

SciencesPo

# LAW SCHOOL



Sciences Po Law School opened its doors in September 2009. Since then, the School has been training outstanding jurists, who are also taught how to constantly adapt and improve their skills in an ever-evolving professional environment.

The Law School is the only in France to offer a two-year legal degree to graduate students without prior legal education or training.

Our project is as follows:

- ▶ Train our students with an interactive pedagogical approach, suitable to cultivate their critical thinking and creativity, while offering them the opportunity to undertake long-term internships and visiting stays in foreign universities;
- ▶ Prepare our students to pass the Bar exam, but also join the legal departments of large business undertakings, regulatory authorities in the economic sector, human rights organisations, the judiciary or the academia;
- ▶ Offer our students the opportunity to join a Doctoral Program that, by relying on a network of international excellence, fosters research in the fields of economic law, globalisation, shifts in government action, or the theories of law and justice.

We hope that you will share our enthusiasm for this pedagogical project unique in France and for the development of a legal research open to the world.

### **Christophe JAMIN**

*Dean of Sciences Po Law School*

**Law is one of the five fundamental disciplines at the basis of Sciences Po's educational project, together with political science, sociology, history and economics. The Law School offers four courses: two degrees in "Judicial and legal professions" and "Economic Law", and a Doctoral Program.**

## **OUR STUDENTS**

The Law School enrolls students stemming from highly varied backgrounds. There is a double diversity at play, as the members of our student body come from diverse academic and geographic horizons. Indeed, since no prior legal education is required, the Law School welcomes a variety of academic profiles: engineering, arts, history, sociology, science students, etc. On top of this academic diversity, our students also followed diverse academic routes and curricula: they studied either with Science Po's Undergraduate College, or with another school or university in France or another country. 40% of the Law School's students now hail from abroad.

The diversity of the student body is a crucial component of the quality of the formation provided in the Law School's Master's degrees. On the basis of their previous degrees and professional and personal experiences, all students are invited to share their thoughts, thereby fostering and enriching discussions in the classroom.



### **STÉPHANE PUEL** **lawyer, Gide**

*Gide is a privileged partner of the Law School*

"Gide decided to contribute to the development of this school of excellence from its opening in 2008. We decided this year to renew our partnership with the Law School ... The international profiles of the students, as well as the quality of the courses provided by the Law School, prepare them to become exceptional interns, and then in turn exceptional associates."



## CAREERS

Following their training at the Law School, our students, holders of Sciences Po's Master diploma, are crucial participants in the legal world. Some of them enter the Bar School or the National School for the Judiciary. More than half of them join the best law firms (Gide and Clifford Chance, etc.), whose trust in our students is illustrated in the scholarships, internships and traineeships they offer.

Others join the business world, regulatory authorities, NGOs or international organisations.

To all of them, the Law School provides at every moment of their training a personalised support in building their professional project, through individual interviews with the Master's degrees' academic advisors and frequent meetings with practitioners and professionals.

The "Legal Profession Fair" organised every year for the Law School's students represents an essential step as well as a unique opportunity for direct exchanges with practitioners. The Fair allows our students to better identify the needs of their future hirers and represents a key step for the recent graduates in their job search.

## THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY

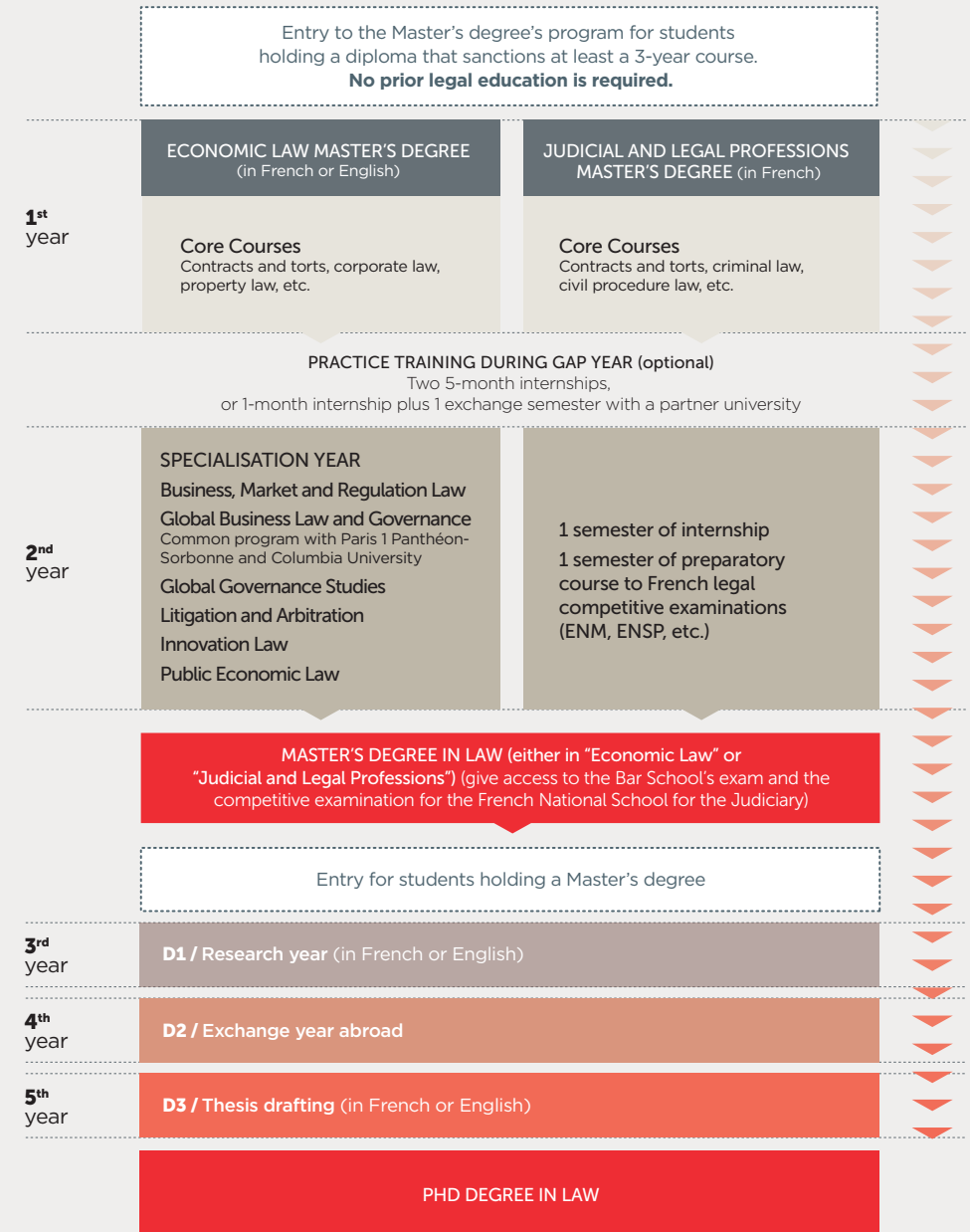
From its creation, the Law School has been engaged in a dynamic policy of recruiting world-renowned professors, specialists in their fields, but also open to its interdisciplinary aspects. The Law School's Faculty is now composed of permanent professors, associated and visiting professors stemming from several continents and diverse legal traditions. All of them are engaged in both teaching and research at the Law School.

To this Faculty are added more than 270 lecturers, outstanding practitioners who convey not only the knowledge essential to legal practice in their respective field, but also share with their students a part of their own professional experience.

This significant and diverse academic community provides our students with a high supervision rate, unique at Sciences Po. It also offers, for those interested in legal research, the opportunity to benefit from the attentive supervision of a professor in the development of their research project and the drafting of their research memorial in their 2nd year of Master's.

## THE COURSES

The Law School grants a **"Economic Law"** or **"Judicial and Legal Professions"** Master diploma, and includes a **Doctoral Program**.







## JEAN-PIERRE GRANDJEAN Lawyer, Clifford Chance

*Clifford Chance is a privileged partner of the Law School*

“Practicing business law today requires, beyond the technical knowledge, a solid understanding of economics, high abilities of adaption and reasoning, and an openness to the world. By forming its students in this mould, Sciences Po’s Law School responds perfectly to the needs of the business world, and of the law firms that advise it.”

## A formation suited to the professional world

### AN INTERACTIVE AND CROSS-DISCIPLINARY TEACHING METHOD

The focus on **small-group teaching** facilitates the conversations between the students. It helps them **build their own strategic thinking** on the basis of problems and issues approached in a comprehensive manner, and not as seen from the limited point of view of a specific legal field. This teaching method also allows the students to master the core legal concepts, as well as the ways and methods of reasoning and of arguing.

During their internships, and then during their professional careers, our students will need to demonstrate innovative thinking and resourcefulness, two abilities that will be crucial to answer efficiently the issues presented to them. With this end in mind, **teaching at the Law School is cross-disciplinary** and stresses the interdisciplinary dimension of the law.

### TEAM WORK

Team work is highly encouraged, especially as it takes place in diverse projects supported by the Law School: the activities of Sciences Po’s Jurists Association (AJSP), the various moot court competitions (Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition, Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot, Frankfurt investment arbitration Moot, Latin-American moot), or the activities of the Law School’s Clinic Program. These projects are another occasion for useful meetings between students and professionals, and allow the former to adjust their formation in line with their professional project.

## A formation of a high international character

The Law School’s curricula are fully internationalised, which is critical in a globalised world. The courses include not only many classes taught in English but also a full-fledge English Track, from the 1<sup>st</sup> year of Master’s degree to the final PhD year, partly taught by visiting professors.

At the end of their course, students from the Law School are able to navigate on the international plane, and speak English fluently if not also, as is often the case, a third language.

## The Doctoral Program

The Law School’s Doctoral Program offers an **outstanding curriculum** to students who wish to pursue a legal academic career. It is **deliberately open to a very limited number of students**. Every student is provided with funding, excellent working conditions, and is supported by a committee of professors. The program encourages international mobility and relies on a dense network of **partner institutions**. The formation provided relies on the knowledge of techniques, concepts, and fundamental modes of legal reasoning; on **the rigorous and critical** approach to the tools used to theorize law; on the adoption of a **comparative and global point of view** on legal objects.

## Sciences Po

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## KATJA LANGENBUCHER Professor at Goethe Universität and associated Professor at Sciences Po

“Law is most of the time European law, even when it pretends to be only ‘national law.’ A practitioner must then be able to master reasoning methods that differ between legal systems. The internationalisation of legal education is therefore vital.”

