

master POLITICAL IDEAS IN A DIGITAL AGE UNDERSTANDING POLITICS, ETHICS AND DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Formation initiale

Presentation

The Master's programme Political Ideas in a Digital Age (PIDA), taught entirely in English, explores how digital technologies and artificial intelligence are reshaping politics, societies, and global relations. It investigates how political ideas and democratic practices evolve in a world where technological innovation transforms communication, governance, and power dynamics.

M.A. PIDA provides an interdisciplinary perspective in the field of European and International Studies. Students analyse how digital transformation affects global governance, European and international regulation, and the ethical debates surrounding AI and data-driven societies. The programme equips students to understand digital technology not merely as a technical phenomenon, but as a major political and ethical force shaping the 21st century.

Combining political theory, philosophy, and digital studies, PIDA prepares graduates to contribute to the ethical and strategic management of digital change. The curriculum merges critical reflection with practical skills in project management, digital communication, and responsible innovation. Students learn to address the challenges of digital transformation within public institutions, international organisations, and global companies — preparing them to play an active role in building a more ethical and sustainable digital future.

2 years
FULL TIME

Fully in English

Our Philosophy

A Forward-Looking Vision

The Political Ideas in a Digital Age master's programme is built upon a conviction: the digital revolution is transforming how power operates, how citizens engage, and how democratic ideals are expressed. Understanding these global transformations requires both historical depth and analytical skills. At CY Cergy Paris Université, this programme combines the study of political thought with hands-on engagement with contemporary technological, ethical, and geopolitical challenges.

Interdisciplinary and International

At the crossroads of political science, philosophy, law, economics, and data studies, PIDA provides an intellectually rich and internationally oriented education. Courses and research seminars bring together students and faculty from a variety of backgrounds and disciplines, creating a vibrant learning community where digital humanities meet political theory.

Skills for the Digital Age

The programme develops key analytical, ethical, and communicative skills for the new global landscape:

- Critical analysis of political and technological change
- Ethical and responsible use of AI and data
- Project design and digital strategy in international contexts
- Cross-cultural communication and collaboration
- Research and innovation in the humanities and social sciences

Duration: 2 years, full-time (M1: 2026–2027 | M2: 2027–2028)

Language: English

Location: CY Cergy Paris Université – Maison de la Recherche en Sciences Humaines et Sociales Annie Ernaux, Site des Chênes (Cergy, France)

Start date: September 2026

Course modules

MASTER 1

SEMESTER 1

- UE 1** History of Political Ideas
- UE 2** Ethics of Digital Technologies
- UE 3** Information Theory
- UE 4** International Institutions
- UE 5** Regional Geopolitics 1 (Latin America / South-East Asia / Great Britain)
- UE 6** Academic and Professional Skills 1
- UE 7** Research seminars

SEMESTER 2

- UE 1** Science and Politics
- UE 2** Ethics of AI
- UE 3** Digital Law
- UE 4** Media and Power
- UE 5** Regional Geopolitics II (Latin America / South-East Asia / Great Britain)
- UE 6** Academic and Professional Skills 2
- UE 7** Research Seminars

MASTER 2

SEMESTER 3

- UE 1** Transitions and Liberal Democracies
- UE 2** Media and Citizenship
- UE 3** Digital Tools Applied to Social Science
- UE 4** Data Protection and New Digital Tools
- UE 5** Geopolitics of AI
- UE 6** Academic and Professional Skills 3 – AI in Research

SEMESTER 4

Student choose one of the following options:

- **Outgoing Mobility at Partner Institution:** includes a reflexive report (approx. 50 pages)
- **Research Paper:** a research experience at one of the research centres associated with the Master's programme and a research thesis (approx.100 pages)
- **Professional Internship:** 6-month internship contract and a reflexive report (approx. 50 pages)



Curriculum Overview

The master's programme is organised over four semesters, combining theory, research, and professional practice.

Each semester includes "BCC" (core learning blocks), "EC" (teaching units), and "SAE" (applied or project-based learning experiences).

Throughout the two years, students are encouraged to combine academic rigour with creativity, teamwork, and applied research. Assessment is based on written, oral, and practical work, as well as active participation.

To learn more about this diploma, visit our website :

www.fe2i.cyu.fr

ADMISSIONS AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

✓ Entry requirements:

Applicants should hold a Bachelor's degree (or equivalent, 180 ECTS) in Political Science, Philosophy, History, International Relations, Communication, or related fields. Applicants from other academic backgrounds, or with relevant professional experience, may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

✓ English proficiency:

The programme is taught entirely in English. Applicants are expected to demonstrate a sufficient command of English (IELTS 6.5 / TOEFL iBT 90 or equivalent). An interview may be organised to assess oral fluency and motivation.

✓ Application materials:

- Online application form
- Curriculum Vitae (with photograph)
- Academic transcripts and degree certificates
- Two letters of recommendation
- Motivation statement

Application period: February to mid-July 2026

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Graduates of the Political Ideas in a Digital Age programme pursue a wide variety of careers at the intersection of politics, technology, and international affairs. They are equipped to work in public institutions, international organisations, think tanks, NGOs, and the private sector, where understanding digital transformation is crucial.

Career paths include:

- Digital communication and public affairs officer
- Data and policy analyst
- Political or digital consultant
- Corporate social responsibility manager
- European project coordinator
- Researcher or PhD candidate
- International relations officer
- Expert in AI ethics and digital governance

PIDA graduates stand out for their ability to link ethical reflection, analytical thinking, and digital innovation — skills increasingly valued in both public and private sectors worldwide.

Alumni testimonies

«From the origins of statistics and modern data analytics to the future of cryptocurrencies, and from classical debates on liberal thought to the exploration of power in its contemporary forms— tech platforms, algorithms, AI, and the media—the program offers a comprehensive and dynamic learning experience.»

— Jonathan Dagher
Head of Middle-east Desk at
Reporters without Borders (RSF)

«As a PhD student studying contemporary British politics from a historical perspective, I constantly draw on the insights and methodologies I gained during my time in MA PIDA. This unique program brought the history of political thought to life, bridging the gap between classic theorists and the fast-changing realities of the digital era. PIDA challenged me to rethink how we engage with political ideas today—not just as historical artifacts but as dynamic forces shaping our hyper-connected world...»

— Balkis Mougou
PhD Student

«The MA Political Ideas in a Digital Age is an innovative and inspiring programme. It provides students with the skills to assess and harness the political, social and ethical challenges of our rapidly evolving digital world.»

The programme is entirely taught in English. It is devised for French and international students with a background in humanities and social sciences.»

To apply

For students in France:

www.monmaster.gouv.fr

For non-EU students:

contact the «Études en France» office of your country

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