

White Rose University Consortium: College of Arts and Humanities

Arts and Humanities Research Culture in France

Dissemination

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Conferences

The following website – [Calenda](#) – is a database of upcoming conferences, workshops and lectures in the arts and humanities and social sciences. Apart from highlighting the key events, the website allows users to search through the information according to specific criteria, for example, workshops, calls for papers, both in France and worldwide. By clicking on ‘lieux’, then ‘Europe’, and then ‘France’ it is possible to restrict the search to the events taking place in France.

[CNRS](#) (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique) also advertises forthcoming events on one of its pages. The website, however, only advertises selected conferences.

In addition, [Conference Alerts](#) and [H-Net](#) are international conference databases providing information on forthcoming conferences in France.

PhD students in France are highly encouraged to present their research at both national and international conferences. Some universities even require conference participation. The PhD guide published by the Ministry of Education does not specify any requirements regarding conference participation; however, it emphasises the importance of publications and the significance of research impact. [[Source](#)]

Pro-active contribution to university research is highly encouraged during the PhD, yet there seems to be no standard or official requirement regarding the organisation of workshops and conferences.

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Presenting and Publishing Research

Presentations

Presentations are an integral part of research and teaching at PhD level and, although there seems to be no standardized guide for oral presentations in the humanities, the University of Montpellier

has created an [essential guide to presentations](#) which may prove helpful. While its focus is on the sciences, of the tips are general and can be applied to other disciplines.

Presentation skills are usually taught at most universities as part of general research methods courses, which are offered as part of the required doctoral curriculum.

Departmental seminars

Each Doctoral Department offers a wide choice of seminars and workshops, obligatory and not obligatory, and encourages PhD students to participate in them. Some Doctoral Departments require their students to attend an agreed number of seminars (see programme requirements), especially in the first and second years of the PhD.

Conferences and workshops

Many conferences take place across France throughout the year (see Conferences); they are open to postgraduate research students and PhD students are strongly encouraged to participate. Many universities also encourage students to organise small workshops and conferences which correspond to the research axes of the Doctoral Department or Research group in which they are based. With regard to larger events, some universities (for example, Paris Sorbonne) require that a senior member of staff supervises and assists with the organisation. Funding is usually available from the research centres or departments, UFR (Unité de Formation et de Recherche), that help to organise the conference. Another possibility is to organise a *journée d'étude* (study day) which is a university based event and usually does not require the participation of external speakers.

Written publications

The PhD guide published by the Ministry of Education emphasises the importance of publications and the significance of research impact. In section five, 'Publication and Promotion of the Thesis', the guide states: 'The quality and impact of the thesis can be measured according to the publications, patents, and reports which are part of the thesis or the effect of research conducted for it. The articles can either be a part of the thesis or be written during or after the preparation of the draft version. The PhD student must appear among the list of co-authors in case of a co-authored publication.' [\[Source\]](#)

Although English is becoming increasingly dominant in academia, there are still many opportunities to publish and present research in French, not only in France but also in Canada, Switzerland, and Belgium. There are also many journals in which research can be published and potentially reach a diverse target audience.

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Publication of PhDs

Electronically

Each PhD has to be submitted electronically and can later be accessed online through one of the central databases.

- [ANRT](#): Atelier National de Reproduction des Thèses (National workshop for the reproduction of dissertations)
- [ATIEF](#): Association des Technologies de l'Information pour l'Education et la Formation (Association of information technologies for education and training)
- [Cither, INSA de Lyon](#): Service Commun de la Documentation Doc'INSA (Communal Documentation Service): <http://docinsa.insa-lyon.fr>
- [Cyberthèses](#)
- ENSSIB, Online works by students of the École Nationale Supérieure des Sciences de l'Information et des Bibliothèques (National Academy of Library and Information Science) - <http://www.enssib.fr/bibliotheque-numerique/>
- [FCT](#): Fichier Central de Thèses (Central Dissertation Database)
- [SUDOC](#): Système Universitaire de Documentation - Agence bibliographique de l'enseignement supérieur Supérieur (Higher Education Documentation System)

Students may also possible publish their PhD research in the open, interdisciplinary database called [HAL](#) . It is coordinated by the [CNRS's CCSD](#) Centre pour la Communication Scientifique Directe (Centre for Direct Scientific Communication). Currently it hosts 218133 articles.

A dedicated website – [Héloïse](#) - provides all the necessary information and legislative regulations regarding the publishing of scientific articles. It also allows users to search a [directory of academic journals and publishers](#). As of March 2013 the website lists 32 editors (some of them based in French-speaking Belgium and Switzerland). Among them are big publishing houses like Éditions La Découverte or Presses Universitaires de France and more specialised, discipline-specific, publishers like Institut Français d'Etudes Andines.

University-based publishing house

The main academic publishing house is the [Presses Universitaires de France](#). Apart from publishing high-quality research as well as seminal works, for example by Kant, Hegel or Freud, the PUF also publishes a number of [scientific journals and periodicals](#).

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Knowledge Transfer Activities

Students are expected to attend conferences both within the university and outside academia. Many universities organise the so called *Journées Doctorales* (Doctoral Days), which are one day events aimed at postgraduate research students and the promotion of their research across the university. They can be compared to Postgraduate Research Days organised at many of the UK universities. There are also a number of inter-university and international themed workshops and conferences organised by the different doctoral departments and open to students from France and abroad. These are called *recontres doctorales* (Doctoal Meetings) and can be one day long or

spread over a few days; they consist of both conference panels and discipline-related workshops. An example is *Recontres annuelles internationales des doctorants en études byzantines* (Annual International Meeting of the PhD Students in Byzantine Studies) organised by the École Pratique des Hautes Études in Paris.

Opportunities for collaboration outside academia

French universities, like higher education institutions in other European countries, are undergoing a long-term process of reorganisation and restructuring of research and they emphasise the need for increased collaboration between universities and the private business sector. Within the sciences there are already many collaborative degrees and projects at both the Master's and PhD level and a number of possible exchange placements within industry. In humanities, however, fewer collaborative projects appear to be available at the Master's and PhD level, and recently universities in France, as well as elsewhere in Europe, have been pushing for increased collaboration between universities and the private sector. L'Université de Bordeaux, for example, has established a special initiative called *Doctorants-conseil*, which aims to promote collaboration between the university and the business sector by setting up employment schemes for PhD students. [[Source](#)]

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Glossary

JO - (Journal officiel), official journal or publication

JOEL - (Journal officiel électronique), electronic/online official journal or publication

Rédaction - It has three basic meanings. Firstly, it can refer to the act of writing itself. Secondly, it can refer to a written essay. Finally, it can describe an editorial staff, and by extension the act of *réviser* (editing) as well. It is consequently used in a wide variety of contexts, for instance from *rédaction publicitaire* which refers to copywriting to *rédaction d'actes* which refers to the drafting of legal documents.

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Presentations

[University of Montpellier](#), an essential guide to presentations

Publication

[ANRT](#) (Atelier National de Reproduction des Thèses), National workshop for the reproduction of dissertations

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