

PRESS RELEASE

Paris-Saclay, 18 January 2024

Inauguration of the Lumen, Université Paris-Saclay's new learning centre

On Thursday 18 January 2024, Université Paris-Saclay inaugurated its new learning centre, the Lumen. The inauguration ceremony was attended by Estelle lacona, President of Université Paris-Saclay, and Sylvie Retailleau, the French Minister of Higher Education and Research.

Open to its local area and designed as a university library which also hosts activities and services for teaching, research, culture, science outreach and innovation, the Lumen opened its doors for the first time on 18 September 2023.

Since it opened, three months ago, the public have flocked to make use of the centre's spaces for work, culture and leisure and the Lumen has recorded 100,000 entry admissions.

The Lumen is the result of a collaboration between Université Paris-Saclay and two of its *grandes écoles*, CentraleSupélec and ENS Paris-Saclay. It is far more than a library on the Plateau de Saclay; it is a hub of activity dedicated to excellence at the very heart of the campus.

The Lumen building was created by Beaudouin Architectes, in partnership with MGM Morales De Giles Arquitectos. The architectural design of the building blends in perfectly with the campus landscape, with its curved contour following the route of the overhead metro, demonstrating the university's openness to the outside world and symbolising the transition from the university campus to the local area. Designed to attract natural light through its intricate tapestry of white pillars, its steel framework creates an artistic structure which lets in a gentle light, changing throughout the day and with each passing season. The Lumen was awarded a prestigious international prize for Spanish architecture in 2017.

Open to all, the Lumen provides its students, academics, researchers, members of its local economic and industrial ecosystem and the general public with millions of books, journals and articles¹, in print or electronically. Its documents are taken from the collections belonging to Université Paris-Saclay, CentraleSupélec, and ENS Paris-Saclay.

With extensive opening hours, the Lumen offers various services aimed at achieving student success and the organisation of cultural and scientific events, thanks to the professionals working in the departments located there (the Department for Libraries, Information and Open Science – DIBISO, the Department for Culture, Art, Science and Society – the Diagonale, and the university's design centre – the Design Spot). The range of services on offer include:

- Services for all: a recording studio for videos, writing workshops, a virtual reality and human-computer interaction space, game rentals, an events department, trainings in information and

¹ Covering the wide range of fields on the Plateau du Moulon (mathematics, physics, chemistry, engineering and computing sciences, life sciences, earth and space science, health, humanities and social sciences, economics, management, languages, design, etc.)

- design skills, etc.
- A materials library
- Relaxation areas
- A modular auditorium
- Rooms for innovative pedagogy.

With almost 1,000 available spots, users can work individually in quiet areas or in small groups in one of the 23 rooms digitally equipped for hybrid or co-modal work.

The 7,000 m² building is divided into various spaces, each with its own use and ambiance. On the top floor, visitors can enjoy a unique view of the Plateau de Moulon from the balcony. On the ground floor, a restaurant is set to open in the summer of 2024.

Lumen also offers a varied and vast range of cultural, scientific, educational, fun and innovative activities, organised by the university and key players in the local area, including exhibitions, conferences, workshops, shows, round-tables, study days, lessons, etc.

Funded by the French government, the Lumen was awarded €41.6m through the Plan Campus initiative and €2m as part of a government-regional contract.

Download photos of the building: <https://we.tl/t-sR5wGC6RMm>

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).

www.universite-paris-saclay.fr/en



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