

regards Croisés



newsletter number 7 - October 2006

École Centrale Paris



RESEARCH



ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES



INTERNATIONAL SCOPE



CORPORATE WORLD



EVENTS



FOCUS

 FRENCH

Research

Hervé Duval received the “Grand Prix Alcan de l’Académie des Sciences”



Academic Programmes

Broadening access, intake and recruitment to the Grandes Ecoles:
Concrete action taken by ECP and its students



International Scope

The international way recruitment process



Corporate World

Make your Trades known to the 1st and 2nd year students



Events

Ecole Centrale Paris, placed n°2 by the magazine 01 Informatique



Focus

The PREMIUM Partnership of Ecole Centrale Paris



FOCUS

The PREMIUM Partnership of Ecole Centrale Paris

The Premium Partner company can participate to the global offer of partnerships proposed by Ecole Centrale Paris to companies and so be directly in touch with all the students of our School through:

- A booth during the “Forum Centrale Entreprises”, another one during the “meetings about a breaking year” and a participation to the “Round Tables about careers” are offered.
- As a member of the “Premium Advisory Club”, the company is also associated to the School’s strategy and its communication (common communications).

In 2006, 7 companies are PREMIUM Partners: Arcelor, Areva, Lehman Brothers, McKinsey&Company, PSA Peugeot Citroën, Safran and Société Générale.

Read more in “FOCUS”

Top of page ▲

 HOME PAGE
 ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES
 INTERNATIONAL SCOPE
 CORPORATE WORLD
 EVENTS
 FOCUS

Hervé Duval received the "Grand Prix Alcan de l'Académie des Sciences"

Hervé Duval received the *Grand Prix Alcan de l'Académie des Sciences*. His research deals with the mathematical modelling of transport phenomena in the metallurgical processes. The 2006 awards ceremony will be held at the Institut de France on Tuesday November 28, 2006.

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Nikos Paragios, Professor at ECP: one of the "TR35" top innovators by MIT'S Technology Review Magazine

Nikos Paragios, an innovator in the field of Biotechnology, is included in the annual 2006 TR35 list, published in new issue of MIT's Technology Review magazine. The list features 35 of the top innovators in science and technology under the age of 35.

Professor Paragios heads a team of ten researchers working on computer vision and medical imaging. Vision is one of biology's most complex processes. He develops mathematical models and software that allows computers to interpret images more accurately, which could improve everything from medical diagnosis to car safety systems.

The Technology Review, the oldest technology magazine in the world, is published by Technology Review, Inc., an independent media company owned by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

► **To know more:** <http://vision.mas.ecp.fr>



Dawning of a new era of partnership between Ecole Centrale Paris, Supélec and Schlumberger

Ground-breaking first agreement signed between Ecole Centrale Paris, Supélec and Schlumberger in the context of cooperative ventures between Schools and Companies associated with research.

Mixed teams comprising researchers from Schlumberger, Supélec and ECP will be set up in order to create the first Innovation Hub. This centre of expertise which is the first of its kind will be based in Clamart and will host researchers from outside the company who will work on joint projects. These teams involving various different experts will therefore collaborate in think-tanks on concepts and projects which may culminate in joint research contracts.

This agreement breaks new ground for Supélec and Ecole Centrale Paris. It should enable both Schools to create additional added value since, unlike a conventional sub-contracting contract, the partner universities remain free to use part of the discoveries in other fields of application.

► **Contact:** Jean-Hubert Schmitt - jean-hubert.schmitt@ecp.fr



Yannick Gourbeyre has been awarded the "young researcher prize"

Yannick Gourbeyre (Ph.D. work on "Electrochemical corrosion behaviour of a duplex coating used to protect buried cast iron pipes - Development of a physical model", successfully completed in 2004) has been awarded the "young researcher prize" from CEFRACOR. This prize was awarded to him on June the 15th (2006) at Ecole de Chimie of Paris.

Currently, he works for Anjou-Recherche, Water Research Department of Veolia Environnement, as project manager. His job deals with the characterisation of materials (metallic or organic) used in drinkable water distribution networks, the determination of their state of ageing, and the relationship between the kind of material and the bacterial growing.

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 HOME PAGE
 RESEARCH
 INTERNATIONAL SCOPE
 CORPORATE WORLD
 EVENTS
 FOCUS

Broadening access, intake and recruitment to the *Grandes Ecoles*: Concrete action taken by ECP and its students

Ecole Centrale Paris has undertaken to set up a programme of positive measures to encourage entry into higher education of young high school students from underprivileged backgrounds in compliance with the Charter signed by the *Conférence des Grandes Ecoles*.

The guiding principles behind our initiative are extremely clear: implementation of a positive concerted action programme with the chosen high schools, spotting of potential talent, identifying and supporting the high school students concerned and providing close individual follow-up (tutoring, sponsorship etc.) throughout three consecutive years from the fourth form to the sixth form.

Academically this involves a triple challenge for these targeted high school students:

- Seeking to nurture and maximize the intellectual potential of these students in the framework of the activities offered;
- Developing and heightening their self-confidence;
- Instilling in them the vital need for putting in a great amount of sustained personal effort.

In partnership with Supélec, we have singled out three high schools in our region, namely Montesquieu (Plessis-Robinson – 94), Emmanuel-Mounier (Châtenay-Malabry – 92) and Plaine de Neauphle (Trappes – 78) with which we are developing these programmes.

The initial phase was launched in January 2006 when three sixth form classes from these high schools visited the laboratories of ECP concentrating on the theme “Energy and Environment”. The visit was organized and supervised by a teacher and a group of ECP engineering students and culminated in a debriefing session in the high schools by the engineering students which provided a further opportunity for discussion with the high school students and professors.

Additional initiatives are being prepared by the students of the project group such as a visit to ECP’s television studios and the screening of recent films followed by discussion and debate.

This initiative which is rooted in the fundamental values of the Ecole Centrale Paris will be promoted by a student association on our campus.

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■ 2006/2007 in numbers

Class 2009: Among the 439 new students in engineering, 345 students have entered Ecole Centrale Paris through the “Centrale-Supélec” Competitive Entrance Examination, 81 have been admitted within the International Cycle (including 1 through the Competitive Examination) and 13 have been admitted through their university results.

Girls are more numerous this year (+ 2%).

There are 115 foreign students from 27 different countries. One guest student is incorporated to this class in order to follow the first year courses.

Class 2008: 524 students including 73 who have been allowed by the Direction of Studies to take a caesura year, in order to perform an internship between the 2nd and the 3rd year.

Class 2007: 425 students among which 268 are still studying at Ecole Centrale Paris in one of the eight areas of concentration and the five optional tracks. 63 students have left abroad in order to get a double degree and one moved in another Ecole Centrale in France. The 93 double degree foreign students have gone back to their university of origin after two years of studies at Ecole Centrale Paris.

Let’s note 10 new guest students in 3rd year, 13 students from the other Intergroupe Ecole Centrale and 22 Masters linked to the optional tracks.

 HOME PAGE
 RESEARCH
 ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES
 CORPORATE WORLD
 EVENTS
 FOCUS

The international way recruitment process

Ecole Centrale Paris recruits its students according three ways: the concours commun, the *concours sur titre* and the international way. In this case the recruitment process is, concerning the work of people of ECP, longer and harder. This recruiting is based on universities' partnerships : T.I.M.E. network of 44 foreign universities and non T.I.M.E. network of 20 others.

The applicants' documents are selected and sent by these partners. Despite of european higher education harmonization, cultural differences are very impressive: one german applicant gets marks between 1 (the best one) and 5, an italian candidate's mark is between 0 and 30, etc. The main cultural difference is the way to give the mark, with a contrast between the french sanctionning mark and the anglo-saxon encouraging mark.

The process of selection of non european students is different. After being selected by our partners, the still in applicants have an audition in their universities with examing boards of professors from the five Ecoles Centrale. The successful candidates are distributed in Intergroupe and are often eligible to Eiffel excellence scholarship from ministry of Foreign Affairs. The necessary documents to compete for this scholarship must be ready before the end of the calendar year, it is therefor necessary to organise the recruitment campaign very early. The recruitment campaign of Promotion 2010 has already begun.

► **Contact:** relations.internationales@ecp.fr

Visit of Sudhir JAIN (Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur) and Anoop TANDON (Air Liquide), September 11, 2006

A very positive day. Our guests were positively impressed by the fact that we all speak about quality of the possible exchanges, with respect to training and research. Pr. Jain became well aware of the international dimension of the T.I.M.E. network around the ECP. The visit of laboratories helped our guests to target possible collaborations. Several types of actions are considered, the simpler being considered first. It was clearly announced from both sides that agreements should be officialised in India in February by the Director of the ECP.

Exchanges of students for an "end of the year" internship (10 weeks): This procedure should begin in 2007, and concerns students at the end of the 1st or 2nd year on our side, and students at the end of 3rd or 4th year on the Indian side (equivalent level of education). First, three or four students would be concerned in each establishment. It thus should be quickly announced to the students, so that they make contacts, search for the bibliography, and that one can examine on both sides the interest of their project.

Exchanges of Professors - Researchers: This is an essential step, enabling to establish relations based on reciprocal confidence, and to appreciate the common points and differences in training and research. One should focus on one month visits from both sides, preparing for research and mixed training programs.

In conclusion, we must quickly take contacts with students likely to be interested, to list fields allowing for effective short internships, and facilitating the exchanges between people of the two institutions. As a next step, we also plan a semester exchange of students, with credit transfer, which should naturally open towards a double diploma strategy.

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Sébastien Ducruix (EM2C) - sebastien.ducruix@ecp.fr

■ Ecole Centrale of Beijing first day of term

The 116 new students of the second year of Ecole Centrale of Beijing have entered the school on September 16th. The profile of the class appears to be as excellent as the preceding one: the average grade at GaoKao is higher than the average grade of the students who entered Beijing University (Beida).

104 out of 107 of the first year students have fulfilled the requirements to successfully enter the second year. Most of them have obtained excellent results (average grade higher than 75/100). They have started to follow in French the Maths and Physics courses of "Mathématiques supérieures". The new Director Jean Dorey (former Director of Ecole Centrale de Lyon) has made his first visit to Beijing during the School opening. He will be full time in Beijing from the beginning of October.

The Ecole Centrale of Beijing business club has now three founding members in addition to the French ministries and the BRU foundation: SNECMA, EDF and ARCELOR.

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	HOME PAGE
	RESEARCH
	ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES
	INTERNATIONAL SCOPE
	EVENTS
	FOCUS

Make your Trades known to the 1st and 2nd year students

Round Tables on "trades" concerning more particularly the 2nd year students but, also opened to the 1st year students, are included in the teaching programmes and are managed by teachers. They are necessary to help students to better know their future trade and so, to choose their final year area of concentration and professional track by exchanging with engineers talking on their career.

The themes in 2006-2007*:

- Consulting and Audit: 25 October 2006
- Production: 20 November 2006
- Finance & insurance: 1st December 2006
- Big projects and civil engineering: 15 December 2006
- Aeronautics-vehicles: 19 January 2007
- R&D in company: 15 February 2007

On a waiting list: NTIC and Supply Chain

*Be careful: some Round Tables are already full (limited places).

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In a few words

■ Forward your offers of training courses and jobs

YOUR TRAINING COURSES OFFERS

Operator training:

At least 6 weeks at the end of the 1st year
(from 2007/06/18 to 2007/09/07)

Internship Abroad:

At least 6 weeks at the end of the 2nd year
(from 2007/06/18 to 2007/08/31)

Final internship:

6 months at the end of the 3rd year
(from 2007/04/23 to 2007/11/16)

Contact:

The Office of the Training in Companies:
de-bfe-stages@ecp.fr

YOUR JOB OFFERS

Contact:

Association des Centraliens,
Service Carrières & Emploi
carrieres@centraliens.net



Integration Cycle for the incoming students

The Integration Cycle of the incoming students is part of the educational project of Ecole Centrale Paris. As soon as they arrive on the campus, the incoming students discover the industrial world (by visiting sites) and engineering professions.

During this programme: on October 4th, a round table with young qualified engineers who talk over their studies at Centrale and their first professional experience: Mathieu GENTIL (ECP 05), Gabriella HASSELSTROM (ECP 05), Aurélien LUGARDON (ECP 04), Nicolas SERISE (ECP 04), Aude SCHINDLER (ECP 04).

Sophie ZURQUIYAH-ROUSSET (ECP 89), Human Ressources Director at SCHLUMBERGER Oilfield Services, gave the first lecture on September 12, François MAZON (ECP 81), General Manager of STERIA, will close this Integration Cycle with a lecture on November 21st.

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Forum Centrale Entreprises

The 2006 Edition will take place on November 28 and 29, 2006; 140 companies and about 20 foreign universities will be present at this event. Many sectors of activities will be represented: finance, civil engineering, consulting and audit, vehicles industry or telecommunications.

For this occasion, students and young graduates will consider the wealth of opportunities that are offered for their future career. During this event: lectures about aeronautics and start-up. To let them know, some foreign universities will give a lecture to the students and T.I.M.E. double diploma graduate engineers will talk over their academic and professional experiences.

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HOME PAGE
RESEARCH
ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES
INTERNATIONAL SCOPE
CORPORATE WORLD
FOCUS

The 2nd Trophy of "Innovation and Sustainable Development"

September 20th, the 2nd Trophy of "Innovation and Sustainable Development" was presented to students in ECP (5 p.m., amphi 3). It consists in a competition between 3rd year students of 3 french high schools: ESCP-EAP, INAPG and ECP, working during their cursus on a project related to this topic.

This action corresponds to the strong collaboration developed by these 3 high schools on sustainable development through their support to CHEE&DD. Candidates have to apply before October 23th.

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► **To know more:** www.ecp.fr

Philippe Santini, CEO of Tests and Hervé Biaisser, Director of Ecole Centrale Paris, Tehnologia award ceremony.



Ecole Centrale Paris, placed n°2 by the magazine 01 Informatique

In partnership with the magazine 01 Informatique, the survey institute IFOP made interviews with 500 human resources directors about the criteria they appreciate in the engineers schools and among their graduates: knowledge of the company world by the graduates, adequacy between technical training and general education, linguistic level, adaptability and autonomy.

Among the 40 engineers schools which have been selected, Ecole Centrale Paris has been placed n°2.

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16th International Conference on Engineering Design

The 16th International Conference on Engineering Design (ICED'07) will be held in Paris, France, from 28th to 31st August 2007. The subject of this 16th edition is: Design for Society, Knowledge, Innovation and Sustainability.

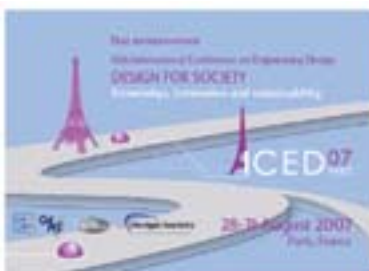
This conference is organized by the Design Society, with the support of AIP-PRIMECA (a consortium of major French networks of engineering schools and universities) and GDR-MACS (a French research network in industrial engineering, control theory and computer sciences).

Continuing the tradition established by previous conferences, ICED'07 will be a high point for exchanges between researchers and industrial partners on key questions concerning engineering design.

The conference aims to offer a discussion platform on new trends, developments and research findings in the areas of new product development, design support techniques, design processes, design science and design education.

The laboratory Industrial engineering of the Central School Paris participates in this organization and would like to take advantage of this occasion to show the wealth of the French industrial research. We thus hope for a very strong participation of the departments of research for the French industries.

► **To know more:** www.iced07.org



ECP: 7th at the European Academic tournament of rowing.

The ECP team of rowing arrived on 7th position at the European academic championship (last 1st and 2nd September in Brives-la-Gaillarde). The 8 man rowing team qualified last May following its performance at the French Championship (4th in 8 man, and Champion of French Grandes Ecoles).

In a beautiful landscape, the ECP students faced high level British, German, Spanish, ... teams. Ranked in the 10 best teams, the engineer students showed that scientific qualifications and high international level sport can go along together!

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ECP debating club

Debating is a game about eloquence in English in the British parliamentary style. It consists in a debate on a "motion", a fictive law proposal. The players speak one by one, alternate between "government" and "opposition" to rebut opponents and convince the "house" and especially the judges of the cogency of their position.

They have to make a great speech with a solid argumentation as well as use a nice rhetoric, and often humour too.

Debating is a widespread traditional activity in Anglo-Saxon Universities. It is acknowledged to develop speaking and negotiating abilities, to make people at ease in front of an assembly and to master spoken English. Many famous politicians in United States and British Isles were initially great debaters.

The growing importance of our yearly tournament makes us prepare an even greater event this year, in cooperation with several other Grandes Ecoles in the Paris region. More than a hundred participants and judges from Germany, Netherlands and probably United Kingdom should come too.

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	HOME PAGE
	RESEARCH
	ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES
	INTERNATIONAL SCOPE
	CORPORATE WORLD
	EVENTS

The PREMIUM Partnership of Ecole Centrale Paris

(following the first page)

Why did they choose to be PREMIUM Partners ?

Arcelor

Through the Premium Partnership, Arcelor wishes to demonstrate and confirm its support to the high scientific level and multi-disciplinary training of Ecole Centrale Paris.

Henceforth, we are looking for engineers who will use their ability of leadership in a professional environment opened to the international competition. Your scientific and human values will be essential in building your career in our Group.



*Bénédicte Loriaux
Plateforme Recrutement – Mobilité interne
Relations Enseignement supérieur*

Areva

Just as AREVA Group is looking for talented engineers to recruit them in France and abroad, we have been proposed to become a Premium Partner of Ecole Centrale Paris. The diversity of our professional activities and business fields, the ever higher level of technologies used, the complexity and internationalization of our industrial, economical and social commitments, impose a closer and trustful partnership than before.

The Premium Partnership is a new way of cooperation between Ecole Centrale Paris and an industrial group. We give our commitment to it with enthusiasm.



*Henry Dufourmantelle
Corporate Campus
Management
Director*

Lehman Brothers

Lehman Brothers, an innovator and leader in global finance, is delighted to be part of the Premium Partnership Programme at Ecole Centrale.

This demonstrates our commitment to attract and retain the brightest individuals in our business and our willingness to encourage and sponsor students in building their careers in the financial sector.

This partnership also highlights our continuing investment in the community and our support of educational institutions which foster the growth of future generations."

*Ellen Miller
Managing Director
Head of European
Graduate Recruitment and
Development*



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	HOME PAGE
	RESEARCH
	ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES
	INTERNATIONAL SCOPE
	CORPORATE WORLD
	EVENTS

The PREMIUM Partnership of Ecole Centrale Paris

(following the previous page)

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McKinsey&Company

McKinsey becomes a Premium Partner of the Ecole Centrale Paris. By becoming a Premium Partner, McKinsey* continues and develops its long time commitment to Ecole Centrale Paris. The objective is two-fold: on one hand, to contribute to enriching education at Centrale by bringing our first hand experience in working for large corporations, our clients; on the other hand, to allow students to discover the work we are passionate about – management consulting – because we are constantly faced with complex problems and a multitude of different situations for which we must find and create solutions, whether it involves strategy, organization or operational efficiency.

*McKinsey is the leader in management consulting: over 7000 consultants worldwide, 4500 projects every year in 88 offices in 50 countries, 150 million Euros invested in research & development every year

Thomas London
Directeur Associé



Safran

As part of its politic concerning the schools partnerships, Safran Group wishes to commit itself in the Premium Partnership in order to increase, on a long-term, its privileged relationship with Ecole Centrale Paris.

The educational project of Ecole Centrale Paris which integrates a higher quality education, particularly adapted to our professions and which encourages the personal development, ability to take initiative, ability to work in a group, international and multicultural outlook is in perfect accordance with the Safran Group values.



Nelly Bertrand
Responsable des relations et des partenariats avec les écoles

PSA Peugeot Citroën

The politic of PSA Peugeot Citroën school relationships emphasizes dynamical and international minded structures as Ecole Centrale Paris.

The Premium Partnership responds to our request for an over-all association which considers globally the cooperation between a high engineering school and PSA Peugeot Citroën.

It's a long time partnership, but with Premium it is more obvious..

Marie de Saint-Blancard
Recrutement & Relations Enseignement supérieur



Société Générale

Since the creation in 1990 of the companies partnership club at Ecole Centrale Paris, the Société Générale has never stopped supporting it. Since then, the Société Générale Group has been a partner of various 3rd year areas of concentration and professional tracks.

In 2005, our company has been much attracted by the Premium Partnership project as it allows us to participate more closely to the school strategy via the Premium Advisory Club and to have access to the research. We were first member of this privileged club and so it allows us to reinforce our relationships with all the Centraliens.

Isabelle Léger
Responsable Partenariats Ecoles

