

**SciencesPo**



Premier ministre

**MAIRIE DE PARIS**



Press release

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## **Sciences Po acquires the Hôtel de l'Artillerie to form an innovative campus in the heart of Paris**

Sciences Po has secured an agreement with the State to acquire the Hôtel de l'Artillerie, located on the Place Saint-Thomas d'Aquin in the seventh arrondissement of Paris. This transaction is essential for Sciences Po's future. It is the means to pursue the university's vision for twenty-first century teaching, scholarship and research by developing an innovative, multidisciplinary and socially inclusive campus in the heart of Paris, underpinned by a renewed commitment to equality of opportunity. In doing so, Sciences Po intends to reinforce its contribution to the public service of higher education and research and develop its attractiveness in France and abroad. This acquisition will also allow Sciences Po to streamline its real estate portfolio and ultimately make substantial savings.

Occupied by the ministry of defence until all its departments are grouped together in Balard, this site will be acquired by mutual agreement at a value that safeguards the State's property interests. The transaction is entirely self-financed by Sciences Po through savings in rent (sixteen leases will be terminated, which will cover 85 percent of the total cost) and a fundraising campaign, meaning no State funding has been sought. Instead, funding for the plan relies on the institution's ability to develop through a sustainable business model.

The new campus planned around the Artillerie will enable Sciences Po to achieve the transformation outlined in its strategic plan: to become a multidisciplinary research and education platform engaged with the city and society; to intensify productive exchange between disciplines; to facilitate the inter-relationship between research and teaching; to forge ever-closer ties with practitioners from all professional circles; to reinforce the role of the social sciences in public life; and to pursue its policy for social inclusion by creating subsidised student housing in

the heart of Saint-Germain des Prés. New facilities – technology-enabled rooms, a courtroom, a newsroom for the School of Journalism, a business incubator, etc. – will place this campus at the forefront of the pedagogical revolution that is transforming higher education.

For the State, the plan represents a development in the public interest dedicated to youth, higher education and the advancement of research in the humanities and social sciences. For Prime Minister Manuel Valls, "this is a great project in the public interest that attests to the renewed cooperation between the State and the City of Paris. It demonstrates Sciences Po's dynamism and ability to innovate. The opening of these premises to partner universities for joint projects and the construction of subsidised student housing nearby are additional strengths of the proposed campus redevelopment."

Minister of National Education, Higher Education and Research Najat Vallaud "welcomes a decision that will increase the visibility and attractiveness of Sciences Po and enhance the international influence of French higher education and of the social sciences. It is a coherent real estate investment that will serve to further innovative educational and scientific ambitions."

For Sciences Po President Frédéric Mion, "acquisition of the Artillerie will enable us to build the Sciences Po of tomorrow: a multidisciplinary social science university among the most attractive in the world. Engaged with the city and the wider world, the university will serve as an incubator for collective intelligence in the public interest."

A strong presence in the city centre is the cornerstone of strategies that have been successfully adopted by other major higher education institutions – and Sciences Po partners – to attract top students and academics from around the world, such as the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), New York University (NYU), Columbia University in New York and Hong Kong University. The Artillerie redevelopment plan will reinforce Paris's status as a world-class centre for innovation and, as part of Université Sorbonne Paris Cité (USPC), contribute to the renewal of French higher education alongside projects such as Condorcet and Saclay.

The Paris City Council supports the plan. "Paris offers a density of innovation and creativity that is matched by few other cities in the world. Higher education institutions, Sciences Po included, play a vital role in attracting and nurturing this activity. Innovation in an outstanding heritage setting, social diversity and engagement with the city – Sciences Po's plan is truly exciting!" stated Anne Hidalgo, Mayor of Paris.

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