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# **PRESS RELEASE**

# **CPES, a PSL undergraduate course, attracts largest class yet in its 7th year**

Paris, September 24, 2018 **- The 156 students in the 2018 incoming class for CPES (**Multidisciplinary undergraduate Degree, a course sponsored by **the PSL schools and institutes and Lycée Henri-IV) began their academic year in Paris on September 10. As in 2017, CPES is operating with twice the student body. The program is more appealing than ever: this year, it received more than 3,500 applications on Parcoursup, a 73% increase over 2017. Over the next few years, CPES will continue to grow in order to support the aspirations of even more high school studentsstudents.**

## **Two priorities: excellence and equal opportunity**

This year, 156 students began the year in this undergraduate program, the only one of its kind in France. More than 3,500 (up 73% from 2017) had applied last spring via Parcoursup, a French platform for managing undergraduate applications . By July 21, the course was already more than 93% full.

These high-potential students – 93% of whom earned their baccalaureate with highest honors – come from a variety of social, cultural, and geographical backgrounds.

CPES has been strongly committed to maintaining this diversity from the start. In 2017, the program added two field initiatives: Les Cordées de la Réussite, a program to promote academic success through partnerships between institutions of higher education and 26 middle and secondary schools in high-priority areas of Amiens, Versailles, Créteil and Paris, and a partnership with AEFE (the Agency for French Education Abroad).

Isabelle Catto, Vice-President of Bachelor's Degrees and Academic Affairs for PSL, comments:

“Over the years, diversity has proven to add real value in helping our students succeed. It encourages them to develop a sense of solidarity and open-mindedness, and fosters a strong group emulation, which gives each CPES class its unique character.”

Ultimately, the 2018 incoming class includes students from all across France (see chart) and abroad (10% international students), as well as 50% scholarship recipients and 16% students from the Cordées de la Réussite program. In the Science section, 58% of students are female, despite a national average of 31.1% women in preparatory classes for scientific programs.[[1]](#footnote-1)

## **100% of CPES graduates enroll in the top selective Master’s programs in France and internationally**

CPES, a new model for undergraduate education, has rivaled the leading international Bachelor’s programs since its creation in 2012. As proof, an analysis of the course’s four graduated classes shows that 100% of students have continued their studies in selective Master’s programs at top schools and universities in France and abroad. Regarding the class of 2017, Isabelle Catto, Vice-President of Bachelor's Degrees and Academic Affairs for PSL, adds:

“In 2017, of the 73 graduates, 6 were admitted to Ecoles Normales Supérieures (ENS), 32 joined Master’s programs at PSL (Paris-Dauphine, EHESS, etc.) or other graduate schools (MINES ParisTech, ESPCI), 8 were admitted to Sciences Po (IEP), 4 joined Ecole Polytechnique (including 2 women!), and 7 went into Master’s programs abroad… we are very proud of their academic paths. They offer fresh proof that CPES is meeting its goals of excellence, diversity, and success in rigorous Master’s-level studies.”

On October 4, the entire 2018-2021 class will attend the opening lecture by professor Gilles Kepel, director of the Middle East and Mediterranean Chair at PSL, as part of the CPES annual lecture series.

## **CPES in brief**

Created in 2012 by PSL and Lycée Henri-IV, the “CPES” Multidisciplinary undergraduate Degree is an unprecedented format combining the best of both university education and preparatory classes for France’s top graduate schools (Grandes Écoles).

CPES students enjoy:

* a **multidisciplinary program** rooted in research and sponsored by PSL schools and institutes,
* **gradual specialization** in a field of their choice (Humanities / Science / Economics, Social Science, and Law),
* **mixed teaching teams** (preparatory course teachers, university professors, and researchers) and additional educational support from referring teachers and the guidance team

The course offers a 3-year program broken down as follows:

* **First year**: hosted at Lycée Henri-IV, with a choice of one of three tracks (Humanities, Science, or Economics, Social Science and Law). Interdisciplinary core curriculum.
* **Second year**: progressive exposure to the educational offerings of PSL’s schools and institutes (ENS, Paris-Dauphine, MINES ParisTech, etc.) plus selection of double majors (Experimental Science, Mathematics, Economics, Philosophy, History, Art History and Theory, Law, Sociology and Political Science).
* **Third year**: selection of specialization in a second-year major (Economics, Social Science, Law, Mathematics, Experimental Science, Philosophy, History, Art History and Theory).

At the end of the program, students are awarded a **PSL Bachelor's degree**.

**About PSL -** [www.psl.eu](http://www.psl.eu)  
Located in the heart of Paris, PSL combines world-class research and education, creation, and innovation: it encompasses 4,500 faculty researchers, 181 laboratories, 17,000 students, and about ten business incubators, fablabs and co-working spaces for student entrepreneurs.

The arts, sciences, engineering, humanities and social sciences are all contributors to its intellectual and scientific vision. As a selective, global, interdisciplinary university, committed to promoting talent and equal opportunity, PSL is creating the world of tomorrow.  
  
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Associate members : Collège de France, Conservatoire National Supérieur d’Art Dramatique, Conservatoire national supérieur de musique et de danse de Paris, École des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, École Française d'Extrême-Orient, École nationale supérieure des Arts Décoratifs, Beaux-Arts de Paris, IBPC-Fondation Edmond de Rothschild, Institut Louis Bachelier, La Fémis.

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1. [Statistical references. Teaching / Education / Research / 2018, by the Division for the evaluation of future planning and performance, French Ministry of Education / Ministry for Higher Education, Research and Innovation](http://cache.media.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/file/RERS_2018/83/2/depp-2018-RERS-web_986832.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)