1 / I don’t speak French: can I apply for the PSE programmes?
All compulsory courses and most optional courses are offered in English. Depending on your choice, you can thus follow 100% of your coursework in English. As a result, a certificate of English language ability (minimum level B2 or equivalent) is required for all applicants who aren’t native English speakers, except for those who are graduates of universities where coursework is in English. In class, not speaking French isn’t a barrier, but like any time abroad in a francophone country, participation in the PSE master’s implies a complete immersion in a French-speaking cultural environment...

2 / How much are the registration fees?
The fees are around 250€ per year for registration, in addition to approximately 200€ for social security (for those under the age of 28) plus 6 euros for preventive medicine. Studying at our institution is free of any additional fees.

3/ Are there grants available?
Given the low tuition fees, the APE program does not provide scholarships for masters students. The PPD programme offers various grants (between 300 and 600€ per month) to students coming from low and middle-income countries, based on social and academic criteria. Moreover, depending on your nationality, financial aid may be available from different institutions (central banks, embassies, foundations, etc.) We invite you to explore the different possibilities available on the websites of EHESS (only in French) and Campus France. Students who seek to continue their studies at the PhD level in the doctoral programme at Paris School of Economics can apply for different financing opportunities (Ministère de l’enseignement supérieur et de la recherche, Région Ile-de-France) typically providing a monthly stipend of around 1500 euros (net) during 3 years, with a possible extra year of financing.

4/ Is it better to apply at the first session? Are the chances and available slots equal for the two sessions?
The probability of acceptance is equal for the two recruitment sessions if your application file is complete. We strongly encourage foreign candidates to apply in March in order to have more time to prepare their stay in France if their application is successful. The admissions committee can decide to postpone until June session the consideration of an application that requires additional information. Applications rejected in April will not be considered in June. However, nothing prevents students from applying for admission the following year if their academic curriculum has improved.

5/ How many seats are available for the Masters programme? What is the average acceptance rate?
APE: Each year we offer approximately 30 seats in the first year of the APE master’s programme and between 15 and 30 for candidates applying for a direct admission into the second year. In 2014, we received 194 applications at M1 level, and 28 admitted students registered; at M2 level, we received 172 applications, and around 30 “external” applicants registered. In the end, one student out of four comes from a foreign institution.

PPD: Each year we offer between 20 and 25 seats in the first year of the PPD master’s programme and around 10 candidates applying for a direct admission into the second year. In 2014, we received 176 applications at M1 level, and 20 admitted students registered; at M2 level, we received 72 applications and 7 students registered. The M2 required entry level is very demanding, notably due to a rigorous and thorough training in quantitative methods (over 100 hours) in M1. In the 2014-15 cohorts (M1 and M2), 27 students were foreign, i.e. 50% of all students, 11 of whom were from a low or middle-income country.

6/ Concretely, how can I apply?
In 2015, the application process is 100% online through www.pse-application.eu. You will be able to create your own “candidates profile”, fill your personal information and upload the requested documents. You will also have the possibility to follow the administrative steps followed by your candidacy once you’ve completed it. Applications must be written in French or English. An official translation of all documents in languages other than French, English, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese or Latin is required. The list of the required documents is available online.

7/ Can I apply to both APE & PPD programmes?
Yes, absolutely. But make sure that you submit online two separate applications!

8/ How can I be sure that my application has been taken into account?
Once you’ve completed and validated your application, you will receive an automatic email of confirmation. Then, on your candidate profile, you will be able to follow the state of your application: in progress, missing files…
9/ Am I eligible for the PSE programmes? What are the prerequisites for M1 entry?

APE:
> An undergraduate degree (e.g. Bachelors) equivalent to the French Licence in economics, mathematics or social sciences.
> Applicants that are unsure as to whether they have the necessary preparation for the M1 program are strongly encouraged to take the following exercises. Applicants who are not able to perform these exercises do not have the necessary level to follow the M1 courses.

PPD:
> An undergraduate degree (e.g. Bachelors) equivalent to the French Licence in economics, mathematics or social sciences.
> The required level of mathematics corresponds to appendices B and C of the book: “Introductory Econometrics” by J. Wooldridge. These include some exercises for candidate’s evaluation.

10/ Is it possible to apply into M2 directly?
All candidates are individually evaluated by the admissions committee. Certain applicants can enter directly the M2 year, if they have already taken and passed coursework that provides a level of preparation equivalent to that of Year 1 of the APE or PPD programmes (microeconomics, macroeconomics, and econometrics). As a result, students who request direct admission into M2 must provide a clear and complete list of their past coursework. The committee can also extend an offer of admission into M1, or ask that the candidate take entry exams in order to enter directly into Year 2.

11/ Why is it necessary to submit a detailed description of past coursework?
Transcripts don’t provide sufficient information as to the content of applicants’ previous coursework in other institutions of higher education. Please provide a detailed description of courses that you have taken. Only chose courses pertinent to your master’s application. If you have gone to engineering school, there is no need to list all of your coursework, only those courses which are relevant to economics. It is useless to photocopy your entire university curriculum brochure; 5 to 10 lines per course are sufficient to explain the concepts and textbook(s) used in class. This information is very important for the evaluators who will have your application in hand as they make an admission decision. Therefore, be clear and precise in your presentation.

12/ What is the process for my letters of recommendation?
Please note that there is no specific format for letters of recommendation: the more personalized and detailed they are, the better we can learn to know the candidate’s skills.
When you fill the information in your online profile, you enter details (name, email) about your referees. They will receive an automatic email with a link allowing them to upload their letter of recommendation. Therefore, inform them about that before confirming their details in your application profile.

13/ After the application is sent, is there an interview?
No. Candidates are admitted exclusively on the basis of their application.

14/ Is there a distance learning option or a night programme?
The APE and PPD are full-time programmes. There is no distance learning option, nor is there a night programme. However, candidates who think they might want or need to take an extra year to complete the master programme can ask for it. In total, only one extra year can be granted over the course of the master (which has to be completed in maximum three years starting from M1 or two years starting from M2). Such extra time will not automatically be granted and if so, it will require agreement over reorganization of the schooling from the programme director.
Candidates who wish to continue working in addition to the master should bear in mind that it will require adjustments in their work schedule approved by their employer. Under no circumstances is it possible to work full-time and complete the master at the same time.
Candidates wishing to take advantage of this option, must state clearly their motivation for such a demand in a dedicated letter.

If you have more questions about the programmes contact the admission office of the APE Master programme - master-ape@psemail.eu or the one of the PPD Master programme – master-ppd@psemail.eu