project targeting research and graduate training developed at DEC and endowed by the French government.

More information: [cognition.ens.fr/en](http://cognition.ens.fr/en)

#### Université PSL

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