Sciences Po Aix operates in a highly competitive area of higher education and research. The competition now takes place at a scale that goes far beyond national borders. Our goal is to welcome foreign students and researchers while promoting the international integration of students and researchers from Sciences Po Aix. The attractiveness of an original course offering with relevance to the professional world, the quality of our research and our openness to the socio-economic world will enable our establishment to compete with the most prestigious universities. There is no Grande École without a grand design. Sciences Po Aix must be faithful to the tradition that deeply roots it in the Euro-Mediterranean environment. Driven by a pioneering spirit, Sciences Po Aix must foster in each student a taste for innovation, agility and creativity. In a world being jostled by existential challenges, our institution must be a place for reflection about change and ways to support it.

Prof. Rostane Mehdi,
Director, Sciences Po Aix
“Sciences Po Aix trains students for positions of responsibility in the public and private sectors. It is a university-based Grande École.”

Sciences Po Aix is a public higher education establishment. It is one of ten Institutes of Political Studies in France along with Bordeaux, Grenoble, Lille, Lyon, Paris, Rennes, Saint-Germain-en-Laye, Strasbourg and Toulouse, but the only one in the Mediterranean area.

It is bound to Aix-Marseille University by an agreement.

Accessible by competitive exam only, it is a Grande École within the University.

Institute founded: 1956

1800 students per year

44 student associations

70% of our students are employed in the private sector

41 teachers including:
13 University professors,
19 lecturers and more than a 100 professionals collaborating as experts

7 master’s specialisations
First cycle

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>60 ECTS credits</td>
<td>120 ECTS credits</td>
<td>180 ECTS credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entry same year finishing high school or the year after (common entrance exam)</td>
<td>Entry after completing one year of higher education or equivalent</td>
<td>Year abroad</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

pluridisciplinary studies, pre-specialisation in Year 2 (choice of modules)

study and / or work placement

Master’s degree

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 4</th>
<th>Year 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>240 ECTS credits</td>
<td>300 ECTS credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entry after completing three years of higher education oral exam (Grand Oral) + dissertation</td>
<td>Sciences Po diploma and Master’s degree</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

specialisation – first year of Master’s degree programme (M1)

specialisation Master’s degree (M2)

Ongoing education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 4</th>
<th>Year 5</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Entry in year 4</td>
<td>Sciences Po diploma Grand Oral + dissertation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

+ a choice of 20 certificate programmes in various fields lifelong training

CPAG (preparation of entrance exams to public administration)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Preparation of competitive entrance exams</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s degree in Public Administration</td>
<td>Preparation of competitive entrance exams</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

= equivalent to M2 in Public Careers

International Students

access to classes in year 2 and year 4
3 specific programmes (CEP, PEPA, PEPS)

CEP: Certificate of Political Studies

Double degree programmes

5 year Franco-German double degree programme run jointly with the University of Freibourg
3 year programme run jointly with the Ecole de l’Air in Salon de Provence (military school training officers for the French Air Force).
Sciences Po Aix awards a high-level degree and trains the future executives of the public and private sectors. Its highly selective recruitment process gives it the status of a Grande École, one of France’s elite learning establishments.

This five-year course helps to build analytical and decision-making abilities based on a solid education in social sciences and specialist knowledge. 

**The first year** is devoted to multidisciplinary education and methodologies in the main areas of the social sciences: sociology, political science, law, economics, management, international relations, history and languages, and methodologies of expertise.

**The second year** offers students the opportunity to pre-specialize in two of the following four areas: Economics and Management; International Careers; Public Administration; Policy Analysis and Strategy.

**The third year** takes place abroad in the form of a 6-month internship and one semester of study, or two semesters of study at a foreign university. One semester of study can also be done at the Ecole Centrale of Marseilles in the framework of our new partnership.

**In the fourth year**, the student pre-specialises by selecting one of the M1 courses.

**In the fifth year**, the chosen master’s course specialisation will allow the student to focus on working life or academic research, and complete an internship.

The degree’s international orientation is also confirmed: the third year takes place abroad at a company, government body or university, and students must master two or three languages.

The Sciences Po Aix curriculum is also available on a continuing education basis.

Sciences Po Aix offers a wide range of vocational master’s courses that build on a fundamental specialist knowledge of the social sciences (political science, economic and management sciences, law and history), methodological teaching to ensure competence in using evaluation tools, decision-making, reporting, etc. and lastly, teaching designed to develop students’ general skills (group work, decision-making, choosing projects, business plan, etc.) which all help to build the operational abilities that make graduates more employable.

Sciences Po Aix makes its students’ international mobility a top priority. This is achieved by all students taking a year abroad to study or gain work experience (in the 3rd year), offering more long internships abroad in the second year of the master’s, organising Franco-foreign courses, for example the Franco-German course that leads to a double qualification with the University of Fribourg, and by ensuring that students gain advanced language skills, in English of course, but also other languages like Chinese or Arabic.
Diversified courses

The Competitive Exam Preparation Centre/CPAG

Sciences Po Aix also aims to prepare candidates for the category “A” competitive exams for the French Civil, Hospital and Territorial Services. The CPAG offers 9 courses, with 350 students registered in 2015/2016. As well as a Bachelor's and Master's degree that prepare students for public sector careers, it also prepares them for the ENA, ENM and EN3S schools, and the Commissariat aux Armées (French Military Commissariat).

Continuing education

In an ever-changing environment, lifelong training enables professionals to keep their skills and knowledge up-to-date. It also offers them the opportunity to further their career with a high-quality, multidisciplinary course offering. Sciences Po Aix offers:

- The Sciences Po curriculum on a continuing education basis
- Specialised courses (including human resources (HR School), institutional and strategic communication, forensics, conflict management, association leader, etc.)
- Training for local elected officials
- Training in public management of religious diversity in a secular system, in terms of its historical, legal and sociological aspects

International studies

Sciences Po Aix is resolutely open to the world. The Institute develops its international partnerships on all continents in order to facilitate its students’ compulsory trip abroad in the 3rd year (and the optional trip for 5th-year students). Students study abroad for a year at one of the establishment’s partner universities, or complete a semester of studies and a 6-month internship in diplomatic missions, private companies, cultural associations, etc.

More than 123 agreements have been signed with universities in Europe, North and South America, Asia and the Mediterranean countries.

A partnership with the University of Freibourg gives students the option of a Franco-German double degree program.
Research

Sciences Po Aix is equipped with a unique research centre named CHERPA, which in French stands for Belief, History, Space, Political and Administrative Regulation. CHERPA is a Multidisciplinary Reception Team (EA 4261) with an integrative mission based on five research areas:

- Mobilisation, expertise and political processes
- Knowledge and practice of government
- Governing religion
- International economics and finance
- Armies, armed conflict and extraordinary situations

This Reception Team recognised by the Ministry of Higher Education and Research is attached to 2 Doctoral Schools (Doctoral School 67: Legal and Political Sciences, Doctoral School 355: Spaces, Cultures and Society). This multidisciplinary approach enables our doctoral students to work in 2 disciplines: Political sciences and History.

During the second year of the Master Degree’s offered by Sciences Po Aix, 7 specialisations are available:

- Public Careers
- International Expertise: « Expertise in International Business » (possibility to alternate work and studies) and « Expertise in International Relations » options
- Geostrategy, Defence and International Security (possibility to alternate work and studies)
- European Policy and Transnational Action: « EUROPE / European Project Engineering, Lobbying and Advocacy » and « EUROMED / Euromediterranean Project Engineering and Decentralised Cooperation » options
- Political Impulsions and Societal Change (Arabic World, Mediterranean and Europe): « Comparative Political Expertise » and « Religion, Politics and Society » options
- Cultural Policies and Sponsorship

Master’s 2 degrees in a variety of areas
Sciences Po Aix deliberately approaches its teaching and research strategy from a European and international perspective. This applies firstly to the education that it offers, which includes several trips abroad for all its students and in return welcoming several hundred international students from all over the world to attend its courses every year. All of the teaching that leads to the Sciences Po Aix degree places great emphasis on European issues and international relations, but also on foreign language tuition. The master's offering has the same focus, particularly the master’s degrees in International Expertise, in Military History and Geostrategy, in Euro-Mediterranean Public Policy, in Applied European Politics, etc. As part of the Sciences Po Aix degree, the Institute also offers a Franco-German double degree program and is preparing to introduce other Franco-foreign courses. In the field of research, the research laboratory of CHERPA, the Institute research unit, cover several programmes that focus on international relations from a multidisciplinary perspective and mainly bring together students of law, history, law and economics, to analyse questions of European or international governance, geostrategy, international economics, religious governance and the emergence of transnational standards in particular. Many symposia and seminars are organised to this end, most often attended by French and foreign researchers. Lastly, the Institute welcomes many foreign doctoral students on various doctoral courses, mainly in political science.

Sciences Po Aix has developed a vast network of 123 partner universities abroad covering student, researcher and teaching staff exchanges. Each student who is admitted to Sciences Po Aix degree course after sitting a competitive exam must go on an international mobility trip in their third year. Two options are possible: either a complete year at a foreign university; or a mixed year combining a semester at a university and a semester on a vocational internship, also abroad. This mobility experience offers students the opportunity to increase their knowledge of fields relevant to the Sciences Po Aix degree curriculum, be exposed to new working methods, become fluent in a foreign language and access new skills, while gaining international experience that they can put to good use upon entering the employment market.

Sciences Po Aix has 230 places available each year to welcome international students from partner universities. In 2015-2016, Sciences Po Aix welcomed around 180 international students, as well as visiting professors from all five continents. International students were offered a wide range of excellent classes taught in French and English, in all of the social sciences. Moreover, a series of cultural events and parties were organised in order to help them integrate into the Sciences Po Aix student community.

This international orientation in the educational field is supported by the Department of External Relations and Student Affairs, which works every day to improve the international partnership offering. It is also a place of reception and support for inbound and outbound mobility students.

Students are selected by foreign universities on the basis of their academic results and their score in IELTS and/or TOEFL tests. Therefore, each year, Aix-en-Provence IEP organises intensive preparation for these tests and gives students at the Institute the option to sit them internally, in collaboration with the British Council.

In addition, for the last 10 years, the Institute has also offered its students the chance to take a Franco-German double degree program, in collaboration with the University of Freibourg. The student’s time is divided between these two institutions, enabling them to earn a double degree. The attractiveness of this option, and the quality of the German and French students that take it, explain why Sciences Po Aix wants to set up a Franco-English and a Franco-Spanish double degree programs. These options are currently being considered.
Like all research units, CHERPA develops many international relationships by hosting visiting professors, doctoral students and participants in various congresses and workshops organised in Aix-en-Provence, but also by carrying out research operations with foreign researchers.

Two geographical areas have been prioritised in recent years: the Southern Mediterranean and China. This is explained by contractual or partnership-based research operations being programmed in various fields of the social sciences. For example, two contracts are ongoing: MEDIUM, funded by the European Commission, New Pathways for Sustainable Urban Development in China’s Medium-Sized Cities; and, in cooperation with the Council of the Moroccan Community Abroad (CCME), Analysis of migration phenomena on a Euro-Mediterranean scale.

Regarding inbound mobility, we must first mention the ten or so visiting professors who are welcomed each year for stays of 15 days to 1 month. In the last 5 years, the Establishment has hosted visiting professors from all 5 continents: University of Pavia, University of Berlin, University of Cambridge, Free University of Brussels, University of Leuven, University of Lausanne, University of Galatasaray, University of California (Berkeley), UCLA, University of Florida, Georgetown University, University of Lethbridge, University of Mexico, University of Buenos Aires, University of Los Lagos, Sun Yat Sen University, Seijo University (Tokyo) and Meiji Gakuin University (Yokohama). These exchanges also take place under scientific partnership agreements with the CEDEJ (Centre for Economic, Legal and Social Studies and Documentation in Cairo) and the IFPO (French Institute for the Near East, Beirut). In addition, the Institute intends to develop Euro-Mediterranean studies for the summer school, which will take place in June in partnership with the Jacques Berque Centre (CNRS - Rabat). Last but not least, IRMC, whose Director is an associate member of CHERPA, maintains an ongoing scientific relationship with the Institute.
Regarding doctoral students and/or foreign doctors, theses under joint supervision have been supported or are being prepared with the University of Naples, Free University of Brussels (ULB), the University of Abidjan, Macquarie University (Australia), Ludwig Maximilian Universität (Munich), the University of Tunis III, the University of Montréal and the University of Tempere (Finland). Globally, in the last 5 years, the foreign doctoral students’ countries of origin are as follows:

- Algeria: 2;
- Austria: 1;
- Brazil: 1;
- South Korea: 1;
- Ivory Coast: 2;
- Egypt: 2;
- United States: 1;
- Indonesia: 1;
- Italy: 4;
- Japan: 1;
- Madagascar: 2;
- Morocco: 4;
- Syria: 1;
- Togo: 1; Turkey: 4.

Regarding outbound mobility, several members of CHERPA, among the research professors and doctoral students, have paid short or long visits to the following areas or countries in the course of their scientific enquiries:

- Near and Middle East: Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Qatar, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, Yemen, Israel
- South America: Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica
- Oceania: French Polynesia, Australia
- Asia: South Korea, Thailand, Japan, China
- Southern Africa, West Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, Madagascar
- European Union, Bosnia
The great appeal of Anglo-Saxon universities, due to the quality of education provided and the opportunity to practise English, has led to the implementation of a proactive policy to expand our partnerships while favouring the best universities Sciences Po Aix in the UK and the US. An international hub within the Department of External Relations and Student Affairs is in charge of managing existing partnerships and seeking new contractual relationships, by mobilising the personal networks of all research professors at Sciences Po Aix and pursuing a targeted policy of establishing new agreements with research-oriented universities located in the UK and the US. This hub is due to be expanded in order to reflect the strategic priorities of the Institute in this domain. Beyond the Anglo-Saxon universities, there are plans to further develop our partnerships and student exchanges with Latin America and Cuba, China and the entire Mediterranean region.

European relations can no longer be regarded as international relations and are now covered by our local partnerships, along with other IEPs or French universities. But the Establishment wants to establish more specific and deeper relationships with research universities in Italy, UK, Germany and Belgium.