

PRESS RELEASE

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**Secondary schoolgirls discover science through summer schools at
Université Paris-Saclay**

As part of its policy to raise awareness about women in science, Université Paris-Saclay organised summer schools for the first time from 21 to 25 June for 15-year-old schoolgirls, and for 13-year-old schoolgirls from 28 June to 2 July, at the University's Faculty of Sciences.

The aim of the summer schools was to give some 25 15-year-old and 25 13-year-old local schoolgirls the chance to meet key players in research, work with researchers on a mini science project and discover new emerging sciences.

The participants also had the opportunity to meet professionals, many of whom were women, and learn about their jobs during 'scientific speed-meeting' and networking sessions. They also attended mini conferences and visited laboratories and research facilities at Université Paris-Saclay, the Centre for Science Initiation and Awareness (MISS - *Maison d'initiation et de sensibilisation aux sciences*), as well as greenhouses and the botanical garden at the Orsay Faculty of Sciences, CentraleSupélec and ENS Paris-Saclay.

The girls spent three days carrying out mini science projects on a range of topics in pairs or groups of three, supervised by researchers. The project topics included: weighing the Earth, characterising rotational movements, making a maze with python, exploring physics in virtual reality, image processing, discovering robotics and sensors, and optimising aircraft flight paths.

With these summer schools, Université Paris-Saclay aims to introduce girls from a large catchment area that includes priority areas, to subjects which they traditionally overlook. The University hopes to continue and build on the initiative by increasing the number of participants each year, possibly including sport or other subjects and potentially launching other themed summer schools to raise awareness among underrepresented groups enrolled in the University's courses.

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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