

## Entry requirements

We are looking for graduates with a 2:1 or above in their first degree. While we normally only accept applicants who meet these criteria, if you have a 2:2 or equivalent, are coming from a different academic background which is equivalent to degree level, or have relevant work experience, we would welcome your application.

Non-standard applications will be considered on their merits and mature students are encouraged to apply.

We have a strong commitment to the widening participation remit and encourage applications from all sections of society, particularly from law, political science, history, international relations, communication and languages.

English language requirements: the MA is taught in English and requires a good level to follow and write in English. If your application is selected, an oral interview will assess your level. However, we do expect the following levels: IELTS: Overall score 6.5. No less than 6.0 in any section; TOEFL IBT: Overall score 90 with minimum scores of 21 for writing, 21 for listening, 22 for reading and 23 for speaking.

Application requirements:

- Application letter in English
- Online application form
- CV with photograph
- University transcripts of grades demonstrating academic qualifications
- 2 recommendation letters from your teachers at the degree level.

## Modalités de candidature

For students in France :  
<https://www.monmaster.gouv.fr/>

For students abroad :  
contact the «Etudes en France» office of your country.

## Codirectors of the MA

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## CY Cergy Paris Université Langues et études internationales

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# master MA POLITICAL IDEAS IN A DIGITAL AGE

**HUMANITÉS NUMÉRIQUES**  
**LES IDÉES POLITIQUES  
À L'ÈRE NUMÉRIQUE**

Formation initiale

## Message from the program directors

This new MA program is the result of our belief that the digital age is radically transforming the ways in which politics is and will be done in the future. Political behaviour, from the ways in which political ideas are expressed, to campaigning, voting, and to the ways in which political protest rises, are the new challenges ahead for Western democratic states. The problem is to adapt our outdated institutions to a perpetually evolving digital democratic age.

Our team, built on humanism, interdisciplinarity, and the desire to study and propose new forms of mediation in the area of politics, based on new information & communication technologies, has created this MA program for a young generation of students who will be able to assess and harness the political, social and cultural impact of the digital age.

We also hope that through a research seminar in which the students will be fully integrated, an interaction will emerge with international students and international fellows. Mostly, though, we intend this MA to be inspiring and unique.

Catherine Marshall & Yann Giraud (CY Cergy Paris University)  
Ghislaine Azémard (ITEN UNESCO Chair)

## Overview

The MA Political Ideas in a Digital Age (PIDA) gives you the opportunity to study the ways in which political ideas have been transformed by Scientific progress and technological change since the 17th up to the digital age in the 21st century. The MA is a creation of CY Cergy Paris University and the UNESCO chair on Digital Innovation in Transmission and Publishing which specialises in the field of new media and digital humanities. The MA draws upon the diverse interests of a mix of seasoned practitioners and top-notch academics whose research ranges from the history of political ideas, digital humanities, political economy, digital law, data management algorithms & techniques, automated surveillance by states of their citizens, digital profiling via data mining, microtargeting of political advertising, up to publishing studies. It is an interdisciplinary course which bridges subject boundaries, uses both analytical and institutional approaches and refers to the Anglo-American and 'Continental' traditions.

As a graduate of this programme you will cover both historical traditions and immediate contemporary developments allowing you to have a broad knowledge of the history of political ideas in a digital age and the changing perceptions of democracy, the common good and ethics. You will develop social data science methodologies to understand the ways in which political ideas can be transformed through technology. You will also have the opportunity to take part in a monthly research seminar in which Visiting Fellows, academics and business partners will present their work on the transformation of transmission modes in political life that is currently taking place as a result of new digital technologies.



## Key information

- Duration: 2 years, full time.
- Start date: at the beginning of September
- If you are in France, via «Mon Master».
- If you are abroad via your «Etudes en France»
- The MA is mostly taught at CY Cergy Paris Université (Chênes 1, 33 boulevard du Port 95011 Cergy-Pontoise) and some seminars are taught in central Paris

## PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The program comprises 120 credits in total (30 European Credit Transfer System per semester): taught modules worth 105 ECTS in total, and a supervised dissertation worth 15 ECTS.

The credit rating of a module is proportional to the total workload, with 1 credit being nominally equivalent to 10 hours of work. Each taught seminar is underpinned by reading and essay assignments.

### • M1 SEMESTRE 1

5 seminars of 36h or 24h each

- 1 History of Political Ideas in a Digital Age
- 2 Ethics and Politics / Ethics of communication
- 3 Introduction to information theory
- 4 Political sociology
- 5 Academic and reserach skills

### • M1 SEMESTRE 2

4 seminars of 36 hours each

- 1 New ways of exercising power, networks and communication systems
- 2 Scientific development and political ideas: "Governing with numbers: from political arithmetic to algorithms"
- 3 The ethical and economic issues of artificial intelligence
- 4 Digital law

### • M2 SEMESTRE 3

5 seminars of 36h or 24h each

- 1 Mastering and governing digital technologies: Big Data, AI and algorithms
- 2 Data protection and new digital tools
- 3 Current and future role of AI in the social discourse analysis
- 4 Liberal Democracies and the challenge of the digital age
- 5 Citizenship and new media: Blockchain and digital platforms

### • M2 SEMESTRE 4

Either abroad at one of our partner institutions: the Political Institute of the Catholic University in Lisbon (Portugal), The Jagellonian University in Krakow (Poland), the Francisco Marroquin University (Guatemala, with an annex in Madrid) and the National University of Malaysia or with any partners the university has.

Or, a 6 months internship of your choosing  
Or, a supervised MA thesis.



## Learning

Each seminar on this programme is normally taught through academic lectures expanded through seminar discussion, presentations, group work, reading and essay assignments.

The teaching and assessment on this programme should enable you to develop insight into recent critiques of digital democracy and the ways in which these form crucial theoretical elements in debates across political ideas today.

As a graduate of the MA Political Ideas in a Digital Age you should be able to:

- Synthesise and comment critically on a body of academic writing relating to contemporary political ideas since the 17th century and in a data-intensive environment;
- Appreciate, analyse, interpret and evaluate political issues, ideas and institutions across a broad variety of sub-fields, in law, history of ideas, political economy and data science;
- Construct and defend a rigorous argument, both in written form and orally, using primary and secondary materials;
- Follow and understand why the use of data science by political actors is transforming politics;
- Understand and use ethics and responsibility in your work;
- Acquire a proper knowledge of digital skills.



## Careers

You will develop a number of skills that are valued in professional and managerial careers relating to the nature of political and democratic ideas in the digital era, especially the ability to research and analyse information from a variety of sources along with written and verbal skills needed to present and discuss your opinions. The understanding you will gain of complex political and digital humanities, in a continually changing environment, is relevant to both business and public sector appointments.

Here are some examples of the employment and professional development you can look forward to after graduating from the MA: Political communication, political NGO activism, political cyber consultant, specialists of political digital watch, political data scientists, political lobbying, political reputation marketing and international organisations jobs.

The MA can also help you to progress to PhD level study, with the research program you will follow for 2 years, and will allow you to meet international researchers from across all humanities and social sciences disciplines. You will be involved in the AGORA research centre, at CY Cergy Paris University, which is an active research hub distinguished by its diversity, collegiality and interdisciplinary between different approaches.

A diverse group of academics will guide you towards your research at PhD level.