



Ecole normale supérieure ENS - Paris



Institution's profile

Founded in 1794, the Ecole Normale Supérieure has as its mission to train «citizens who are already educated in the practical sciences, to learn from the most skilled professors in all disciplines, the art of teaching». The mission of the Ecole develops and opens the way to other professional perspectives: «through advanced cultural and scientific training for students oriented toward basic and applied scientific research, university and secondary school teaching and work in government and private enterprise.

At the Ecole Normale Supérieure, the past and the present meet. Among the famous alumni of the school is Evariste Galois, the archetype of the mathematician and romantic hero. It is at ENS that aluminium was first isolated in 1854 by Sainte-Claire-Deville and where Pasteur made his great discoveries, including the process of fermentation in 1857 and viruses in 1881.

Since then, the alumni of ENS have received several Nobel Prizes and Fields medals. The Ecole has also trained famous political figures: Jean Jaurès and Léon Blum, Presidents of the country, prime ministers and cabinet ministers some of whom are still in public service. Numerous writers and philosophers have graduated from the Ecole—among them, Henri Bergson, Jean-Paul Sartre, Raymond Aron, Marc Bloch, Jean Cavailles, Simone Weil, and Jacques Canguilhem.

International Partnerships

The École Normale Supérieure has long embraced an international outlook. Compared with the few Chinese and Romanian students who attended the school as early as the 19th century, now hundreds of researchers come from all over the world.

For a total of 2,000 students, French and foreign, who pursue the licence degree to the doctorate, the École Normale Supérieure provides nearly 500 teacher-researchers and 40 research laboratories. This large number of staff makes the school a crossroads of special exchanges, the result of numerous agreements with other universities. Every year, the École Normale Supérieure invites about 60 foreign faculty to participate in training its students. The various departments and laboratories welcome some 300 researchers



Photograph provided by the institution

coming from the world over, post-doctorates and established researchers alike.

The departments at the Ecole Normale Supérieure:

Mathematics and applications, Physics, Earth-Atmosphere-ocean, Chemistry, Biology, Computer science, Cognitive sciences, Social sciences-economics, Law, Geography, Philosophy, History, Literature and Languages, Art History, Ancient Sciences, History and philosophy of sciences

The École normale supérieure has chosen to go beyond its walls to countries where partnerships intensify rapidly and to train students at the Master's level as a priority. It has started a training center in Pekin and is developing with the group ENS (that brings together the four Ecoles normales supérieures of Ulm, Cachan, Lyon-Sciences and Lyon-Lettres et Sciences humaines) a franco-Chinese Master's program in Shanghai.

How to be admitted to Ecole Normale supérieure

The entrance exams for the Ecole Normale Supérieure are highly competitive and only a few candidates are accepted.

International Selection

The École organises an international selection among the best students enrolled in their last year of undergraduate university training in their countries in either literature and/or science. The winners of this selection, about 20 every year, receive a monthly stipend during their 3 years of study at the Ecole.

Institution's website
<http://www.ens.fr>

Identity form

Precise name of the institution :	■ Ecole Normale Supérieure – ENS
Type of institution :	■ public
City where the main campus is situated :	■ Paris
Number of students :	■ 2,000
Type and level of qualifications awarded :	■ LMD ■ Other national diplômes
Postal address :	■ 45, rue d'Ulm – 75230 Paris Cedex 05