

SCIENTIFIC MEDIATION, ART, CULTURE & SOCIETY AT PARIS-SUD

A major institution in the research landscape (2 Nobel Prizes, 4 Fields Medals, 2500 researchers and teacher-researchers, 78 research groups, and partnerships with the most important national research agencies: CNRS, Inserm, CEA, Inria, Inra), Paris-Sud University is heavily and enthusiastically involved in the dissemination, sharing and practice of scientific and artistic culture for all sorts of publics.



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Along with research and teaching, the University also has the mission of, « *developing culture and disseminating knowledge and research findings* » and « *fostering innovation and individual and collective creation in the domain of arts, letters, science and technology* » (Article L123 of the Education Code).

Paris-Sud University is developing a willing and active policy of scientific mediation, of creating ties between science and society, art and culture, arts and sciences, and of valorising the scientific, technical and artistic heritage of our institution. In keeping with society's expectations, Paris-Sud University fosters access to knowledge and to creativity in all its dimensions for a large public, by reducing the old barriers separating culture and scientific culture. Paris-Sud University thus participates in aspirations to permit citizens to forge an open, humanist vision of the world, which is nourished by a demanding intellectual procedure that has been rendered intelligible. The wealth and variety of the components of Paris-Sud University allow it to cover a wide spectrum.

The actions of Paris-Sud University seek to promote dialogue between science and society and to foster actions of scientific mediation, as well as access to cultural and artistic activities: notably, by way of organising cultural workshops and by creating and disseminating projects in the arts and sciences. The audiences are vast and, depending on the action in question, they include: the public at large, school children, segments of the public that have been underexposed to arts and sciences, and, of course, the students and staff of the university.

The actions of our institution can be articulated along five axes:

- Scientific Mediation, Culture, and Scientific and Technical Information
- Science and Society, Social Issues: the Contribution of Academic Expertise
- Cultural Activities and Practices
- Arts and Sciences
- Scientific, Technical and Artistic heritage

SCIENTIFIC MEDIATION, SCIENCE AND SOCIETY

In all the research and teaching domains covered by the academic community within the various components of the university, actions are being developed that promote **openness to society**. Informing, making known, sharing scientific insight, rendering citizens active participants – these are the objectives pursued by the actors of scientific mediation, principally vis-à-vis the residents and schools in the surrounding areas (neighbouring towns and municipalities).

Both school children and the public at large, as well as the students and personnel comprising the academic community, are provided numerous opportunities to come and “touch” the science developed at Paris-Sud University. Via its own variations on national or international projects like the **Festival of Science** or **the European Heritage Days** or by way of original events like the **“Sciences Break”** conceived at the Faculty of Sciences, Paris-Sud University assumes its responsibility as a “populariser of science”. The showcasing of **its scientific, technical and artistic heritage** is an emerging axis that is currently being explored via the creation of a permanent virtual exhibit.

Parallel to all the actions organised for the purpose of disseminating scientific knowledge, Paris-Sud University is involved in training in the popularisation of science: for example, by way of options offered as course modules (UE) in the master’s program in general physics at Orsay or via training sessions for school teachers. The university also offers an introduction to scientific popularisation, which is open to both established scientists and doctoral students. It has at its disposal a service devoted to the creation of exhibits and to training in how to make science accessible: the Centre for the Popularisation of Knowledge (CVC), which is attached to the Orsay Faculty of Sciences.

Moreover, Paris-Sud University funds doctoral missions in making science accessible, which allow doctoral students, alongside their core research work, to work also on the dissemination of scientific knowledge. This is notably the case for the workshops created as part of the activities of the **Centre for the Initiation into and Raising Awareness about Science (MISS)**: a project financed by the Ile-de-France region in partnership with the University of Paris-Saclay.

Located on the Orsay campus of Paris-Sud University, the MISS will eventually host “science classes” on the elementary or secondary level using the immersion model of, for example, the “green classes”.

Parallel to its numerous scientific publications, the university produces films or web-documentaries presenting research topics or research studies to the largest possible audience: notably, with the help of the Audio-Visual Service of the Orsay Faculty of Sciences.

ARTS AND CULTURE

Paris-Sud University encourages and supports **the artistic and cultural practices of its students and personnel** by way of numerous festive and convivial events: jazz evenings, literary readings, and cooking [courses?], for example. The cultural workshops are hosted by professionals (directors, writers, musicians, photographers...) and are open to all. They offer the public the opportunity to try out different artistic and cultural practices: theatre, creative writing, poetry, comic books, drawing, music, dance, photography, video, ikebana, oenology, game design, etc. Some of the workshops can be taken by students as part of their course work or allow them to collect bonus points.

Paris-Sud University has a long tradition in the arts and sciences and created the **Arts & Sciences Festival “CURIOSITas”**, which is presently organised on a larger scale by the University of Paris-Saclay.

IMPORTANT PARTNERS

Paris-Sud University is a founding member of the **Diagonale Paris-Saclay**, the University of Paris-Saclay’s mechanism for creating dialogue between science and society. Paris-Sud is very active in the *Diagonale*, being present in both the steering committee and the college of actors. It participates in numerous defining projects like the MISS.

France’s “territorial collectivities” are important partners for Paris-Sud University: the Île-de-France region, departments (Essone, Hauts-de-Seine), municipalities and towns.

Finally, a tissue of actors from the cultural scene or from the practice of scientific popularisation constitutes a very important network of partners: notably including local and national student associations.

To know more:
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