



UNIVERSITÉ
**PARIS
SCIENCES
& LETTRES**

INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

PSL iTeams

10th anniversary edition · 2026–2027



A Starthèse-labelled programme — national programme
of the French Ministry of Higher Education,
Research and Space

Established in 2017, the PSL-iTeams academic program is designed to develop your entrepreneurial abilities and help capitalize on the inventions, results and knowledge generated by PSL's research teams, through business start-ups or other forms of transfer to the business world and the community. The program will introduce you to the challenges of innovation and provide initial field experience in commercializing research results and starting a company.

✦ STRUCTURE OF THE CURRICULUM

Participants in the program will be grouped into multidisciplinary teams and given the task of developing a technology transfer strategy (proof of concept, market, business model, etc.) for project concepts. During that process, you'll receive support from professionals in the worlds of business and technology transfer while attending workshops and training modules.

— Six teams, six projects: four research projects proposed by PSL laboratories, and two projects led by PhD students or postdocs, who recruit their own team around their own innovation idea.

— Length of the program: six months, from January to June 2027, following a kick-off and team formation in December 2026.

— Regular weekly workshops (excluding vacation periods).

You will also hold meetings with your fellow team members to work on your project during this period.

✦ REINFORCED SUPPORT

— Laboratory visits, to ground each team in the scientific reality of its project.

— Team coaching throughout the program, alongside business and scientific mentoring.

— Dedicated ecosystem support for researchers who wish to consolidate their project towards pre-maturation or an innovation competition (i-PhD in particular).

✦ AT A GLANCE

2017

YEAR OF CREATION

275

STUDENTS

9

EDITIONS

450 h

OF PROGRAMME

Program timeline

Six months, from January to June 2027.



✦ THE SIX STAGES

STAGE 0 · DECEMBER

Kick-off & team formation

Project leaders pitch their projects; students apply and join a team. Lab visit and ValoGame.

STAGE 1 · JANUARY

Program launch

First framing workshop, turning the research topic into a problem to solve, and first team coaching session.

STAGE 2 · FEBRUARY – MARCH

Exploration

Customer discovery and interviews, market exploration, value proposition; lab visits where needed.

STAGE 3 · LATE MARCH / EARLY APRIL

Mid-term oral defense

Market diagnosis and first business model hypotheses before a jury of professionals; individual feedback.

STAGE 4 · APRIL – MAY

Construction

Deeptech business model, IP basics, funding and legal aspects of starting a company.

STAGE 5 · MID JUNE

Final oral defense

Intensive pitch training, then final defense before a jury playing the role of investors; awards.

✦ WHAT YOU WILL BUILD

- **A first business model:** value proposition, target users, market opportunity and strategic direction.
- **Customer and user discovery:** identifying and engaging with potential customers and end users.
- **A professional pitch deck:** innovation, impact, market opportunity and development roadmap.
- **An IP strategy:** where relevant, to explore protection and valorisation pathways.
- **An investor-style story:** to communicate the potential of the project to partners, funders and investors.

Whether your ambition is to explore startup creation, prepare for technology transfer, attract future funding, or simply understand the impact potential of your research.

✦ EVALUATION

— Kick-off (December 2026): selected project leaders pitch their projects to a pool of motivated students from diverse backgrounds. Students then apply and multidisciplinary teams are established.

— Mid-term oral defense (late March / early April 2027) before a jury made up of professionals from the industrial world and experts in entrepreneurship, followed by individual feedback for each team.

— Final defense (end of May 2027): Students defend their project and its business model before a jury playing the role of investors. Awards will be given to the best projects.

— At the end of the program, the deliverables, including the business model summary (social/business model canvas) and the presentation for the final defense, as prepared by the project team, will be forwarded to the scientific advisors who proposed the project.

The educational component will consist of workshops, team work sessions and laboratory visits. For each research project, the scientific advisor who proposed the idea will be present for selected meetings to provide scientific expertise and his or her perspective on potential applications. Students will also receive support from a business mentor, who will provide expertise in developing the project and putting together a business model, and from a team coach.



✦ LEARNING OUTCOMES

The skills you will acquire during this program can be grouped into four areas:

— **Conceptualizing the idea and brainstorming:** to help you develop your imagination and show innovation in thinking “outside the box” with regard to building an image for your project and choosing how to present it (business model canvas, pitch, etc.).

— **Go-to-market strategy and market research:** to help you identify your project’s market and target audiences and address your users’ needs so you can build a value proposition and MVP (market studies, digital strategy, operational deployment, etc.).

— **Project development & management:** to help you make use of appropriate tools to structure your project’s development, identify the team member skills you need and organize the work.

— **Legal & financial issues:** to help you become familiar with the legal aspects of starting a business, develop an intellectual property strategy and establish a funding plan.

✦ SKILLS DEVELOPED

— Know-how: market analysis, project funding, intellectual property strategy, basic legal principles, development of a business plan, etc.

— Soft skills: interpersonal skills, adaptability, the ability to work in a team, etc.

— Professional skills: unifying a team, negotiating, convincing an audience, structuring and managing projects, showing creativity and leadership, communicating with others, identifying opportunities, etc.

✦ ADMISSIONS

Who should apply?

— Project leaders: PhD students, postdoctoral fellows and researchers at Université PSL with an innovation project.

— Team members: doctoral students, postdoctoral fellows and Master’s-level students at Université PSL, in any discipline, who have an interest in innovation.

Application procedure: based on application. Applications open on 1 October and close on 31 October 2026. Requests for an application package should be submitted as follows:

— For doctoral students: via the ADUM platform.

— For postdoctoral fellows and Master’s-level students: via email to psl-iteams@psl.eu

✦ KEYWORDS

Multidisciplinary, entrepreneurship, project management, technology and knowledge transfer, commercialization of research, etc.

✦ PROGRAM LOCATION

PSL-Lab: Université PSL
Coworking Space (33 rue Censier,
75005 Paris).



Apply online
Scan the code
or click here

Testimonials



Alexis VAN WESEMAEL
MS – Mines Paris PSL

"An enjoyable and fast-paced journey through the essential steps of deeptech innovation — from idea to market, covering IP, finance, and business models."



Anne LORREN
Projet BIOPHENOL

"The PSL team is great. The program is well organized, and the content covers a wide area of essential topics in entrepreneurship. An excellent introduction!"



Max ARAGON
PhD – Mines Paris PSL

"As a participant in the 2024/2025 PSL iTeams program, I appreciated the course's holistic approach to building high-impact ventures. I encourage researchers and students to join future editions to gain diverse perspectives on the value of transferring technology from academia to real-world applications."



Jean-Marc AYME
PSL Mentor since 2015

I participated in iTeams projects with high innovation content in the fields of healthcare data, AI for textile design, and the repair of metal elements for railroads.

I was impressed by the motivation of some of the young PSL students and their ability to jump into fields of expertise very different from their own, as most of them come from hard science backgrounds. The iTeams program requires them to learn by familiarizing themselves with economics and business, through seminars to acquire the knowledge and deliverables typical of the world of startup investment.

The final presentation is always an exciting moment. Each group demonstrates its ability to apply the knowledge acquired during the oral presentation, and the students often exceed our expectations by delivering to their sponsors a real innovation pitch that's presentable to investors. This is accompanied by economic and financial projections and an initial market study, which is extremely useful for inventors.

In just a few months, the entrepreneur's business plan and presentation can be produced by a dedicated group of students who are able to consider the most important issues involved in setting up a start-up, in order to produce a high-quality market strategy, financial plan and strategic projection, so that the future entrepreneur can have the initial materials to present his idea to different types of players, such as venture capitalists, investors, banks or innovation financing partners.

The main difficulty with our iTeams projects is moving from scientific and technical innovation to the creation of a real company with the ability to industrialise and distribute, and therefore to move out of the laboratory and into the manufacturing stage of the product or service, be it a hospital, workshop or factory.

These projects require a great deal of time before they can be implemented on an industrial scale. To achieve this, additional support is needed through innovation support mechanisms in which the PSL teams are regularly gaining expertise within the Research Transfer Centre.



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Bring your research. Build your team. Create impact.

Contact: psl-iteams@psl.eu

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