

Frequently asked questions

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1. Why a Pasteur/Cnam school of Public Health?

Public health is underrepresented in French higher education and yet is a pervasive element of French society. Following the Anglo-Saxon model of teaching public health, the innovation of the Pasteur/Cnam School of Public Health is to offer courses covering **a complete panorama of the issues**, including the history of the public health movement, the major theoretical models and the political and social debates surrounding them, economics and management, legal and ethical issues related to health, the sociology of organizations, epidemiology, statistics, bioinformatics, and clinical research.

The interest of this newly-created institution is in the **synergy** between the courses offered by the **Cnam** (biostatistics, health economics, analysis of health policies, non-infectious risk) and those offered by the **Institut Pasteur** (epidemiology, infectious risk).

The objective of the specialized Master's mirrors that of the best Anglo-Saxon programs in public health: to cover all aspects of the field, **with an emphasis on the practical dimension** (case studies, training in statistical software packages, seminars ...).

2. What is the difference between a Master's degree and a specialized Master's ?

The [Master's program](#) corresponds to the newly-standardized European university degree system created under the reforms known as the Bologna process. First and foremost, students at the Pasteur/Cnam School will earn a Master's degree at the level of the 4th and 5th years of university study. The label of specialized Master's denotes that the school has been recognized for the high quality of the educational experience it provides by the [Conférence des grandes écoles](#) (CGE), a label that complements the diploma issued by the Cnam in an agreement with the Institut Pasteur. The program corresponds to at least **75 ECTS credits**, which includes theoretical courses, practical applications, and a personal research project linked to a 4-month internship in a laboratory or business, after which students will defend their professional-style theses. The primary goal is to provide high-level training to students already possessing a **2-year Master's degree**, or a **1-year Master's with at least three years of professional experience**. In 2006-2007, 116 member establishments of the CGE offered a total of 382 specialized Master's.

A 2006 report written by **Alain-Jacques Valleron** and published by the French Academy of Sciences pointed out that the United States counts no less than 36 public health programs offering PhDs and an additional 57 graduate-level programs in Community Health or Preventive Medicine offering Master's degrees. In terms of sheer size, these programs have no equivalents in France: for example, the School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University alone counts 1,133 research professors (including 501 full-time professors) - an intellectual workforce only slightly smaller than the entire body of French researchers in this field.

3. How long does it take to complete a specialized Master's ?

The Master's program is full-time course of study. Students follow a **core curriculum** from October to January, take courses in their chosen area of specialization from February to May, and participate in an **internship** from June to November, at the end of which they defend their theses.

For students who so desire, the Master's program can be completed over two years: the core curriculum in the first year, and the specialization and internship in the second year.

4. What are the requirements for admission ?

The academic pre-requisites for admission to the specialized Master's at the Pasteur/Cnam School of Public Health are:

- Engineering degree accredited by the *Commission des Titres d'Ingénieurs* (CTI);
- Master's degree from an accredited school of management;
- Master's degree or higher (equivalent to 5 years of university education) from an accredited institution;
- Professional diploma at the Master's level or higher (equivalent to 5 years of university education), and/or sufficient to permit participation in the French national entrance examinations (e.g. ENA, ENSP) included on the list decreed by the *Conférence des Grandes Ecoles*;
- Diploma from an institution for the study of statistics (such as ENSAI, ISUP, or INA in France).
- Students having completed a graduate degree (equivalent to at least 4 years of university education) in medicine, veterinary medicine, pharmacy, or odontology, and having acquired academic credits in epidemiology and biostatistics equivalent to the content of a 1-year Master's degree in public health or in the medical and biological sciences
- Diploma from a foreign institution equivalent to the French diplomas described above

Applications will be examined by a pedagogical committee, which will rule on admissions.

5. To whom is this degree program oriented ?

The Master's program is targeted at various types of students, depending on the area of concentration:

- Infectious risk: doctors; pharmacists; biologists; veterinarians; personnel of health agencies, NGOs, and international organizations; development specialists...
- Non-infectious risk: doctors, pharmacists, biologists, chemists, health agency personnel, persons working in the food and pharmaceutical industries, local government employees, health engineers...
- Quantitative methods**: engineering students completing their academic careers, economists, geographers...
- Organization and management of healthcare systems**: administrators, hospital staff, economists, sociologists, development specialists...

6. Where do courses take place ?

Classes at the Pasteur/Cnam School take place at **two locations**:

- Cnam, 292 rue Saint Martin, Paris (3rd arrondissement), metro Réaumur-Sébastopol or Arts-et-Métiers
- Institut Pasteur, 25-28 rue du Docteur Roux, Paris (15th arrondissement), metro Pasteur

7. What is the cost of tuition ?

Tuition and fees are equal to **€ 5,150** for students paying for themselves, or **€ 10,000** for students coming from a professional or other type of organization. Financial support is available.

8. Is it possible to pursue a doctorate in public health after completing a specialized Master's ?

Although the specialized Master's tends to orient students toward professional occupations, the Pasteur/Cnam School curriculum can also prepare students for jobs in research. Students interested in public health research should take care to choose a concentration, a course load, and an internship that will allow them to pursue their interest in research.

9. What types of organizations are likely to recruit graduates fo the Pasteur/Cnam School fo Public Health ?

The education provided by the Pasteur/Cnam School of Public Health can prepare students for careers in many different areas related to human health. This includes the following sectors:

- Newly-created national and regional health agencies
- Research institutions working on social and life sciences
- Health care establishments
- Government departments and ministries working on health, the economy, industry, land use management, the environment ...
- Decentralized government bodies
- Health insurance organizations (medical advisers, risk managers), private health care insurance, and other complementary insurers
- The para-governmental sector
- Local governments: cities, departments/states, regions ...
- Industry groups: food industry, water, waste management, oceanic, energy, pharmaceutical, biomedical, cosmetics
- Major press and communication organizations
- Insurance organizations
- Hospitals and networks of healthcare providers
- Businesses offering specific services to local authorities (e.g. studies and research)

https://school-pasteur.cnam.fr/frequently-asked-questions-126119.kjsp?RH=pasteur_faqeng