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**CHRISTIAN LERMINIAUX**  
President of ParisTech

## EDITORIAL

The summer has been a particularly busy and rewarding time for ParisTech, with teams from our schools undertaking two very encouraging fact-finding trips. The first of these was to Mexico, where our long-standing partners confirmed their desire to further develop their relationship with the ParisTech schools. Secondly, in July, representatives from the ParisTech schools involved in the "French-African Cooperation for Engineering in Africa" (FACEA) project travelled to Nairobi in Kenya for the first time to meet university staff and French organisations and companies based in the area. This follows the selection of the ParisTech FACEA project by the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs as part of its "Support for the Development of French Higher Education in Africa" (ADESFA) programme, and reflects our wish to seek new partnerships in English-speaking parts of Africa, in particular Kenya and Ghana. As we start the new academic year, we can also be proud of our performance in the latest Shanghai Ranking, published on 15th August, which once again shows that the ParisTech schools are thriving. Three schools (AgroParisTech, ESPCI Paris and MINES ParisTech) were ranked within the top 1,000 institutions worldwide, and the other schools were all recognised in specific subject fields. Last but not least, we are very pleased to welcome Laura Villette as our new ParisTech representative in China.

## FEATURED

### ParisTech student exchanges and double degree programmes – all you need to know



For over ten years, the ParisTech schools have been providing their students with the opportunity to benefit from the wealth of disciplines on offer across the network by undertaking various types of academic exchange, for example a specialisation year in a different school, or a double degree programme.



**GILLES TRYSTRAM**  
General Director of AgroParisTech  
and President of the Teaching  
Commission

#### How do the ParisTech student exchanges work?

In 2008, at the request of students, the schools decided to implement an exchange system to allow their students to acquire new skills in an environment related to, yet different from, that of their own school. The ParisTech schools therefore signed a convention governing several types of exchange:

- **Final year:**  
Students can opt to take the final year of their engineering degree in one of the other schools.
- **Repeat year:**  
Students who are required to repeat a year can do so in a different school.
- **Substitution:**  
Students can replace some of their course modules with modules of equivalent credit offered by other schools.
- **Doctoral degrees:**  
As part of the additional modules required for their thesis, doctoral students can take classes, teaching units or seminars of equivalent credit in one or more of the other schools.

Exchanges are subject to the approval of the student's home school, which ensures that the requested exchange will be of academic value to the student.

#### Could you tell us a bit more about the double degree programmes?

As well as the exchange system, students can also choose to do a double degree, which means doing two years in one of the ParisTech schools, followed by two years in a different school.

We have also been running master's exchange programmes for several years, and of course there are the ATHENS exchanges too. The latter only run for a week, but every year over 2,000 ParisTech students choose to complete an ATHENS class in another ParisTech school or at one of our partner universities in Europe.

#### How many students choose to do an exchange?

Over the past five years, around 100 students have completed an exchange programme:



25 engineers, 50 engineers on double degree programmes, plus master's students and doctoral students. The Teaching Commission is currently looking into drafting a new exchange convention, in particular to address the issue of tuition fees.

### What is special about these programmes?

Each exchange is oriented around the specific ambitions of the student and their desire to enrich their course of study. Each 3<sup>rd</sup> year specialisation

is flexible, so students have a wide variety of options to choose from.

The ParisTech schools are used to working together, which makes it easy to arrange exchanges and provide our students with one-to-one support.



### LÉON HONG

Léon Hong graduated from Arts & Métiers in 2011 and was one of the first students to complete a ParisTech exchange, choosing to do the final year of his engineering degree at the Ecole des Ponts ParisTech.

#### Could you tell us a bit about your academic background and your current job?

After high school, I did a two-year preparatory course in maths, physics and engineering science and then joined Arts & Métiers in Cluny. Right from the start of my degree I was able to choose options in order to put together a coherent course of study across the three years of the programme. My ultimate goal was to specialise in issues relating to urban planning, so the opportunity to do my final

year at the Ecole des Ponts under the ParisTech exchange system was just perfect. After graduating from Arts & Métiers, I decided to pursue my studies further by doing an Advanced Masters in Spatial Planning and Urban Development (AMUR) at the Ecole des Ponts ParisTech. That means I have a dual qualification, as both an engineer and an urban planner. Following my studies, I joined the consultancy firm Urba 2000. Among other things, they've headed up a number of smart mobility projects for the French Ministry of Transport. Since 2015 I've been working for Algoé, a management consultancy firm specialising in urban planning and mobility projects. More specifically, my role involves working for the Société du Grand Paris.

#### How has the dual nature of your studies benefitted you?

Arts & Métiers provided me with a broad base of knowledge in engineering science and helped me to develop efficient working methods and a strong work ethic. My year at the Ecole des Ponts gave me the opportunity to focus on the subjects which really interested

me and to meet students with different academic backgrounds (geographers, architects and sociologists for example). As well as allowing me to pursue my chosen specialism, I would say the experience also encouraged me to become more open-minded.

#### What support were you given as regards organising your course of study?

Arts & Métiers helped me to plan my course of study and arranged for me to do the exchange at the Ecole des Ponts. My exchange year provided a wealth of learning opportunities and the chance to specialise in the field I ultimately hoped to work in. Finally, taking the Advanced Masters course allowed me to further develop my expertise in the area. I am very grateful for the opportunities offered to me throughout my time at ParisTech. The two-fold nature of my studies has opened up doors to promising and exciting endeavours, such as the Grand Paris Express project – currently the largest infrastructure project in Europe!

### DOUBLE DEGREE PROGRAMMES

- **AgroParisTech** with MINES ParisTech, ESPCI Paris, Chimie ParisTech, Arts & Métiers and, ENSAE Paris
- **Arts & Métiers** with AgroParisTech
- **Chimie ParisTech** with AgroParisTech and ESPCI Paris
- **ESPCI Paris** with AgroParisTech, Chimie ParisTech, Institut d'Optique and MINES ParisTech
- **MINES ParisTech** with AgroParisTech and ESPCI Paris
- **Institut d'Optique** with ESPCI Paris
- **ENSAE Paris** with Télécom Paris
- **Télécom Paris** with ENSAE Paris

## THE LATEST FROM PARISTECH

### COMMUNICATION



Visit our new site: [Studywithus!](#) We have revised and redesigned the ParisTech portal for international students to better match the recruitment requirements of our schools. The portal focuses on our joint recruitment campaigns in the ParisTech target regions (Argentina, Brazil, China, Columbia and Russia) and it also presents all of the master's courses run by the ParisTech schools.

### DIVERSITY



On 26<sup>th</sup> September, the Diversity Commission held its first meeting of the new academic year. One of the current focuses of the committee is gender equality, and it has therefore prepared a "kit" of actions aimed at preventing sexual harassment. This kit identifies various initiatives to be implemented, summarised by four key actions: listen (confidential support/advice services), evaluate (surveys), inform (creation of links between different individuals and groups within the schools, information on applicable laws) and train (conferences, flyers, etc.) It contains concrete examples of actions and events which have been organised in different schools, plus practical information and contact details for the various partners.

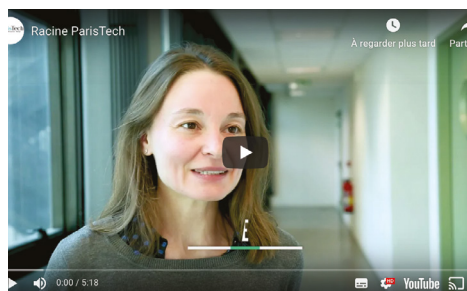
### INSTITUT VILLEBON-GEORGES CHARPAK



The Institut Villebon-Georges Charpak has a new director. After ten years in the role, Bénédictte Humbert left the institute on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2019. On behalf of the institute's sponsors, academic staff, students and alumni, the academic partners (in particular ParisTech, the Université Paris-Sud and the Université Paris-Descartes) and the ParisTech Foundation paid a warm tribute to Ms Humbert and welcomed her successor, Lydiane Nabec, Professor of Management Science at the Université Paris-Sud.



## TEACHING



The [2019-2020 catalogue of ParisTech "RACINE" teaching workshops](#) is now online (in French only). The workshops are divided into three broad categories based on teaching skills – designing, leading and evaluating. They cover topics which are now considered classics, such as creating and using educational video clips, integrating game-based learning, and motivating and engaging students. This year's catalogue also includes a new workshop on improving and co-constructing classes via design thinking.

The ParisTech teaching support and innovation network (RACINE) has been actively training engineering lecturers and professors for ten years. Visit the [ParisTech YouTube channel](#) to watch a video presentation of the network and for more details, concrete examples and testimonials. To find out more you can also read the [report](#) (in French) published by the network for the Questions of Pedagogy in Higher Education (QPES) conference in 2019.

## FOUNDATION



The aim of the « [Urban Mining](#) » Teaching and Research Chair created in 2014 by the French organisation "Eco-Systèmes" in partnership with the ParisTech Foundation and three of the schools (Arts & Métiers, Chimie ParisTech and MINES ParisTech) is to construct a true circular economy that protects both the environment and the well-being of citizens. Given the success of the Chair, the project organisers have decided to extend it for a further five years. The renewal ceremony was held on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2019 in the gardens of MINES ParisTech following the meeting of the Chair Steering and Evaluation Committee.

## INTERNATIONAL



Representatives from AgroParisTech, Chimie ParisTech, Ecole des Ponts ParisTech, Institut d'Optique and MINES ParisTech travelled to Nairobi (Kenya) for a fact-finding mission financed by the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (ADESFA). They engaged in very helpful, in-depth discussions with staff from three colleges (science, engineering and agriculture) of the University of Nairobi and visited the laboratories and the Gearbox prototyping lab. They also met with the State Secretary for Higher Education and Research, the Engineers Board of Kenya, the Ambassador of France to Kenya, the French Development Agency (AFD) and several French companies (Carrefour, HMClaude, Saint-Gobain and Seureca). A promising start to future collaboration!

## PORTRAIT



### LAURA VILLETTE Director of ParisTech China

Laura Villette took up her position on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019. She succeeds Sylvain Ferrari, who has completed his 5-year term in the role. Based in Shanghai, Laura Villette will work across China to promote and develop projects organised in conjunction with the ParisTech schools.

#### Tell us a little about your background...

After graduating from Sciences-Po in Paris, I moved to China for a year to study Mandarin at the Beijing Foreign Studies University. I then started up several projects in the food industry, working with Chinese partners in Inner Mongolia, after which I settled in Beijing. Following a brief spell at Leroy Merlin, I worked for just over four years as Chinese Office Manager at the Beijing branch of Prevor, a French company specialising in chemical safety.

It was after that that I moved into the world of training and teaching, having been appointed Vice Director of CFFCME (Franco-Chinese training centre for the energy sector) at the Beijing University of Civil Engineering and Architecture, which has three partners in France (Académie de Créteil, Université Paris-Est Marne-la-Vallée, Lycée Maximilien Perret d'Alfortville). I'm very happy that my new role at ParisTech allows me to remain in this sector.

#### What does your role involve?

My main objective is to develop and maintain partnerships between ParisTech and other universities and institutions – attractive partnerships which reflect both the ambitions of our Chinese counterparts and the standards of excellence which are characteristic of French schools. I also want to reinforce links not only with French companies operating in China, but also with Chinese companies in order to address their specific training requirements.

Another aspect of my role will involve consolidating the ParisTech network in China and raising its profile within local networks (trade associations, networks of Chinese graduates returning from overseas, etc.) Last but not least, I will be supporting the Franco-Chinese institutes (SPEIT, BUCT-Paris Curie Engineering School, ICARE) which act as "laboratories" for joint Franco-Chinese projects, and assisting the ParisTech schools in their bilateral relations with their Chinese partners.

#### How will you accomplish all of this?

The position is based in Shanghai, which is where ParisTech has its China office, and I will be working with a Chinese colleague, Yuanyuan Shen, who will help with the communications side of things, and also with organising joint recruitment actions.

#### How would you say ParisTech supports its schools as regards their international strategy?

As a group, the schools are more visible. Sharing resources (human, financial, etc.) means that we can undertake projects on a larger scale and work more efficiently.

Chinese students who come to study in France do of course choose one particular school, but combining our communication efforts allows us to target recruitment more effectively in order to find exactly the right students for each school.

#### How is ParisTech perceived in China?

The Chinese students that I've talked to are really pleased to have the opportunity to study in France and learn our language. The Grandes Écoles system and our engineering programmes are very different to the courses available in China.

I'm especially interested in how the ParisTech schools are perceived in China not just by Chinese students, but also by our partners and local companies. We will be refining the brand recognition survey launched by ParisTech to address the Chinese audience more directly. The results are due to be published by the end of the year.

# Les Disputes AgroParisTech

## AgroParisTech

Les *Disputes d'AgroParisTech* is a series of debates open to the public. Based around topical – and often controversial – issues, the debates bring together scientists, economists, politicians and individuals from cultural organisations and the voluntary sector. The 2019/2020 academic year sees the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the debates, the theme of which is “*Effondrement*” (Breakdown). The selected topic is deliberately vague in order to open up the debates to everyone within the scientific community of the Université Paris-Saclay. The first debate will take place on 15<sup>th</sup> October on the Paris Claude Bernard campus of AgroParisTech. The following debates will be held off-site: at the *Cité internationale des arts* on 27<sup>th</sup> November, the CENTQUATRE on 18<sup>th</sup> December, and the ENS Paris-Saclay theatre on 31<sup>st</sup> January.



## Chimie ParisTech

Recruitment, student induction, presentation of the school: September is an exciting time in the academic year for new engineering students at Chimie ParisTech. This year we have 90 students joining us – slightly more than last year's intake of 75 students. The engineering programme at Chimie ParisTech trains future company directors while encouraging creativity and developing students' appetite for the world of business and international opportunities.



## Ecole des Ponts ParisTech

Spotlight on research at the Ecole des Ponts ParisTech: in 2019, six of the school's research projects will receive funding from the French National Research Agency (ANR). Two of these are projects coordinated by young researchers (JCJCs) – Auguste Gires (HM&Co laboratory) and Virginie Ehrlicher (CERMICS laboratory). Three are Collaborative Research Projects (PRCs) – one at the CERMICS laboratory (led by Tony Lelièvre), and two at the CEREAL laboratory (led by Marc Bocquet, Yves Roustau and Karine Sartelet). The last project, headed up by Louis-Gaëtan Giraudet at the CIRED laboratory is in the Collaborative Research Projects Involving Enterprises category (PRCE).



## MINES ParisTech

MINES ParisTech is launching the 5<sup>th</sup> session of its “Global Energy Issues” MOOC. With more than 25,000 students registered and with high pass rates, this new course has fulfilled a real need. The MOOC is open to

all – professionals in the sector who want to refresh their knowledge, students, or those who simply want to find out more.

**Course start date:** 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019  
**Deadline for online registration:** 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019

## INTERNATIONAL ACTIONS

### Agreements

MoU with Kazan Federal University (Russia)

### Visits

BRAFITEC forum (Federal University of Uberlândia, Brazil)	5-8 June 2019
1 <sup>st</sup> Franco-Columbian conference on higher education, research and innovation (Medellín, Columbia)	12-14 June 2019
Fact-finding trip to Mexico	24-28 June 2019
Fact-finding trip to Nairobi (Kenya)	21-28 July 2019
60 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of Novossibirsk State University (Russia)	11-12 September 2019
Recruitment trip to Columbia	30 September - 4 October 2019
General Assembly of the Magalhães Network (Nantes, France)	30 September - 1 October 2019

# ParisTech, the major engineering schools network

The complementary nature of the areas of excellence of the various schools provides our students, researchers and partners (academic and corporate) with an exceptional consortium that offers unique transdisciplinary opportunities. ParisTech also has strong international teaching and research links via its many partnership agreements.

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