

Caltech
FASA Office
Fellowships Advising & Study Abroad

ÉCOLE POLYTECHNIQUE

Info Session



LOCATION HISTORY

- Located in Palaiseau, France
- Just about a 45 minute train ride to Paris, France
- Founded in 1794 during the French Revolution
- Originally built in the Latin Quarter of Central Paris, moved to Palaiseau in 1976
- In 1805 Napoléon Bonaparte transformed the school into a military institution (still honors military beginnings today)
- Currently have 2,800 students and 680 Faculity members



WHAT ARE THE GRANDES ECOLES?

The grandes écoles are the top tier of French Universities(literally in French "higher schools"). These are Frances higher education establishments outside the main framework of the French university system. The grandes écoles select students for admission based chiefly on national ranking in competitive written and oral exams. In contrast, French public universities have a legal obligation to accept all candidates of the region who hold a baccalauréat.

Ecole Polytechinique ranked 1st or 2nd

École Polytechnique
SCHOLARS PROGRAM

- Minimum 3.3 Cumulative GPA Required
- Open to current sophomore or junior
- Sophomores who apply must have taken a good amount of option classes to qualify for Year 3 classes
- Study abroad during Fall term
- NO French language requirement needed
- Most classes are taught in English
- 14-week term (Early Sept. - to mid December)



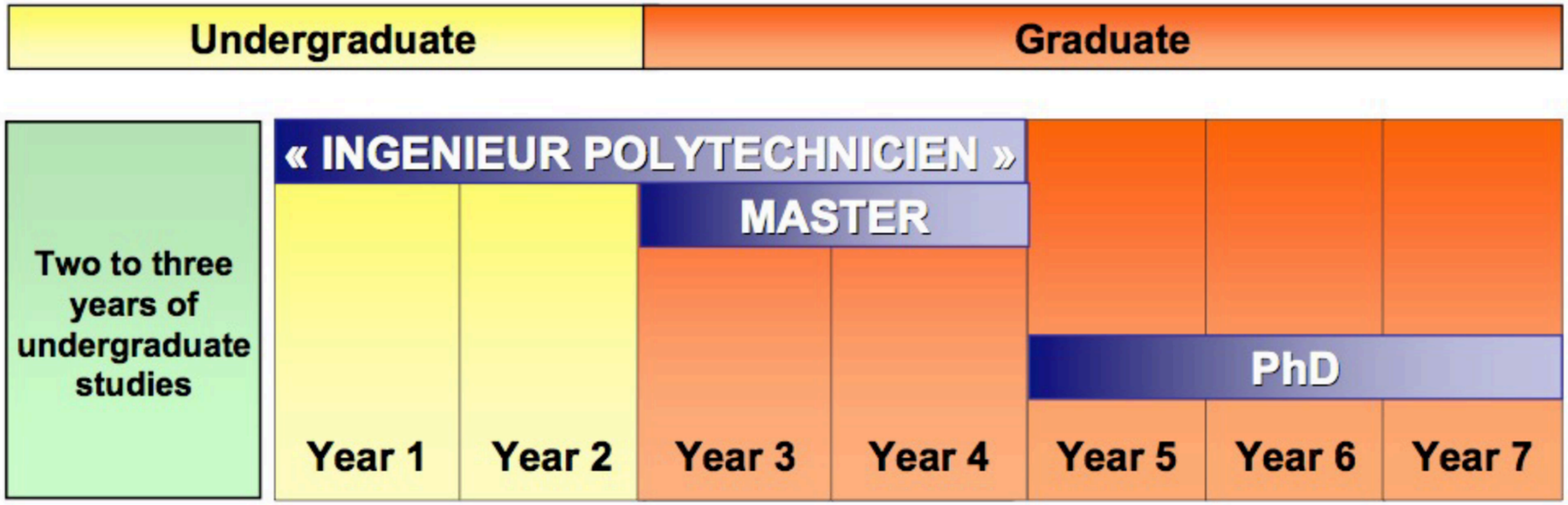


- Students take classes only from Year 3 (courses numbered in the 500 range) and must have background knowlege to qualify
- Students take 4 classes in their Programme d'Approfondissement (option) + a possible humanities/language class

CLASSES/ACADEMICS

- Year 3 classes are typically equivalent to senior year or first year graduate student level
- Students should not assume Year 3 classes are equal to junior year classes at Caltech
- **If a student would like to go as a junior, they must demonstrate adequate preparation for the higher-level course by the end of sophomore year**

Education



>	« Ingénieur Polytechnicien »	2,000 students	20% international
>	Master Program	250 students	50% international
>	PhD Program	500 students	35% international

ÉCOLE POLYTECHNIQUE ParisTech





École Polytechnique

ACADEMIC TRACKS

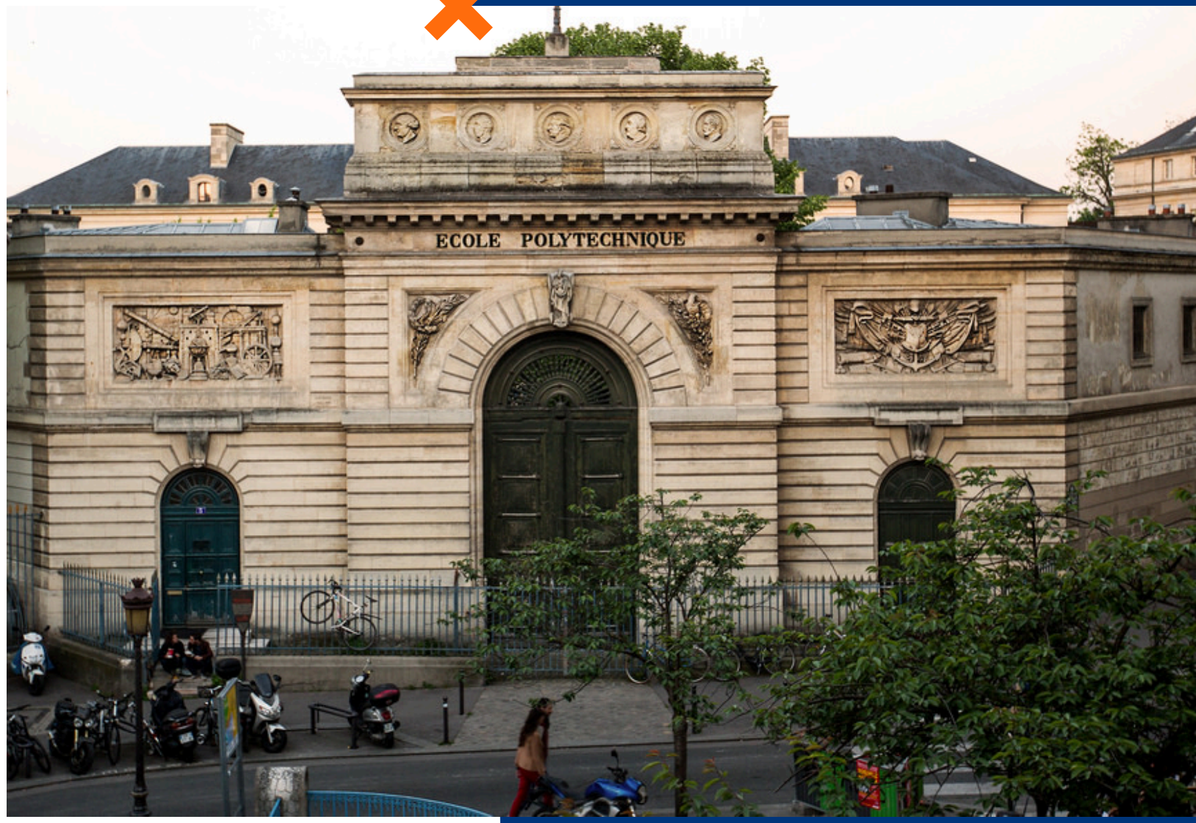
CHOOSE ONE FROM BELOW:

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Economics
- Electrical Engineering
- Energy
- Computer Science
- Mechanical Engineering
- Astrophysics
- Mathematics
- Applied Mathematics
- Mechanics
- Physics
- Science & Space Challenges
- Science for the Challenges of the Environment (GPS)

ACADEMICS CONTINUED

- Students will meet with professor in charge of specialization to discuss courses and possible changes on first day
- Courses are on block schedule and meet once per week around 4-5 hours
- HSS courses are around 2 hours each week
- Final exams are the last two weeks of the term
- Most science classes earn 5 or 10 ECTS, HSS courses earn 2-4 ECTS, & French class 2 ECTS
- Caltech students are required to earn at least 36 Caltech units= approx. 20 ECTS

*ECTS= European Credit Transfer System



APPLICATION PROCESS

Students must turn in all Caltech application forms as well as a French language evaluation form

Due January 25, 2026

CALTECH APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- **Application Form**
- **Personal Statement**
- **Program Fit**
- **Proposed Course List**
- **2-3 Recommendation letters**
- **Transcript**

ONCE SELECTED - ÉCOLE POLYTECHNIQUE REQUIREMENTS

Application Form
Learning Agreement Form
Curriculum Vitae
An abstract of courses
A letter of statement

Online Application Forms for École Polytechnique will need to be completed once you are nominated

Do not submit anything to École Polytechnique, everything comes to FASA





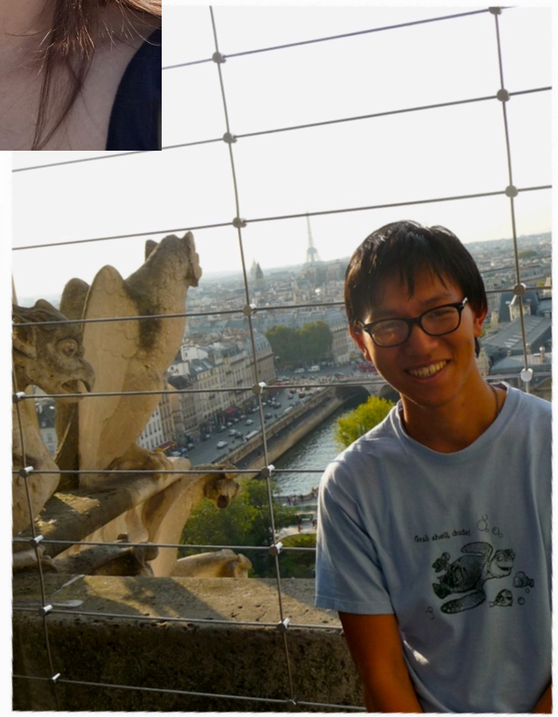


CAMPUS LIFE

- Students are required to live in a residence hall
- There is no board plan, students will receive board money before they leave to cover most of the food costs
- There is affordable on campus dining as well as a kitchen to cook in
- Campus cafeteria features all inclusive meals, as opposed to each item

CAMPUS LIFE CONTINUED





- Lots of clubs and sports
- Sports are a huge part of campus culture
- 445 acre campus is like a village
- Since the campus is only around a 45 minute train ride to Paris, it is easy to go on day trips to museums, shopping, and site-seeing
- There is a week-long fall break, or reading week, in late October where travel around Europe is encouraged

STUDENT COMMENTS

WILLIAM WENQING ‘19 MATHEMATICS & COMPUTER SCIENCE

- “At Polytechnique, I felt an eagerness to learn that I had not felt in years.”
- “Going to Paris on the weekends is fun. You just need to hop on a train for 40 minutes, and hundreds of museums, monuments, and attractions are at your fingertips. “
- “I took classes with international students from all over the world. They brought their experiences, culture, and politics, leading to an active exchange of ideas. From this, I gained a new perspective on the world. There was more to the world than Caltech.”

ISABEL SWAFFORD ‘22 ASTROPHYSICS

- “I got to participate in one of the big sports competitions, La Coupe de L’X, where all the sports on campus have competitions on the same day.”
- “I feel more confident and independent than before. I’ve appreciated the change of pace from the Caltech student life. It’s honestly been one of the best times of my life! So, enroll in that next French course and apply to Polytechnique!”

RAFAEL CRESPO ‘25 CS

- “Most of your exposure to French will come from either a French class, sports, day-to-day socializing with French students, or interactions with people outside the university.”
- “Almost all courses are mandatory attendance, which they enforce with sign-in sheets, Thursdays are off for everyone to make room for those in sports.”

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More

INFORMATION

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THANK YOU FOR COMING!