

PRESS RELEASE

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Université Paris-Saclay awarded €32 million as a winner of the national ‘Excellences’ call for proposals

Université Paris-Saclay has been named one of the winners of the national ‘Excellences’ call for proposals, which aims to promote excellence in all its forms in French higher education and research. The University has been awarded €32 million in funding for its project SPRINGBOARD.

The ‘Excellences’ call for proposals was launched as part of the French Investments for the Future programme (PIA) to recognise and showcase excellence in higher education and research in all its forms, and support institutions with an ambitious and transformative project to implement their strategy, based on their individual needs and unique local contexts.

The SPRINGBOARD project submitted by Université Paris-Saclay is designed to strengthen the institution’s foundations and develop the University’s long-term attractiveness to ensure that the institution continues to meet the highest international standards. It is the result of a participatory process outlining the University’s main priorities to ensure the excellent quality of education and work on campus for current and future students and staff, as well as *signature projects* with a major societal impact.

The €32 million awarded in funding will be used to finance the project’s four main areas of development:

- In **education**, the funding will allow for a total redesign of the institution’s IT system, providing greater visibility and attractiveness for potential students and a first-rate experience based on online and digital services for enrolled students.
- As a research-intensive university, the funding will contribute to the provision of support and shared services for **research**, including support for the recruitment of high-level senior researchers and the development of Open Science practices.
- The funding will support the University’s **Graduate Schools** in strengthening the relationship between research and education, and establishing them as leading entities within the institution for 2030.
- The funding will also contribute to the development of *signature projects* with a key societal impact, aimed at consolidating the University’s relationship with **society at large** and accelerating its efforts to achieve a sustainable campus and fostering projects at the interface between arts and science.

“This funding will allow us to consolidate the model of Université Paris-Saclay, which must cultivate agility to create a university for the future that is even more rooted in society and open to the world. We are currently achieving true innovative and organisational change, by breaking down French institutional walls whilst respecting the wealth and singularities of the University’s communities: faculties, university technical institutes (IUT), Grandes Écoles, and national research organisations. These actions will allow us to ensure that our main areas of development are even more robust and effective. These areas include international and socio-economic partnerships, open and participatory research excellence, innovative educational approaches, sustainable development and the interface between arts, science and creation, and efficient governance and management methods,” said Sylvie Retailleau, President of Université Paris-Saclay.

Université Paris-Saclay was among 15 French institutions to be awarded funding as part of the call for proposals. The applications were reviewed by an international jury of 23 members, which was chaired by Michael Hengartner, President of the Board of the Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology (ETH Board).

Established in 2020 following a merger of several major French higher education institutions, Université Paris-Saclay is one of continental Europe's leading research-intensive universities, ranked 13th globally in the 2021 Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU). It is the result of a major drive to improve the visibility of French research and education internationally and unite the assets of French universities, *Grandes Écoles* and national research organisations to establish a new model for the future of higher education in France.

ABOUT UNIVERSITÉ PARIS-SACLAY

Université Paris-Saclay brings together ten constituent faculties and institutes, four Grandes Écoles, the Institut des Hautes Etudes Scientifiques, two associate institutions and shared laboratories with six national research organisations.

With 48,000 students, 8,100 lecturers and 8,500 administrative and technical staff members, Université Paris-Saclay offers a comprehensive and varied range of undergraduate to doctorate level programmes and engineering degrees, renowned for their quality thanks to the reputation and commitment of the University's academic staff.

Located in the south of Paris on vast sites that stretch across Paris, Orsay, Évry and Versailles, Université Paris-Saclay benefits from a strategic geographical and socio-economic position that is strengthened by its international visibility. A leading university, Université Paris-Saclay is recognised for its excellent Mathematics and Physics programmes but also for Biological and Medical Sciences, Agriculture, Engineering, and its extensive Humanities and Social Sciences courses. Close to Paris, Université Paris-Saclay is nested in a protected natural area, at the heart of a dynamic economic hub.



Press Contacts:

Katie O'Dowdall
katie.odowdall@universite-paris-saclay.fr
+ 33 (0) 6 98 58 79 10

The Press Team
service.presse@universite-paris-saclay.fr