

# Building a World-class Comprehensive University

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# Recreating the Renowned Sorbonne University



Sorbonne University was established on January 1, 2018, following the merger between the Paris-Sorbonne and the Pierre and Marie Curie Universities.

## **Responding to the Challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

- **A world-class, research-intensive university**
- **Presenting a broad range of arts, humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, engineering and medicine**
- **Academic programs that offer a larger educational context**
- **Campuses in France and abroad**

- **53,400 students, of which 10,000 are international and 4,400 doctoral candidates**
- **3,400 professor-researchers in all major domains**
- **137 research structures**

## The French Reference in Humanities

- **975** professor-researchers
- **20,000** students
- **18** research structures
- **2** schools: Celsa and ESPÉ

Sorbonne University research is dedicated to understand our changing world.

- **Literature and Humanities**
- **Languages and Civilization**
- **Humanities and Digital Technology**



## **World-Class Science and Engineering**

- **1,750+** professor-researchers
- **21,000** students
- Close to **100** laboratories
- **Polytech-Sorbonne** engineering school

Sorbonne University research covers both basic and applied domains.

- **Modeling and Engineering**
- **Energy, Matter and the Universe**
- **Living Earth and the Environment**
- **Life Sciences**



## **Medical Technology Ensuring Quality of Care**

- More than **675** faculty physicians
- **12,400** students & **1000** residents
- **7** main teaching hospitals

Sorbonne University medical institutes cover research, clinical practice, patient care & teaching.

- **The Vision Institute**
- **The Brain & Spinal Cord Institute**
- **The Cardio-metabolism Institute**
- **The Cancer Institute**
- **Immunology, infectious diseases  
& public health**



# The regrouping of higher education (The French Solution)

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- **National recognition that societal challenges require holistic responses**
  - Need a much broader range of disciplines working together
  - Professions changing, asking for expertise in two or even three areas
  
- **The solution is to have more comprehensive universities**
  - An opportunity to overcome disciplinary boundaries
  - Offer a broader context for the bachelor's curriculum
  - Increase international visibility and comprehension
  
- **Call for projects to encourage higher education institutions to group together**
  - Funding initiatives of excellence (equipment, research, tech transfer...)
  - Judged by an independent international jury
  - Promoting common, strategic projects through bottom-up actions

# Moving Forward in a Shifting Landscape

→ **2007: a first move to university autonomy in France**

→ **2010: the *Investing for the Future* initiative**



We created a comprehensive university group

# Concrete Steps to Transformation

## → **2012: Changing Government, Changing Rules**

- Adapting to the situation

## → **2015: UPMC and Paris-Sorbonne announce the merger**

- The same university structure and status
- Geographically and historically close institutions



# Merging Because...?

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## → Sorbonne University strategy

- **Overcome** the barriers in research and education
- **Transform** the bachelor's, develop innovative master's and doctoral programs and boost life-long learning
- **Develop** student awareness and career guidance
- **Drive** innovation & contribute to the digital revolution
- **Strengthen** an authentic European and international footprint through strategic partnerships
- **Foster** an integrated campus life



Getting out of the hexagonal box

# Ten Years of Established Cooperation

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## → **Shared development in education, research, student life and international strategy**

### **A common:**

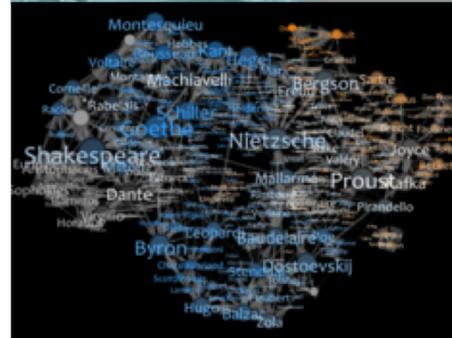
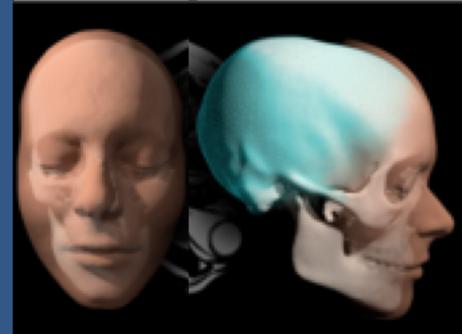
- Bachelor college developing a major/minor or double major
- Doctoral college
- Transversal approach to research
- Documentation policy and digital portal
- Student and campus life policy
- Strategic international approach with privileged partnerships in specific regions for bilateral exchanges

# Concrete Steps to Transformation

## → Projects to bring our communities together

- The Sorbonne Convergence program brings together disciplines
- Research themes that impact society:
  - Calculation and data sciences
  - Engineering for Health
  - Environmental Transition
  - Heritage Transmission
  - Collegium Musicae

## Five Transdisciplinary Research Themes



# Concrete Steps to Transformation

## → Projects to bring our communities together

- The Sorbonne Bachelor's College offers a major/minor structure and transdisciplinary themes
- Campus life includes media associations, community outreach and music & art festivals



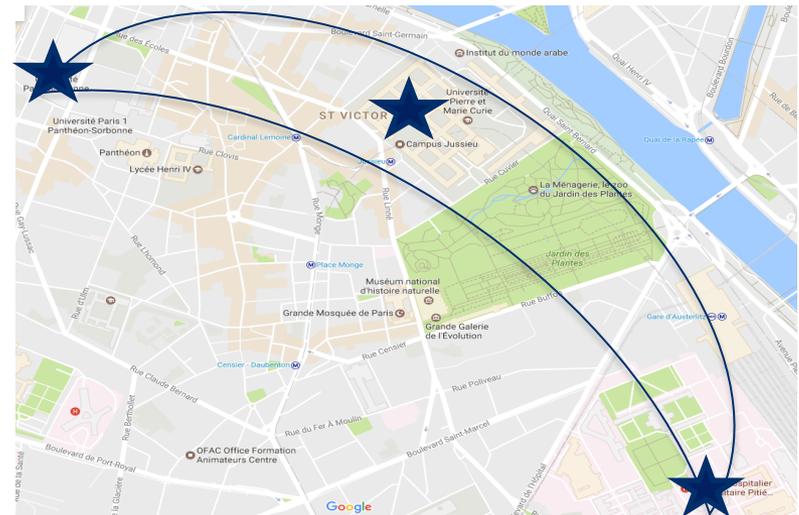
# The Merged University

→ **Sorbonne: a world-renowned brand**

→ **Still a reasonable size in the French context**

- **54,000** students, of which **10,000** are international and **4,700** doctoral candidates
- More than **6,000** researchers and professor-researchers in all major domains
- Continued **critical mass** at UPMC, expanded **critical diversity**

→ **Primarily in the Latin Quarter:  
an easy walk between campuses**



# Sorbonne University

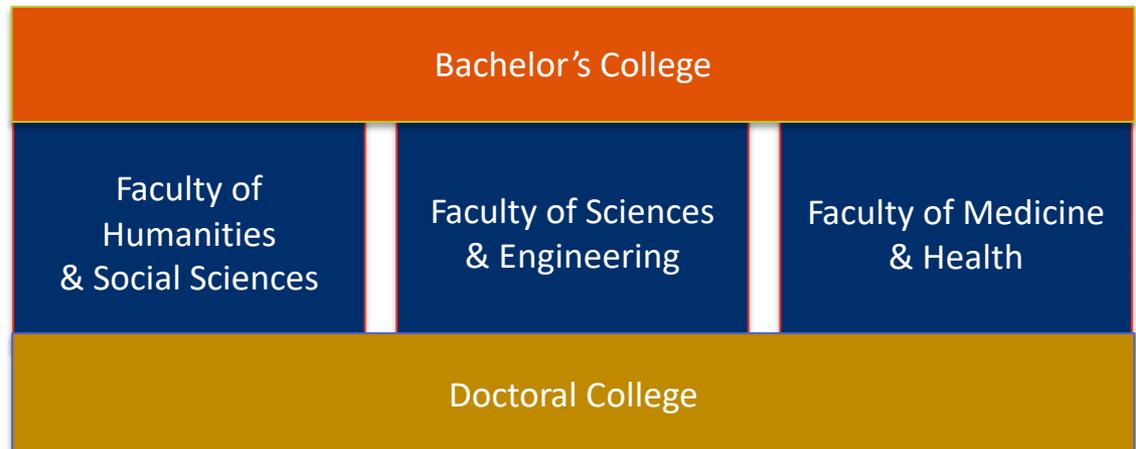
→ **A board, a president, a budget**

- According to French Law
- In charge of strategy, partnerships and resource development

→ **Three faculties**

- A council, a dean, a budget negotiated with the university
- In charge of conducting operations

→ **Two colleges**



# The Central Hub for our Excellence Initiative Partners

→ **In Business**



→ **In Technology**



→ **In Natural Sciences**



→ **In Law & Economics**



→ **In Performing Arts**



→ **The main national Research institutions**



→ **Working as an University association whose services manage the Idex budget**

# 2017, a busy year

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**January:** Formal vote by the boards of UPMC & Paris Sorbonne

**April:** Ministry's decree creating Sorbonne University

**June:** Adoption of University Statutes by the constituent assembly

**June-December:** Organization of University and Faculties Services

**November:** Election of University Board and Faculty Councils

**December:** Election of the President and the Deans and adoption of the 2018 Budget

✓ **1st January 2018:** Launch of Sorbonne University



# The new comprehensive university

Sorbonne University focuses on:

- **Educating** its students to have a comprehensive view of complex, interrelated issues
- **Researching** within and across disciplines to promote paradigm shifts
- **Studying global issues** in society
- **Bringing knowledge** and innovation into the market
- **Participating** in the larger discussion between societies all over the world



## Promoting Informed, Active Citizens

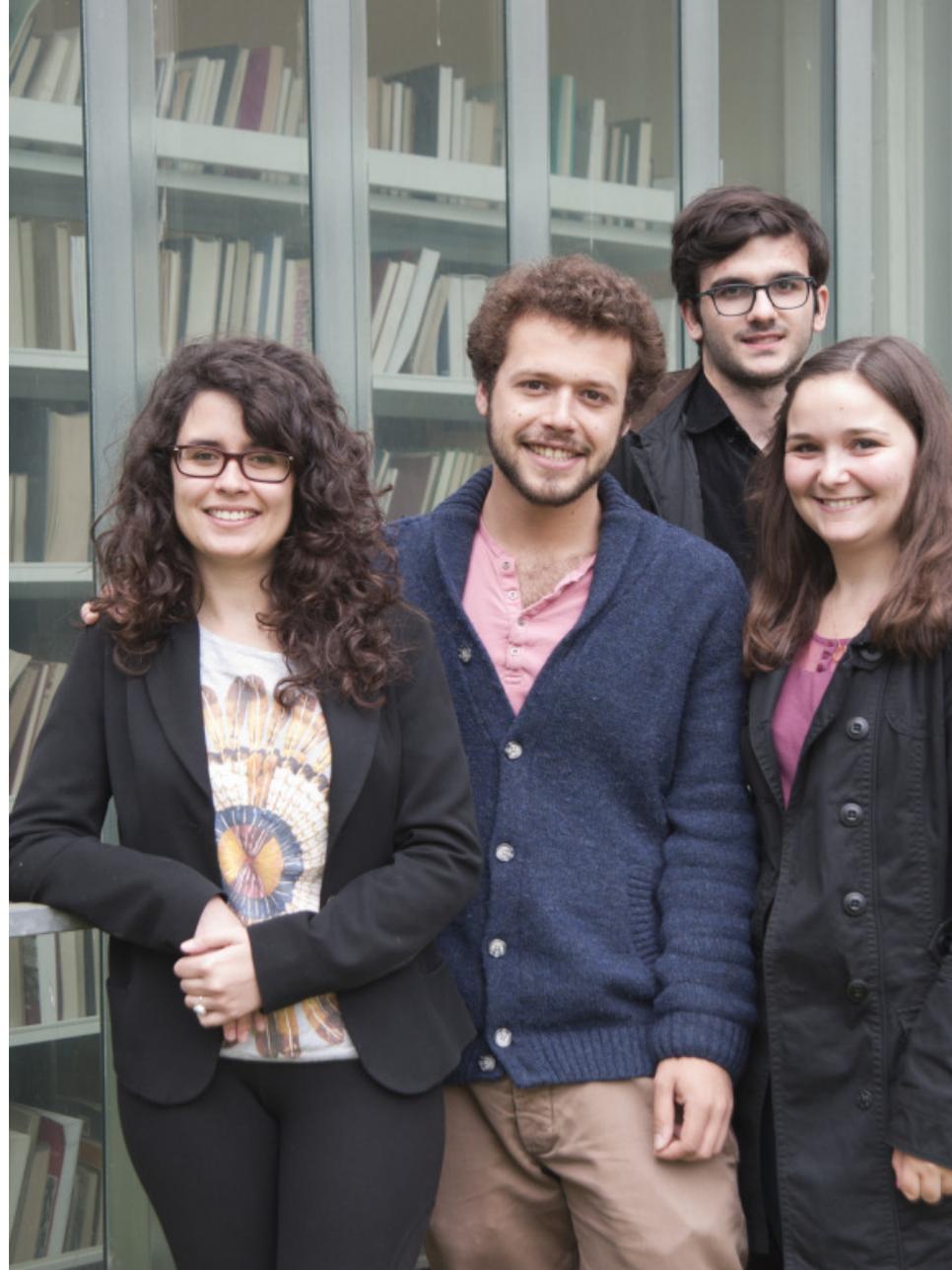
Researched-based programs,  
starting at the bachelor's degree

**Degree structures adapted  
to a diverse student body:**

- a **single area** of study
- a **major/minor** program
- a reinforced **double major**

**Research-based master's degrees**

- **Practical skills**, enterprise  
& international experience
- Engineering master's in **industry-  
leading sectors**



## Comprehensive Studies

**Sorbonne Bachelor's College** offers multidisciplinary programs across faculties and designed for emerging professions that require **cross-disciplinary expertise**

**The Sorbonne University Doctoral College** and Doctoral Schools provide both disciplinary and interdisciplinary seminars, practical training, career guidance, shared resources and best practices



## **Committed to Europe Networks**

### **→ Active in the development of EU policy and the support of the European Research Area's priorities**

- Sorbonne University participates in European networks (LERU, EUA, UNICA and others) to establish and apply standardized higher education and research practices

### **→ Core participant in European Research Initiatives**

- Member of 3 KICs: Digital, Climate & Health (French coordinator)
- Headquarters of the European Marine Biological Resource Centre

- **7<sup>TH</sup> MOST INNOVATIVE UNIVERSITY IN EUROPE (REUTERS 2017)**

## **Dedicated to European Development**

**Sorbonne University is particularly successful in Europe Union calls for projects**

- **Top university** in France to be awarded EU calls for projects
- **90 researchers have received ERC funding** as PIs in our research structures since the ERC calls began in 2007

### **Sorbonne European Affairs Office**

- Scientific, legal, financial and communications support
- Project coordination and management services



## Engaged Around the World

A limited number of **strategic university partnerships, for example**

- **The European University:** Sorbonne, Heidelberg, Warsaw and Prague Universities
  - Shared curriculum - Shared research
  - Launch planned for September 2018
  
- **In Mexico:** Erasmus+ exchanges
  - Double master's in the Science of Vision
  - Shared research in Humanities
  
- **In Singapore:** 3 international research structures in cooperation with NTU and NUS, 181 co-authored publications, Erasmus+ funding,
  - With NUS: The Sciences and Chinese double bachelor's, international research
  - With NTU: Shared research in physics and chemistry, doctorates in co-supervision

# Lessons Learned

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- **There is strength in numbers** and this holds true for university networks on a global, European or local scale.
- **Be there needs to be a core structure** to encourage the growing community.
- **We don't all have to have the same type of partnership** in fact, adapting collaboration styles means finding the best fit
- **Don't lose sight of the long-term vision and goals** and adjust accordingly
- **The context is always changing, so let's not be surprised** when our partners change priorities, the government changes its laws, and the private sector creates new professions



**Thank you. Questions?**

