The Paris School of Economics is a French research center of international standing in Economics, resulting from the merger of leading research and teaching institutions and bringing together more than 250 students enrolled in Master’s and PhD programmes.

It offers highly selective programmes, entirely in English, leading to professional degrees qualifying students for careers in teaching and research, business, public administration and international organizations.

PSE also provides public and private decision-makers with the best analytical tools that modern scientific research has to offer.

Graduate Programme
Public Policy and Development (PPD)

There is a rising social demand for the evaluation of and expertise in public policies. The call for more precise evaluation is observed everywhere and at all levels of society - central and local administrations, firms, civil society - in both advanced and developing countries, as well as in international organizations. In all countries, rich or poor, social and economic development requires more transparent and therefore more efficient policies.

In a rapidly-changing world, policies must also be drawn up in a new context, that of global competition and governance, tighter budget constraints, and increased spillovers in more complex societies. This in turn requires increasingly diverse expertise in the design of policies. It is this context that justified the creation of the PPD programme in the field of public policy at the Paris School of Economics, encompassing both developed and developing countries.
The aim of the PPD programme is to prepare students to become experts in designing, analysing and evaluating public policies in both developed and developing countries. It combines rigorous training in analytical and quantitative economic methods with an emphasis on policy and practice, responding to the increasing demand for professionals with strong quantitative skills and good knowledge of institutions and evaluation methods.

**Resources and Staff**

A number of the founding research centres of the Paris School of Economics have substantial research and teaching experience in the field of public economics. Many researchers on the Jourdan campus have long played an active role in the elaboration and evaluation of public policies in France as well as at the global level, such as François Bourguignon (development economics), Esther Duflo (quantitative methods), Eric Maurin (employment policies) and Thomas Piketty (fiscal policies).

Six renowned partners support the PPD programme, reinforcing links between researchers and both public and private decision makers:

- the French Development Agency (AFD),
- the CEPREMAP, the Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD), Ecole des Ponts ParisTech, EHESS and ENS.

Finally, this programme is organized in close cooperation with J-PAL, which sent a number of PSE graduate students out into the field last year, and will likely continue to do so in the future.

**Detailed Curriculum**

The first-year M1 contains significant components of general microeconomics, macroeconomics and quantitative methods: all of the courses are specifically designed to prepare students for the analysis of policy issues.

It also proposes introductory courses in policy design and evaluation in major fields, complemented by conferences on a variety of policy issues by renowned academics, recognized experts and influential policy-makers.
Between the two academic years, a **compulsory training period or internship** takes place in an institution responsible for the design and/or the evaluation of public policies.

In 2008/09, many international and French renowned institutions hosted PSE students: OECD, United Nations, J-PAL, World Bank, INSEE, DGTPE etc.

The **second-year M2** offers **in-depth and applied courses covering the most important policy issues** at both the national and global levels, and the state of the art and best practices of policy evaluation. A minority of students may enter the second year directly, provided they have acquired strong prerequisites in the domains covered in the first year.

Apart from three compulsory courses on general issues, **the curriculum is individualized**: each student is coached by a tutor who helps him in the selection of the nine most relevant courses among a list of twenty, according to the student’s personal objectives; **the Master’s dissertation** is supervised by a faculty member or alternatively co-supervised by a professional in another institution.
Career Opportunities

The career opportunities for the Master degree are non-academic positions in national administrations in France, Europe and other countries, international organizations (European Union, OECD, UN agencies, WTO, etc.), development agencies (World Bank, AFD, etc.), non-governmental organizations, banks and large companies.

However, as the Master combines high-level technical and professional training, graduates may also choose to enrol in the PSE doctoral programme. They will be encouraged to do so if they are interested in an academic career or if they are aiming at non-academic positions for which a PhD is a prerequisite.

Doctoral programme

The PhD degree is a three- to four-year programme devoted to thesis writing. Students can access the PSE doctoral programme after they have successfully completed the PPD Master’s programme.

During their PhD, students are hosted by one of the PSE research units, as well as writing academic articles in the fields of expertise of the faculty of the school, and are required to participate in regular research seminars and conferences.
Admissions

All candidates for the PPD Master’s degree are subject to a selective admission process. Candidates must demonstrate an aptitude for learning the analytical and quantitative tools that are the hallmark of the training at PSE. A background in Economics is not required for admission to the first year of the Master’s programme.

For the 2010-2011 academic year there will be two admission sessions: one in April and one in July.

Application deadlines are: the 19th of March 2010 for the first session and the 18th of June for the second session.

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