

# ParisTech

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**CHRISTIAN LERMINIAUX**  
President of ParisTech

## EDITORIAL

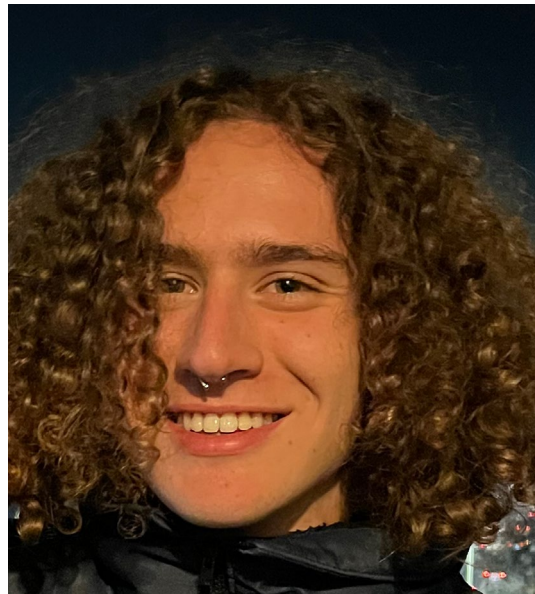
For more than 20 years, ParisTech's International Admission Program – which is open to students anywhere in the world – has been a shining example of how to promote inward mobility.

In 2022, the network took this successful program one step further by integrating outward mobility, which is an essential asset for the schools. This initiative addresses two challenges: the need to balance international exchanges, and the necessity of extending the range of overseas opportunities available to students at the network's engineering schools. Studying or working abroad is a rewarding, life-changing experience that contributes to a student's personal and professional development, and we want all students to have this opportunity.

This newsletter includes accounts from Gabriel and Lilibelle – students from two of our schools who travelled abroad in order to discover a new culture, broaden their horizons, and gain new perspectives.

## FEATURE

# From Asia to South America: Two students tell us about their time abroad



**GABRIEL BERNE**  
is a student at Mines Paris – PSL  
and did an exchange semester  
at the University of Buenos Aires.

**LILIBELLE GARDET**  
from Chimie ParisTech – PSL  
did an exchange semester  
at the Institut Chimie Pékin,  
and an internship at EDF in Beijing.

### What made you want to go abroad as part of your course?

**GB:** I wanted to go somewhere far away to get out of my comfort zone and discover a new culture. I chose an institution with a good reputation – the University of Buenos Aires. It's a free, public university unlike Santiago de Chile and Rio de Janeiro, which are expensive and beyond the means of most people. At the University of

Buenos Aires, students come from all kinds of different background, which is what I was looking for.

**LG:** My decision was mainly based on the country: I'd wanted to visit China for ages. Going as a student was the perfect opportunity, because it meant I could continue my studies and do an internship too. The conditions were ideal – I had one foot in student life, and the other in the world of work.

### How did your exchange go? How was it different to studying at an engineering school in France?

**GB:** It's a rather unusual time to be here, because Argentina is experiencing a severe economic crisis. The university has been affected by the numerous strikes and protests. There was somebody

in charge of exchange students, who helped us with our paperwork. My department has a student association that runs events to help students get to know one another. Those were very popular with most of the exchange students.

Before I arrived, I'd planned out my timetable so I could try out different classes, but it turned out we had to pick our classes once there, after speaking with the other international students and members of the department's student association. Exchange students tend to all pick the same classes. I chose some that had a higher workload and are attended mainly by Argentinian students. Almost all my friends here are Spanish-speaking students, which is great for helping me integrate into local life and learn Spanish more quickly.



Most classes are in the evening, often until 10pm or 11pm. This means students can do part-time work alongside their studies to earn some money.

Another difference is that a lot of students live quite far from the university, in the suburbs of Buenos Aires. Lots of classes are therefore given online, so students don't have to travel. Foreign students tend to live in the city center, because they can afford to.

**LG:** My time in Beijing went really well – even better than I hoped! I had a few administrative problems at the beginning, like lots of foreigners in China, but that's not the part I'll remember. During my internship at EDF I worked on coding an artificial neuronal network to simulate the consumption of a power station, which I found absolutely fascinating. I was lucky to have a great supervisor, who was very supportive and entrusted me with various tasks. On average I worked 8 hours a day, Monday to Friday. I met lots of Chinese students who were doing internships there too. We used English to communicate, and the general atmosphere in the workplace was very positive.

Even though my timetable was pretty full, I loved the study/internship combination because it meant I could continue studying and get my first taste of professional life too. For my internship I usually worked full days, but sometimes I did half-days so that I could attend my classes at the university.

For accommodation I stayed in an international dormitory owned by the university, in the center of Beijing. I met lots of great people during my time in China.

### What advice would you give to ParisTech students interested in studying abroad?

**GB:** For Argentina you don't need to apply for a visa in advance; you automatically get a three-month tourist visa when you arrive, and it's renewed every time you leave the country. However, you do need a temporary residence visa in order to get your study certificate. When it came to choosing a university, I looked through my school's exchange catalog, which contains practical information about each partner institution

and the different countries. I also contacted some former students to ask about their experience.

Once I'd made up my mind, I submitted my choices to my school, and they contacted the different universities to arrange the exchange and register me.

For accommodation in Argentina, I recommend looking on Facebook, because that's where locals post ads. You obviously need to speak Spanish for that though.

**LG:** I would recommend starting looking for an internship early, so you're sure of finding exactly what you want and can start the administrative process as soon as possible. And once you've found an internship, sign the agreement as soon as you can, because you can't apply for a visa without it.

Research the country – look into insurance, sickness, healthcare, visa and residency requirements, and any documents you'll need. Make sure you fill in all the paperwork correctly, because the Chinese authorities are very thorough. If you make a mistake or if anything's missing, you'll have to start the whole process again!

For example, to enter the country you need a health certificate, and for that you have to do several medical examinations, including a chest x-ray and a blood test, which you have to get signed off by your doctor.

Lastly, make sure you have contact details for someone in the country, and book your tickets in advance.

Visit the [ParisTech website](#) to read reports from [Mahomet](#) and [Daphné](#) too.

## ZOOM



**MINHUA YANG**  
Coordinator of the ParisTech office in Asia

### What are your main tasks as coordinator of the ParisTech office in Asia?

My main mission is to recruit students from Asia, and from China in particular, for the ParisTech schools. This involves giving presentations – both online and at universities here – to promote two of the network's

flagship programs: the [ParisTech International Admission Program](#) and the [ParisTech–CSC PhD Program](#). I also answer questions we receive from potential candidates.

Alongside this, I manage ParisTech's social media accounts in China and other countries in Asia, to share first-hand stories from students and PhD candidates recruited by the schools. This helps potential candidates get a feel for life at ParisTech and better understand the admissions process.

I'm in regular contact with the international relations departments of ParisTech's partner universities in China. I'm their first point of contact, which facilitates communication between each institution and the ParisTech schools.

### How do you assist Chinese candidates who want to join one of the ParisTech schools?

I'm on hand to answer any questions they may have. A key part of my role is to help candidates handle any unforeseen incidents that occur during the selection phases (panel interviews, science tests, etc.). I also help students applying for visas and scholarships, such as the [ParisTech – China Scholarship Council "9+9" Program](#) scholarship awarded by the Chinese government. I liaise directly with the China Scholarship Council, which helps ensure the process runs smoothly. Once students have a confirmed place in France, their host school takes over to ensure they receive the best possible welcome.

For the ParisTech–CSC PhD Program, which is only open to Chinese students, I take part in events to publicize the program, check students' applications, and help conduct the personal interviews.

To be eligible for the program, candidates must secure a grant from the China Scholarship Council, so I support them throughout the process, which takes several months. I also help students obtain their visa for France.

### And how do you assist ParisTech students interested in doing an exchange in China, or elsewhere in Asia?

For the moment, only a few French students have come to China, mainly due to COVID. That's changing though. Recently, we've had five ParisTech students come to China to do an exchange semester or summer school program. If necessary, I help students with questions regarding administrative procedures or scholarship applications. Lastly, because some of the universities in China aren't used to managing relations with international students and the process can be slow, to facilitate communication, I act as an intermediary between the French students and the Chinese universities.



## THE LATEST FROM PARISTECH

### COMMUNICATION



As in previous years, the ParisTech schools organized a series of events as part of France's national science festival (4–14 October). This year's theme was the oceans and ocean science and once again the events were very popular. Attendees were able to meet the schools' students and researchers and find out about their work, and acquire new knowledge through games, experiments, interactive workshops, conferences and exhibitions.

Other opportunities to visit the schools include the upcoming open days and other events throughout the year. Details of events running in 2024/2025 can be found on the [ParisTech website](#).

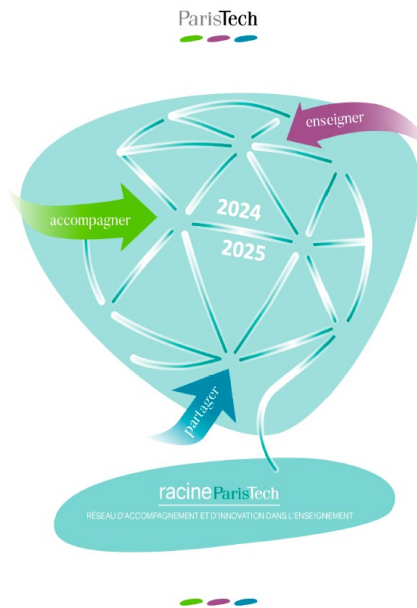
### DIVERSITY



The "Ambition Sciences" partnership between ParisTech and ENCPB (part of the "Cordées de la réussite" scheme) is officially running for a fifth year! The program is already well established, but is updated each year based on feedback from the pupils, tutors and supervisors involved. This year, several additional secondary schools, all located in the suburbs of Paris, are taking part. ENCPB, the program leader, is all set to welcome the secondary school pupils, and the *prépa* students are eagerly looking forward to meeting their tutors from the four participating ParisTech schools: [AgroParisTech](#), [Arts et Métiers](#), [Chimie ParisTech – PSL](#) and [ESPCI Paris – PSL](#). For the student tutors, being part of the scheme is an important commitment – their first experience managing a team, and the chance to develop their soft skills and support younger students who are keen to progress. Good luck to everyone involved!

### EDUCATION

#### CATALOGUE DE FORMATION



The [ParisTech RACINE network](#) is further expanding its training catalogue this year to offer new workshops on the use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) tools; assessment methods; integrating international students into the classroom; and flipped classrooms and peer teaching. Training on competency-based learning, which was introduced last year, is also available. In total, eleven different workshops are running for the 2024/2025 academic year. You can view the [training catalogue](#) on the [ParisTech website](#).

### INTERNATIONAL

**You are a Chinese master student in S&T, engineering?**

Discover the [ParisTech - CSC PhD Program](#) which allows up to 30 Chinese top students to pursue a PhD in France, in one of ParisTech schools' lab.



With the start of the fall semester comes the opening of the [ParisTech – China Scholarship Council PhD Program](#). In 2024, the CSC awarded 24 of the 28 scholarships applied for (whereas in previous years, all the scholarships requested by ParisTech were granted). Nonetheless, the

success of the program cannot be denied, linking up top-level candidates and outstanding laboratories. The program is open to all Chinese students who fulfil the conditions stipulated by the China Scholarship Council. Candidates must submit their application between October 14 and December 8, 2024. The laboratories will be delighted to welcome the successful students next fall.

Visit [YouTube](#) or [Bilibili](#) to hear some Chinese PhD students talk about their work in the ParisTech laboratories.



The [ParisTech office in Asia](#) is changing location. After several years at Tongji University – a long-standing partner of ParisTech – ParisTech has decided to move its Asia office to the premises of the French Chamber of Commerce and Industry in China, which is located in Shanghai. This is where Office Coordinator Minhua Yang is based. Her role is to support students and, in particular, assist the association with the [student recruitment programs](#) in China and elsewhere in Asia, and also with the [ParisTech–CSC PhD Program](#).

### INTERNATIONAL ACTIONS

#### International Agreements

Renewal of the Cooperation Agreement with Tongji University (China)

Signature of an addendum to the MoU with the University of Nairobi (Kenya) on credit recognition for exchange students

## NEWS FROM THE SCHOOLS



### AgroParisTech

#### Preventing abuse of addictive substances

AgroParisTech, CentraleSupélec and IOGS have officially launched a project aimed at providing students and staff at their institutions with a kit of actions to help prevent abuse of addictive substances and promote health and wellbeing. Called "J'peux pas, j'ai prévention" ("I can't, I've got prevention"), the project will run for three years and is financed by MILDECA (French Inter-ministerial Mission for Combating Drugs and Addictive Behaviours) in partnership with the CGE (*Conférence des grandes écoles*).

Find out more on the school's [website](#).



### Arts et Métiers

#### Four key leadership roles at Arts et Métiers now held by women

2024 sees Arts et Métiers pursuing its commitment to promote women in industry, with four women appointed to key leadership positions at the school. Marie Brandewiner, director of the Arts et Métiers incubator since 2021, has been promoted to Director of Innovation. And three of the school's campus managers are now also women: Catherine Davy (Campus de Lille), Amandine Duffoux (Campus d'Angers and Institut de Laval) and Tatiana Reyes (Institut de Chambéry).

Find out more on the school's [website](#).



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### Chimie ParisTech – PSL

#### Gilles Gasser appointed Dean of International Relations at Chimie ParisTech – PSL

Following the retirement of Fethi Bedioui, Gilles Gasser has been appointed Director of International Relations at Chimie ParisTech – PSL. He is currently professor and Deputy Dean of the i-CLEHS joint research unit (Institute of Chemistry for Life and Health Sciences). After obtaining a PhD in supramolecular chemistry, Gilles completed two post-doctorates – one in bioinorganic chemistry, and one, as an Alexander von Humboldt Fellow, in bioorganometallic chemistry. In 2010, Gilles began his independent scientific career at the University of Zurich as an Ambizione Fellow of the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) before being awarded an SNSF Assistant Professorship in 2011. In 2016, Gilles joined Chimie ParisTech – PSL with a PSL Chair of Excellence. He has received several grants and awards, including the Alfred Werner Prize from the Swiss Chemical Society, an ERC Consolidator Grant (2016), the Jucker Award for his contribution to cancer research, the European Medal for Bioinorganic Chemistry (EuroBIC), the Pierre Fabre Award for Therapeutic Innovation from the French Medicinal Chemistry Society (SCT) in 2020, and recently, the Coordination Chemistry Prize from the French Chemical Society (Senior Level). His research group focuses on the use of metal complexes in various fields of medicinal and biological chemistry.



ÉCOLE NATIONALE DES  
**PONTS**  
ET CHAUSSEES



IP PARIS

### École nationale des ponts et chaussées

#### ENPC is now part of the Institut Polytechnique de Paris

Under new statutes ratified by a decree published on July 16, ENCP, a long-standing and valued partner of IP Paris, has been integrated into IP Paris. The move broadens and strengthens the institute's training catalogue in crucial areas such as sustainable cities, civil engineering and construction, and environmental, climate and energy sciences.



### Mines Paris – PSL

Under a decree published on August 5, 2024, Godefroy Beauvallet was appointed General Manager of the École des Mines de Paris, taking over from Vincent Laffèche. Godefroy has had a varied career, having held key positions in innovation, digital technology and higher education, in particular at the Corps des Mines, AFNIC and the Institut Mines Télécom. He is a graduate of the École polytechnique and Télécom Paris. In collaboration with his partners in his new role, he aims to reinforce research and innovation at Mines Paris – PSL.

Find out more on the [Arts et Métiers website](#).

## ParisTech,

### A network of leading graduate engineering schools

ParisTech is a network of leading graduate engineering schools that offer research-based engineering programs with a strong international focus and close ties with industry. Founded over 30 years ago, it promotes the engineering programs of its member schools in France and worldwide.

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