

Press Release

Positive results for the first Centrale Nantes and *Pôle Emploi* (Employment Centre) training programme for PhD holders

A look back at the "Skills for business" training programme for PhD jobseekers devised and implemented by the Pays de la Loire Employment Centre and Centrale Nantes.



The training programme was put together following a detailed analysis of jobseekers' needs, putting into perspective their skills in the labour market. After 250 hours of courses at Centrale Nantes and a 3-month work placement, 9 of the 10 PhD jobseekers secured a work contract - 6 on a fixed-term basis. Three of these fixed-term contracts were for new positions created to meet company needs.

This CDEFI-certified programme (CDEFI - The Conference of Deans of French Schools of Engineering) aims to enhance candidates' skills and boost their employability in business.

For these PhD holders, it represents a real springboard allowing them to optimize their qualification, and this for the benefit of major company projects.

Maiwenn, holder of a PhD in geosciences and participant of the first edition:

"This programme helped me to rebuild my self-confidence from a professional point of view. I have not only been able to apply my PhD skills within a company, but I have also learned how to make the most of them. The training managers and trainers were key to the success of the programme as they prompted us to constant self-analysis. Today, I know myself better and my job is fascinating."

At the end of her internship, Maiwenn joined SCE (Keran Group) on a fixed-term contract as a project engineer, a new post, in line with her skills.

Building on this success, Centrale Nantes and the Pays de la Loire Employment Centre have decided to pursue the adventure with the launch of a second edition of "Skills for business". The new programme for PhD jobseekers in the Pays de la Loire starts on 18th October. 10 places will be available across all disciplines. The 3-month internship period will run from 7th January to 2nd April 2019.

Project tutors, coaches and company mentors provide quality monitoring throughout the training, helping the PhD holders to understand and enter the job market. At the end of the programme, a

panel of company mentors and representatives from Centrale Nantes and the Employment Centre meets to certify the successful outcome for each participant.

Through this joint project, Centrale Nantes and the Pays de la Loire Employment Centre have shown their combined ability to prepare graduates for different company functions and professions, and to support skills development throughout their working lives. Centrale Nantes, a training provider that has proved itself in a higher education context, but also in the framework of short training programmes; is building bridges between the higher education community and companies.

About Centrale Nantes

Founded in 1919, Centrale Nantes is a French engineering school and member of the Ecoles Centrale Group. Its undergraduate, Master and PhD programmes are based on the latest scientific and technological developments and the best management practices. At Centrale Nantes, research and training are organised into three key areas for growth and innovation: manufacturing, energy transition and healthcare. With research platforms ranging from digital simulation to prototyping using full-scale models and an incubator with 20 years of experience in supporting start-up projects, the school has two major tools for innovation and creation, working hand in hand with industry. Centrale Nantes promotes its teaching and research capabilities at international level through around 100 partnerships with prestigious universities and schools worldwide.

Centrale Nantes welcomes 2,410 students, including 1,440 undergraduate students, 200 Executive Education and ITII degree apprenticeship students, 270 PhD students, 410 Masters students, and 100 Bachelor/Foundation Master students on its 40-acre campus.

For more information, visit www.ec-nantes.fr

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About Pôle emploi (Employment Centre)

As the major player in the labour market, *Pôle Emploi* (Employment Centre) works on a daily basis to facilitate the return to employment of jobseekers and to offer companies solutions tailored to their recruitment needs. *Pôle Emploi* adapts its service provision to the needs of jobseekers with personalized careers guidance. It puts jobseekers in contact with companies and manages payment of allowances where appropriate. The Pays de la Loire Employment Centre comprises 48 branches, spread across the region, with 2400 careers advisers, telephone platforms (3949 for jobseekers, 3995 for companies) and a high-performance digital service via pole-emploi.fr or the *Emploi Store*.

More information: www.pole-emploi.fr/region/pays-de-la-loire/ /  [@poleemploi_PDL](https://twitter.com/poleemploi_PDL)

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