

L'ÉCOLE NORMALE SUPÉRIEURE-PSL

Founded in 1794, the École normale supérieure, a member of PSL University, is a higher education and research establishment that recruits the most talented students in France and abroad by competitive examination. An elite institution, whose activities cover most scientific and literary disciplines, ENS-PSL enjoys great international prestige, not only for the quality of its students but also for the reputation of its research centres, including 30 joint research units.

Located in the heart of Paris and ranked among the world's top 50 universities, ENS-PSL brings together all areas of knowledge, innovation and creativity, training researchers, engineers, artists, entrepreneurs and managers who are aware of their individual and collective social responsibility.

ENS-PSL pursues a dynamic policy in terms of quality of life at work, professional equality and ecological and social transition, offering an enriching working environment conducive to professional development and fulfilment.

Recruits a

Cyber post-doc / CIENS

Department or service: Centre Interdisciplinaire sur les Enjeux Stratégiques (CIENS, www.ciens.ens.psl.eu).

Category/Body: Researcher

MAIN MISSION

With a PhD in Human and Social Sciences (law, philosophy, political science, strategic studies, contemporary history, geography, economics, science, technology and society, international relations, sociology) **or in Computer Science and Digital Science** (with a focus on digital public policy), the subject of which will be related to computer security, cybersecurity and/or cyberdefence, the researcher will be recruited by the École normale supérieure / Paris Sciences et Lettres (www.ens.fr) and affiliated to the Centre Interdisciplinaire sur les Enjeux Stratégiques (CIENS, www.ciens.ens.psl.eu).

The researcher will conduct **research on issues relating to cybersecurity and/or cyberdefence**, in line with the research themes developed by CIENS ('Europe and nuclear deterrence');

‘Strategic knowledge: between academia and expertise’; ‘New areas of conflictuality’ [here in full](#)), in particular Axis III.

WORKING ENVIRONMENT AND CONTEXT (structure hosting the post)

CIENS is a teaching and research platform devoted to nuclear defence and strategic issues in the broadest sense, with an interdisciplinary approach. It is run by a strengthened team of teacher-researchers and 1 project manager, and works in cooperation with associate researchers and experts, as well as external practitioners specialising in strategic issues.

The ambition of CIENS is to study inter-state power relations and the various forms of conflict between powers, always with a view to the possibility of a rise to extremes, in other words the nuclear confrontation that deterrence is designed to avoid. CIENS research has three main strands (available in PDF format at this [link](#)):

1. a reflection on the relationship between Europe and nuclear deterrence, against the backdrop of the question of European strategic autonomy;
2. an analysis of the status of strategic knowledge, between academia and expertise, involving a reflexive approach to what the CIENS is trying to do at the junction of these two worlds;
3. finally, work on the emergence of new areas of conflict, with a particular focus on the cyber dimension.

CIENS' research activities are carried out in cooperation with renowned international partners.

The CIENS courses are taught as part of the ENS diploma and are structured into an International Relations and Contemporary Strategic Issues minor, which aims to offer a multidisciplinary approach to the political and strategic dimension of international relations, including both introductory and more in-depth courses, enabling students to familiarise themselves with strategic issues in the broadest sense - nuclear deterrence, cyber defence, arms control and disarmament, strategic thinking, outer space, information warfare and AI, etc. - while benefiting from the dual expertise of the ENS and CIENS. -The work of CIENS is part of a broader approach to strategic issues, which includes nuclear deterrence, cyber defence, arms control and disarmament, strategic thinking, outer space, information warfare and AI.

The work of the CIENS is part of an original partnership between the ENS and three institutional players, the Commissariat à l'Énergie Atomique et aux Énergies Alternatives (CEA), the Ministère des Armées (DGRIS), and the Agence nationale de la sécurité des systèmes d'information (ANSSI), which contribute to the funding of the CIENS' activities, in order to contribute to the development of excellent, independent and internationally recognised scientific research in the fields of defence and security issues.

The post-doc will be housed in the CIENS offices on the 45 rue d'Ulm campus of ENS-PSL. For a fuller presentation of CIENS <https://ciens.ens.psl.eu/>

RESEARCH RESPONSIBILITIES

- Leading a research project on issues of cybersecurity and cyberdefence, linking this ‘new’ area of strategic confrontation to the more traditional areas of power relations and in line with the research themes developed by CIENS;
- Organising events and seminars to enable the various communities interested in cyber security to think together and create a junction between different fields of analysis concerned with cyber (conflict studies, strategic studies, IR, law, AI, etc.);
- Write articles and contribute to scientific journals or collective works;
- Lead collective research projects within the CIENS and the ENS;
- Present research results regularly at CIENS seminars and study days, or at international conferences and symposia;
- Contribute to the drafting of applications for funding for the research activities of the CIENS team.

TEACHING SUPPORT RESPONSIBILITIES

- Contributing to introductory teaching on cyber, based on the most recent research findings in the field, and organising a PSL-Week dedicated to cyber security;
- Participate in the organisation and design of CIENS teaching activities (courses, seminars, PSL-Weeks);
- Help liaise with CIENS partners for shared courses (INALCO, Paris 1 Sorbonne, Paris 2 Assas, Dauphine, etc.).

RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE ADMINISTRATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE CENTRE :

Certain administrative and logistical tasks may be requested on an ad hoc basis, depending on the needs of the CIENS:

- Promoting the CIENS within the ENS (presentation during the Department's back-to-school meetings, making contact with the other Departments, regular communication on the School's media, participation in the School's events, etc.);
- Liaise with the ENS departments;
- Participate in the administrative and logistical management of the Centre and its activities in conjunction with the ENS central services.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE CANDIDATE'S PROFILE :

- proficiency in English (enabling you to teach in this language), and/or other languages, will be valued;
- experience in data analysis using statistical software (e.g. SPSS, R, Stata, etc.) or in the use of computational social science methods will also be an advantage.

OTHER INFORMATION

Position to be filled on : NOVEMBER 2025

Place of work: 45 rue d'Ulm / ENS

Working time (50% or more) :

- Type: 12-month fixed-term contract, renewable
- Quota : 100%
- Start date: NOVEMBER 2025

Position open to :

- **permanent civil servants**
- **contract staff** (1-year fixed-term contract)

Salary (depending on experience): INM 594 minimum = €3012 gross per month
ENS-PSL is a disabled-friendly establishment and is committed to diversity.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications must be submitted by 12 SEPTEMBER 2025 at the latest.

Documents to be provided:

- Research project (4 pages maximum)
- Letter of motivation
- Curriculum vitae (including a list of publications)
- Thesis defence report

Applications should be sent as a single PDF file by email to frederic.gloriant@ens.psl.eu (CIENS director) and stephanie.braquehais@ens.psl.eu (project manager).

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to a **face-to-face interview**.

Non-discrimination, openness and transparency

The member institutions of PSL University are committed to supporting and promoting equality, diversity and inclusion within its communities. We encourage applications from a variety of backgrounds, which we will select through an open and transparent recruitment process.