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ÉCOLE  
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# Call for applications 2025

Project-based PhD

## Rules and conditions of submission

**Opening of the call: Monday 03 March 2025 at 2 pm (Paris time)**

**Closing Date: Tuesday 14 April 2025 at 2 pm (Paris time)**

Applications should be submitted on the call platform at the address:

[https://cy-initiative.smapply.io/prog/eur\\_psgs\\_hch\\_2025](https://cy-initiative.smapply.io/prog/eur_psgs_hch_2025)

*Updated February 20, 2025*

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## I - General Presentation

The University School of Research Humanities, Creation, Heritage (PSGS-HCH), supported by CY Cergy Paris University, will welcome at the start of the 2025 academic year students wishing to embark on a doctoral course through the project. This call for applications is intended to recruit these future doctoral students.

### The University School of Research Humanities, Creation, Heritage (PSGS-HCH)

The University School of Research Humanities, Creation, Heritage (PSGS-HCH), winner of the third future investments program "Programme d'Investissements d'Avenir" (PIA3), brings together the human and social sciences components of CY Cergy Paris University and four schools working in the field of creation and heritage: the National Higher School of Architecture of Versailles (ENSAV), the National Higher School of Landscape of Versailles (ENSP) and the National Heritage Institute (INP), members of the Foundation of Heritage Sciences, and the National Higher School of Arts Paris-Cergy (ENSAPC).

The originality of the project is to propose, in addition to aligning the training offer in human and social sciences at CY Cergy Paris University, the establishment of training focused on project-based research, at master's and doctoral levels. The member establishments of the University Research School, schools or universities, in fact share the same concern: that of developing research on their respective subjects, by favoring research practices in direct contact with the activity of the professionals they train. From this perspective, the emphasis placed on research by the project constitutes a strong marker of the EUR scientific project.

### Project-based research

The Project-based research intends to integrate practice (artistic, conception/design, restoration, conservation, etc.) into the research process, considering that the production of knowledge can also - and must also - take place in practice and by practice. In line with the most recent theoretical and epistemological developments in the field of creation, the aim is to design and operationalize research strategies in which practice is the driving force, the source of both questioning and research results (practice-led research). The intention is to place the practice in a strategy of continuous improvement through research, via a posture of reflexivity on its own approaches, tools and intervention logics. One of the objectives is, through this work to distance professional practice, to promote the development of a more autonomous and less normative thinking, especially in the context of the exercise of heritage practice.

It is therefore a question of imagining a research practice which is based on the practice of the project, the material of which is produced in the course of the project and by the project. In a more traditional protocol, the researcher would act as an observer, at some distance from the actors involved, to analyze the ongoing process and the resulting productions. Project research suggests that this observer himself becomes an actor, designer and bearer of the approach that will be the subject of his analysis. Project-based research therefore necessarily includes a reflective dimension, aiming to retrace the conditions of the project's progress, and therefore the production of research materials, to identify its effects and limits, and to infer the area of validity of the approach thus proposed, tested and analyzed.

The approach is therefore very ambitious and very demanding. In the end, the analysis concerns both (and at the same time) what is produced in the project and the production process itself, i.e. the project as a modality of intervention (on the real life, on the social, on language, on nature, on the imaginary, etc.).

From this perspective, practice-based research is also a research through the project, although here it is carried out by the designer himself. It will draw on the repertoire of project research, as long as it is based on a state of the art and will therefore seek out pre-existing productions, emanating from various disciplinary fields, likely to shed light on the understanding of the research object and the research situation. Practice-led research will also borrow from research for the project, since it aims to inform and guide future project practices; yet this dimension is intrinsic (although often implicit) to the requirement of reproducibility and transferability which is one of the criteria of scientific work.

The idea of reproducibility is also one of the possible difficulties of research through the project, particularly in its most sensitive forms, artistic, opening space for inspiration, forms that are generally resistant to protocolization and standardization. The part thus left to uncontrollable randomness or to non-reproducible inspiration should at least be underlined and characterized, in order to identify precisely what, in the process of creation/interaction with the material under analysis, can be part of repeatable approaches and what is irreducible. Here, the main requirement is to make explicit the conditions under which the creative act takes place, so that others can form their own opinions about the studied process, its determinants and its effects.

## II- The practice-based PhD path at EUR Humanities, Creation, Heritage

The EUR Humanities, Creation, Heritage proposes to set up a doctoral course through the project. This very selective path, reserved for thesis projects explicitly based on a project practice, will consist of reinforced support, including biannual seminars bringing together all the participants, as well as a continuous annual monitoring of the progress of the thesis work.

This course is only for graduate students in the various proposed specialties. The prepared theses, which will have to meet the usual academic requirements, should be based on : 1/ a combination of human sciences, literature and theoretical research, and project practices (in order to define reflexivity tools); 2/ for some specialties, the articulation with a societal demand, partnerships with institutions in the field of practice concerned or with territorial actors who can play a role as activators of project situations; 3/ formats for publishing research results (including a written dissertation) guaranteeing the administration of proof and its reproducibility.

### A common approach

- practice-led research places designers (artists, architects, landscape architects, curators, restorers) and their practice at the heart of the methodological process. It produces knowledge about practice that can be reinvested in practice.
- the research approach is articulated by the project (artistic, architectural, etc.): it constitutes a space for reflection and production that support the individual work, as much as the individual work can feed the research process;
- research through the project aims to invent specific forms of dissemination and valorization, called by the research project itself. In the arts in particular, artists consider that research should not obey any particular form but that it is an integral part of their practice.

However, the academic requirements for the PhD will be maintained. The practice-based doctorate consists of the elaboration and presentation of an original work (the project in architecture, landscape, art, literary creation, heritage studies or conservation-restoration) supported by theoretical research and includes the submission of a written analytical document and its defense; the whole being examined and evaluated as a whole.

### Cross-disciplinary approaches

Because it aims at a broad apprehension, as complete as possible, of the mechanisms or phenomena in question - without, however, pretending to reach exhaustiveness - practice led research mobilizes a plurality of disciplinary contributions. Practice necessarily involves a plurality of dimensions. Practice-led research aims to reflect the complex reality and must therefore mobilize as many interdisciplinary perspectives to inform and present the intrinsic complexity of the practices involved in the project.

### Thesis supervision

Supervision will be done by a co-supervision: 1 professional (who may not belong to the academic world) and 1 teacher authorized to conduct and supervise research activities (HDR) at Doctoral School 628 Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences of CY Cergy Paris University.

It is strongly recommended to have already identified an academic thesis director before submitting the application file. However, candidates will be able to submit thesis projects for which the scientific supervision (HDR) has not yet been determined. And the EUR will be able to support these candidates, if their application is accepted, in identifying relevant supervisors and setting up the thesis monitoring system.

The doctoral student will be hosted in one of the laboratories of the EUR Humanities, Creation, Heritage member institutions, in accordance with the doctoral degree being pursued. The registration for the thesis is done within the Graduate School Arts and Humanities of CY Cergy Paris University under the direction of a teacher-researcher or researcher authorized to direct the research of the Graduate School Arts and Humanities. A foreign teacher-researcher invited for 3 years and linked to a laboratory of the Graduate School or an HDR from another university in contract with the Graduate School can supervise the work. In all cases, the defense will take place at the Graduate School Arts and Humanities of CY Cergy Paris University.

### Thesis monitoring and evaluation

A regular and compulsory follow-up is set up: one evaluation per year based on a written report detailing the progress of the doctorate and an oral presentation; intermediate presentations in June of year 1 and June of year 2, thesis defense in year 3. The validation of this annual monitoring is essential to continue progressing in the PhD. Non-validation leads to repetition and the obligation to repeat the written and oral presentation. The reports on the progress status indicate both the progress in the acquisition of the theoretical framework and in the critical perspective on its own practice.

### Thesis defense

To defend their thesis, a student must have validated the evaluations of years 1 and 2. They submit their arguments in front of a mixed jury (academic and professional) composed of at least 4 members and must meet the rules for the composition of thesis juries. The co-supervisors are members of the jury.

However, in any case, it is strongly recommended to have already identified an academic thesis director before submitting the application file.

The final production expected for the defense includes two dimensions: the project carried out (literary creation, architecture, arts, landscape, heritage studies, conservation-restoration); and a final analytical writing (the characteristics of which will be defined with the supervisors). The defense will be an opportunity to orally explain the project and the scientific approach.

Non-explicit and unjustified use of AI is prohibited. Thesis directors will use software to check plagiarism and detect the use of AI on all dissertations before authorization for defense. A positive result will constitute grounds for refusal of the defense.

Specific qualified and qualifying defense locations can be considered (exhibition, gardens, etc.).

### Doctoral training

Doctoral students must validate credits by attending at least 5 half-days of research seminars and 3 days of doctoral workshops per year. Indeed, in order to give doctoral students the methodological and critical tools to develop their thesis project, doctoral workshops will be set up each year, as well as a cycle of research seminars, notably involving specialists from different disciplines. They will be obligatory for all doctoral students, regardless of the doctoral mention chosen, thus allowing a comparison of perspectives from a scientific perspective that is nevertheless identical (doctorate by project).

In the event of justified inability to attend one or more seminars, credits may, as an exception, be validated, in liaison with the Doctoral School, for example, as part of involvement in the scientific activity and production of the EUR (study day, publication, etc.).

### Internationalization

International mobility assistance grants (AMI) may be granted by decision of the executive commission after analysis of the motivation file for a stay abroad.

## III- List of doctoral specialities

Candidates must indicate the doctoral speciality in which they intend to register their thesis, among the following:

Attention :

Candidates register their file in a single speciality.

### Practice and theory of literary creation

The doctorate through the literary project starts from the principle that a literary creation is in itself a research that can be the subject of theorization. The thesis of practice and theory of literary creation must therefore include two necessarily articulated dimensions, according to an organization specific to each project: an original literary creation which can take various forms (inscribed in a genre or hybrids, digital or not, associating or not the art of speech and visual arts); a theoretical part of around 200 pages, closely linked to the creative part. The two parts must constitute a whole, around a literary problem or the literary treatment of a common theme, also including an analysis of the creative process. This dissertation makes it possible to evaluate, in addition to artistic skills, skills in literary culture, theory on literature, interpretation of texts and the ability to adopt a reflective posture on one's own creations.

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Additional Information: the doctorate thesis must be completed in French.

### Architecture

Ten years after the creation of the doctorate in architecture, ENSA-V wishes to develop a project doctorate. The objective is to encourage innovation by granting a high level of recognition to project-based research in languages that may be experimental and new writings, or original architectural and urban designs, likely to promote a regeneration of practices and creative processes. Whether relying on simulation tools specific to the discipline or on technical and material processes, the project will be the central element of the thesis. By distancing himself from the professional project approach, he will be able to draw inspiration from its contextualizing value to identify elements of theories which will demonstrate the contribution of architecture to knowledge.

Contact: Gabriele Pierluisi ([gabrielepierluisi@gmail.com](mailto:gabrielepierluisi@gmail.com))

### Landscape

The landscape project doctorate must contribute to the advancement of landscape sciences through the production of new knowledge in the fundamental disciplines which serve as a reference for landscape expertise as well as in the technical disciplines implemented in landscape practice, and of course in the very design of landscape project approaches. It relies on project practice to propose, establish, test and verify approaches, working procedures or intervention protocols likely to change the references and ultimately the practices of landscapers. It can take as its object all the stages which characterize and constitute the landscape project, as well as the overall approach to designing the landscape project.

Contact : Patrick Moquay ([p.moquay@ecole-paysage.fr](mailto:p.moquay@ecole-paysage.fr))

### Arts

Art research places artists, authors, creators and their practices at the heart of the methodological process. Closely associated with high-level artistic and professional experience, it is deployed within artistic practice itself. Between thought practice and artistic practice, art research brings together the different stages of the creative process (from design to production, distribution and reception) which it structures. This process is nourished by a reflective gaze which creates a back and forth between experimentation and critical distance. Inventing their own devices and choosing to do so the mediums and languages that are necessary for them beyond disciplinary boundaries, the acts and forms of art research articulate minority stories in friction with dominant stories.

Contact : Martina Olivero ([martina.olivero@ensapc.fr](mailto:martina.olivero@ensapc.fr))

### Conservation-restoration of cultural property

The doctorate in heritage conservation-restoration is a professional research experience that begins in the practice of conservation-restoration. The analysis and putting into perspective of the results, the reflexivity around this practice, the invention or construction of know-how, technologies, or in the broad sense, tools, whether conceptual or methodological, which are at the heart of this doctorate, are currently absent from the disciplinary field of conservation and restoration. This project-based doctorate would be the expected complement, both by conservation-restoration professionals but also by stakeholders in the heritage chain, to the academic doctorate which may have as its theme the history of restoration, the history of techniques or materials sciences. It therefore requires having a conservation-restoration practice.

Prerequisites specific to the specialty: a Master 2 in conservation and restoration allowing interventions on national collections is required in application of Book IV of the Heritage Code, articles R452-10 to R452-13.

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### Heritage studies

For the heritage curator, the project-based doctorate must make it possible to produce new knowledge, both in the fundamental disciplines which serve as a reference for heritage expertise (notably history, art history, archaeology, history of science and technology) and in the technical disciplines which are implemented in the exercise of heritage practice (notably museology, archival science, methods of analysis and description of movable and built heritage, as well as archaeological heritage). It revolves around a heritage project which can be, for example, the curating of an exhibition, the development of a new scientific and cultural project, the design and creation of a new display of permanent collections, the processing and enhancement of an archive, the analysis and description of a set of movable objects or those resulting from an excavation.

Contact : Séverine Blenner-Michel ([severine.blenner-michel@inp.fr](mailto:severine.blenner-michel@inp.fr))

## V- Project selection process

Step 1	Launch AAC PSGS-HCH 2025	Monday, 03 March 2025 at 2pm
Step 2	Closure AAC PSGS-HCH 2025	Monday, 14 April 2025 at 2pm
Step 3	Analysis of the admissibility of projects Expertise and evaluation	Period from 21 April 2025 to 31 May 2025
Step 4	Interviewing candidates	June 23 and June 24, 2025
Step 5	Results publication	1 <sup>st</sup> - 8 July 2025
Step 6	Validation of the contracts by the scientific council of the doctoral school (if required)	According to the date of the Doctoral School Board meeting
Step 7	Registration and start of the thesis	Registration starting in July 2025 Start of the thesis in October 2025

The admissibility of the projects will be examined by external personalities and by the Executive Committee of the EUR Humanities, Creation, Heritage, composed of members of all the partner institutions. The Executive Committee will interview the candidates selected at the end of this first stage of appraisal.

Project leaders are asked to indicate laboratories or experts for whom there could be a conflict of interest if they were to participate in the project evaluation. The EUR Executive Commission selects the projects to be financed by ranking the laureates and establishing a supplementary list. The registrations and doctoral contracts will be submitted for validation to the Graduate School Council of the Graduate School Arts and Humanities of CY Cergy Paris University.



## V - Evaluation and eligibility criteria

The eligibility criteria for projects shall correspond to the following points:

- The complete submission must be completed online on the platform at the following address: [https://cy-initiative.smapply.io/prog/eur\\_psgs\\_hch\\_2025](https://cy-initiative.smapply.io/prog/eur_psgs_hch_2025).
- The submission file must include the application file entered online on the application platform
- The project must belong to the thematic fields of the doctoral mentions of the doctoral course by the EUR Humanities, Creation, Heritage project. In the disciplines of architecture, landscape, arts and conservation-restoration, the training required must be training preparing for the practice of the discipline.
- The candidate must have completed a master's degree, or equivalent, in the chosen thematic field. If the candidate is selected, but cannot attest to this master's degree or recognized equivalent at the time of administrative registration, their registration will be refused.
- The candidate must demonstrate in his training course or in his personal itinerary an initiation into research; This prerequisite aims to enable a rapid start to doctoral work and to provide favorable conditions for the successful completion of the doctoral process.
- The candidate cannot submit his application to more than three calls.

Evaluation criteria:

- the project scientific quality,
- the enrolment in thematic fields relevant to the chosen doctoral degree,
- the articulation to the current debates within these fields, both on the theoretical and epistemological aspects and on the artistic, social or pragmatic challenges,
- the positioning in the national and global context,
- the adequacy of the project to the modalities and principles governing the thesis completion in the course of project-led PhD, as set out above,
- the project feasibility.

## VI - Submission modalities

In addition to the thesis project entered online, the constituent elements of the application file must comply with the following appointment charter:

PSGS\_HCH\_AAC\_2025\_name of doctoral student\_Portfolio.pdf

PSGS\_HCH\_AAC\_2025\_name of doctoral student\_annexes.doc (or .pdf)

Candidates are invited to create their personal space on the call platform at: [https://cy-initiative.smapply.io/prog/eur\\_psgs\\_hch\\_2025](https://cy-initiative.smapply.io/prog/eur_psgs_hch_2025)

An account activation email will be sent. Candidates are reminded that they can only submit their file in one mention.

Candidates will be able to make changes to their application file until the closing date of the call, Tuesday April 16 at 2 p.m. After this period, the platform will be inaccessible to candidates.

The EUR Executive Commission and the jury for selecting candidates for the doctoral program through the project reserve the right to request additional information in order to facilitate the appraisal and evaluation actions of the projects submitted.

## VII – General provisions for thesis funding

All application files must explain the financing arrangements planned for the thesis. Three scenarios can be considered:

The candidate applies for a doctoral contract from the EUR. The amount is €120K payroll charged for a period of 36 months, i.e. monthly remuneration of €2,300 gross charged (see Decree No. 2019-1095 of October 28, 2019 creating CY Cergy Paris University and approval of its statutes: <https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/loda/id/JORFTEXT000039287925>). The candidate must then check the “doctoral contract request” box in the application file which will then serve as a request for registration in thesis by the project and a request for funding. The positive decision of the jury to be registered for a doctorate by the project does not entail the decision to award the thesis grant. This decision to award the thesis grant is the subject of another deliberation by the jury. The funding awarded by the EUR takes the form of a doctoral contract between the university and the student. The terms of financing and carrying out the thesis are aligned with other doctoral contracts managed by the Doctoral School. The call for doctoral applications by the 2025 project includes the award of a total of 5 doctoral contracts.

1. The candidate is not applying for a doctoral contract from the EUR but benefits from funding obtained elsewhere (for example by their host laboratory, as part of a predefined research project). The application file then only concerns formal registration for the doctorate, within the doctorate system by the project. The jury can nevertheless verify that the funding obtained allows the thesis to be carried out under satisfactory conditions.

2. The candidate only has partial funding or intends to finance his thesis by his own means, the doctorate being pursued in parallel with his professional activity. The thesis can then be carried out part-time, and its maximum duration can be extended to 6 years. The doctoral student must then check the box provided for this purpose in the registration file. The jury must verify the feasibility of the project and can in particular ensure that the financial package envisaged is plausible.

## VIII – Publications and intellectual property

### A. Publications

Registered doctoral students must mention their membership of the EUR under the "Programme Investissements d'Avenir" in all publications or oral communications related to the thesis work by including the following mention: *“This work benefited from the support of the University School of Research Humanities, Creation, Heritage (EUR PSGS HCH) and state aid managed by the National Research Agency under the Future Investment Program, integrated into France 2030, bearing the reference ANR-17-EURE-0021.”*

### B. Intellectual property

1. The candidate has obtained a doctoral contract from the EUR: the employed doctoral student is subject to the legal regime of the Intellectual Property Code (\*For more details, see articles L611-7 concerning mission inventions, Article L113-9 for software and L131 and L132 for literary and artistic property).

2. The candidate benefits from funding obtained elsewhere: Development and signature of an agreement between the host laboratory and the EUR, which will specify the terms of implementation of the doctorate (project management, intellectual property regime).

3. The candidate only has partial funding or intends to finance his thesis by his own means, the doctorate being pursued in parallel with his professional activity. An agreement between the employer and the EUR will specify the intellectual property regime.

## IX - Monitoring of funded projects

Presentations of funded projects currently underway may be requested as part of EUR activities.

## X - Filling of the application form

Parts to provide:

1. The application file entered on the platform, presenting the thesis project.
2. In .pdf format a letter/email of commitment from the thesis director and/or the project referent or the director of the host laboratory
3. A portfolio, free layout, .pdf formats, explaining professional practice. It can contain photos, drawings, etc. For the Practice and Theory of Literary Creation Speciality, these may be relevant extracts from the candidate's works. Websites are accepted, the URLs must be communicated in the portfolio.

The portfolio is limited to five (5) pages.

For the Arts mention, the size of the document is not limited.

4. An "Annex" document, free layout, in .pdf format, containing the candidate's CV of five (5) pages maximum and any supporting documents (CVs of co-supervisors, etc.).

### REMINDER

**You can only apply in one speciality.**  
**If you submit your application in several specialities, your application will be declared inadmissible.**