

PRESS RELEASE

Paris-Saclay, 8 June 2021

**Université Paris-Saclay organises a radio contact with Thomas Pesquet,
live from space**

On 17 June 2021, the International Space Station (ISS) will fly over one of Université Paris-Saclay's campuses. To mark the occasion, a radio contact lasting approximately 10 minutes will be organised with Thomas Pesquet. A unique opportunity to follow the live conversation between the astronaut and secondary school and university students! The special event will be hosted by Fred Courant, a French journalist and the host of the science TV programme *L'Esprit sorcier*, and also broadcast live on YouTube.

On 17 June 2021, aboard the International Space Station, the astronaut Thomas Pesquet will fly over the Université Paris-Saclay campus. As part of the Amateur Radio on the ISS programme (ARISS), the Collège Albert Camus secondary school in the town of La Norville and Université Paris-Saclay have been chosen with the amateur radio club, F5KEE, based in Viry-Châtillon in Essonne, to organise a radio contact with Thomas Pesquet. **Fifteen secondary school students and five university students will get the chance to ask the astronaut their questions live during the radio contact, which will last approximately ten minutes.**

Université Paris-Saclay would like to share the special event with as many people as possible. **A programme will be hosted live** in front of a small audience by **Fred Courant, host of the French science TV programme *L'Esprit sorcier***, at the Michelin auditorium at CentraleSupélec. The programme will last approximately three hours, with the time to be confirmed depending on the actual time of the radio contact.

Fred Courant will be accompanied by a host of special guests, including the former astronauts **Claudie Haigneré** (who will be attending remotely) and **Michel Tognini**, who will share their experience on the ISS. **Raphaël Haumont**, a physical chemistry professor at Université Paris-Saclay and the Michelin-starred chef, **Thierry Marx**, will also talk about the meals they prepared for Thomas Pesquet's flight to the ISS, alongside various **members of the European Space Agency (ESA)**, who will be explaining how space missions are organised, their purpose and outcomes.

For those who are interested in following the event on the big screen, the event will also be broadcast in amphitheatres at: the Physics teaching building, H-bar; the Orsay Technical Institute (IUT); Polytech Paris-Saclay; ENS Paris-Saclay, and the Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines Observatory. Mini conferences on space exploration and discussions with scientific speakers are also planned as part of the event.

The event will be broadcast live on the [University's YouTube channel](#) and will also be available to view after the event.

NOTE: a few places have been reserved for journalists. If you would like to attend the live event at the Michelin amphitheatre at CentraleSupélec on the Plateau de Saclay, please send your request to service.presse@universite-paris-saclay.fr, specifying the media you

represent. Subject to the number of places remaining, you will receive an email confirming the finalised times.

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 nestled in a protected natural area, at the heart of a dynamic economic hub.



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