

PRESS RELEASE

Paris-Saclay, 14 November 2023

**Anne L'Huillier, laureate of the Nobel Prize in Physics 2023,
Doctor Honoris Causa from Université Paris-Saclay**

On 13 November 2023, Université Paris-Saclay had the honour of awarding Anne L'Huillier, laureate of the Nobel Prize in Physics 2023 and Professor of Atomic Physics at Lund University, Sweden, the prestigious title of Doctor Honoris Causa. Alain Aspect, laureate of the Nobel Prize in Physics 2022, was the ceremony's guest of honour.

In France, the honorary degree of a Doctor Honoris Causa is one of the most prestigious distinctions awarded by universities to reward "foreign figures for important work in science, humanities or arts in France or at university".

In the summer of 2023, Université Paris-Saclay selected Anne L'Huillier, a pioneering scientist who has led ground-breaking work in the field of ultrafast attosecond physics, as the recipient for its first Doctor Honoris Causa. The physicist is the perfect embodiment of the university's values of research excellence and unconditional pedagogical commitment towards students. The excellence of Anne L'Huillier's work has earned her numerous awards and distinctions, including the Nobel Prize in Physics, which was awarded to her on 3 October 2023.

Alain Aspect, laureate of the Nobel Prize in Physics 2022, attended the ceremony as its guest of honour, in addition to numerous members of the university's community. This first Doctor Honoris Causa award ceremony for Université Paris-Saclay falls within the university's international policy, contributing to its international reputation, which has been confirmed by various international rankings, in particular in the field of Physics.

Anne L'Huillier

After studying at the École normale supérieure de Fontenay-aux-Roses, Anne L'Huillier began her career at the Service for the Physics of Atoms and Surfaces, today known as the Laboratory of Interactions, Dynamics and Lasers (LIDYL), specialised in the interaction between intense lasers and matter, at CEA Paris-Saclay.

Her work has contributed significantly to the first observation of a remarkable process which converts infrared impulses in the extreme ultraviolet spectral range, whilst compressing their duration to attosecond scale. This observation was demonstrated fourteen years later in 2001, by the other two co-laureates of the Nobel Prize in Physics 2023, Pierre Agostini and Ferenc Krausz.

In 1995, she continued her research at the University of Lund in Sweden, a member of the EUGLOH* University Alliance, whilst continuing to develop various successful French collaborations. There, she perfected the attosecond light pulse source and illustrated the movement of electrons at the centre of atoms and molecules in real time. Among the many possible applications, Anne L'Huillier successfully studied the photoelectric effect in real time, a process theorised by Albert Einstein in 1905, involving the absorption of a quantum of light (photon) and the quasi-simultaneous emission of an electron.

Anne L'Huillier is a member of the Governing Board at the Institut d'Optique Graduate School at Université Paris-Saclay. She has received numerous international distinctions for her work, including the 2022 Wolf Prize in Physics, and the 2023 BBVA Award. As a member of the Swedish, American and French Academies of Science, she also dedicates her time to teaching and has taught several generations of students and postdoctoral researchers, who are currently exploring new frontiers in the field.

Alain Aspect, guest of honour

Alain Aspect is an Emeritus CNRS Research Director at the Charles Fabry Laboratory, Head of the Augustin Fresnel research chair at the Institut d'Optique Graduate School and a Professor at École Polytechnique. In 2022, he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics alongside the American physicist, John F. Clauser, and the Austrian physicist, Anton Zeilinger, for their pioneering research on quantum entanglement, which paved the way for quantum technology.

Watch the ceremony (*in French*) [here](#)

** The European University Alliance for Global Health – EUGLOH, is coordinated by Université Paris-Saclay, and brings together nine universities: Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich (Germany), Lund University (Sweden), the University of Porto (Portugal), the University of Szeged (Hungary), the University of Alcalá (Spain), the Arctic University of Norway (Norway), the University of Novi Sad (Serbia), the University of Hamburg (Germany) and Université Paris-Saclay (France). The excellence of the members' teaching, research and cutting-edge infrastructure make EUGLOH a world-class higher education and research alliance.*

ABOUT UNIVERSITÉ PARIS-SACLAY

Université Paris-Saclay was born from the shared ambition of French universities, *grandes écoles* and national research organisations. As a leading university in Europe and the world, it covers the fields of science and engineering, life sciences and health, and humanities and social sciences. The university's science policy closely intertwines research and innovation, incorporating both basic and applied science to tackle major societal challenges. Université Paris-Saclay offers a varied range of undergraduate to doctorate level degrees, including programmes with its *grandes écoles*, all of which are focused on achieving student success and employability. The university prepares students for an ever-changing world where the ability to think critically, remain agile and renew one's skills are crucial. Université Paris-Saclay also offers a comprehensive range of lifelong learning courses. Located to the south of Paris, the university extends across a vast and rich local area. Its location strengthens both its international visibility and its close ties with its socio-economic partners (major companies, SMEs, start-ups, local authorities, charities).

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