



PRESS RELEASE – JUNE 25, 2026

École Polytechnique announces the creation of the Institute for Mathematics and Fundamental Sciences

Palaiseau, June 25, 2026 - École Polytechnique (l'X) is proud to announce the establishment of its Institute for Mathematics and Fundamental Sciences, made possible by Bernard Arnault's commitment. Scheduled to open on the Palaiseau campus by 2030, the Institute will serve as a French center of excellence and a hub for international research collaboration where mathematicians, physicists, computer scientists, and students will work together to tackle scientific and societal challenges.

Mathematics has been a cornerstone of École Polytechnique's scientific identity since its founding in 1794, embodying France's global reputation for academic excellence. Recognizing that mathematics and fundamental sciences drive future breakthroughs, l'X is bringing this vision to life through the Institute.

Designed to foster interdisciplinary collaboration, the Institute will host nearly 400 faculty researchers, PhD students, and postdoctoral fellows from l'X. It will also benefit the academic and student communities of the Institut Polytechnique de Paris (IP Paris) and the broader Saclay Plateau, the leading innovation ecosystem in Europe, through its world-class scientific programs.

"The Mathematical Residency": The Institute's ambitious scientific program

The Institute will launch a flagship program called "The mathematical Residency", dedicated to hosting world-renowned international researchers, organizing conferences and thematic semesters, and developing innovative interdisciplinary projects. This initiative will accelerate the global influence of l'X and French academic research, with a focus on intersections between mathematics and fields such as biology, materials science, computer science, and physics.

A scientific council, comprising international academic leaders and representatives from l'X and IP Paris' laboratories, will be established to ensure the relevance and excellence of the program.

The Institute will also create opportunities for researchers and students to engage with the latest advancements in mathematics and fundamental sciences.

A landmark contribution as part of the "Servir la science" campaign

After years of planning, this project is now being brought to life thanks to Bernard Arnault's family holding company, Agache, which will fund both the construction of the Institute and the launch of "The Mathematical Residency" program.

This €50 million contribution is part of the "Servir la science" campaign, launched by the Fondation de l'École polytechnique in 2024, to support the School's development. In recognition of Mr. Arnault's exceptional generosity, and his deep connection to l'X (Class of 1969), mathematics, and science, the future building will be named the "Bernard Arnault Institute for Mathematics and Fundamental Sciences."

As a first concrete step, École Polytechnique will launch an architectural competition to design the building.

"In the global landscape of higher education and research, France continues to stand out for its mathematical excellence. This discipline is at the heart of our technological sovereignty and underpins strategic fields such as artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, and cybersecurity. Thanks to Bernard Arnault's unprecedented support, this Institute will position l'X as a leading international hub for mathematical research, attracting top talent and fostering the discoveries that will shape tomorrow's technologies." says **Laura Chaubard**, École Polytechnique's President and Director General.

"The Bernard Arnault Institute for Mathematics and Fundamental Sciences will transform l'X into a world-class scientific destination. This is a powerful tool for enhancing France's global influence. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to our benefactor. This record-breaking donation for French academic research aligns perfectly with the goals of our 'Servir la science' campaign. At a time of fierce global competition in science, technology, and industry, this Institute demonstrates the major impact of philanthropy and the strategic importance of partnerships between l'X and economic actors, both private and public." explains **Frédéric Oudéa**, the Fondation de l'École polytechnique's Chairman.

"École Polytechnique represents, for me, the academic and scientific excellence of our country. I am proud to be able to contribute to the creation of the Institute for Mathematics and Fundamental Sciences. It was at École Polytechnique, and during my preparation for the entrance exams, that I learned the intellectual rigor and developed the vision that later guided my career as an entrepreneur. I also know the extent to which mathematics and the fundamental sciences can shape the world by inventing tomorrow what no one can even imagine today, particularly in addressing major societal challenges. Through this Institute, l'X will continue its pursuit of excellence and scientific boldness." states **Bernard Arnault**.

For more information, see the [press kit](#).

PRESS CONTACTS

Mathilde ORDAS
Media Relations Manager

mathilde.ordas@polytechnique.edu
T. 01 69 33 38 73 / M. 06 30 30 02 62

Anne TROTOUX-COPPERMANN
École Polytechnique and the Fondation de l'École polytechnique's Director of Communications
anne.trotoux-coppermann@polytechnique.edu
M. 06 07 12 99 66

ABOUT ÉCOLE POLYTECHNIQUE / École Polytechnique, also known as L'X, is a higher education and research Institution that cultivates multidisciplinary and scientific excellence. L'X combines research, education and innovation at the highest scientific and technological level. The Institution promotes a culture of excellence with a strong emphasis on science, anchored in humanist traditions. Through its range of training programs – Bachelor of Science, École Polytechnique engineering program, Masters of Science and Technology, Executive Masters, Continuing education - École Polytechnique trains leaders with a strong multidisciplinary scientific culture by exposing them to both the world of research and industry. With its 23 laboratories, including 22 joint research units with the CNRS, École Polytechnique works at the frontiers of knowledge on major interdisciplinary challenges in the scientific, technological and societal fields. École Polytechnique is a founding member of Institut Polytechnique de Paris. www.polytechnique.edu

ABOUT THE FONDATION DE L'ÉCOLE POLYTECHNIQUE / Created in 1987 by twenty leading French corporations at the initiative of Bernard Esambert (Class X 1954), the Chairman of École Polytechnique's Board of Directors at the time, and with the support of the Alumni Association, the main mission of the Fondation is to fund the School's development. Recognized as a public-interest organization, it supports the School's missions in teaching, research, and innovation by mobilizing the generosity of its patrons, both individuals and companies. With its "Servir la science" campaign launched in 2024, the Fondation has set three priorities: nurturing talent, advancing research and breakthrough innovations, and transforming the campus. With a fundraising goal of €200M over the next five years, this campaign aims to enable École Polytechnique to accelerate the implementation of its strategic plan, reinforce its outreach, and strengthen its role in addressing major contemporary challenges. www.fondationx.org