

Press Release

4 December 2017

Centrale Nantes and Pôle Emploi (Employment Centre) are testing an employment programme for PhD holders for the first time in France.

Pôle-emploi and Centrale Nantes are offering PhD-qualified job-seekers in the Loire-Atlantique a free and paid training course in “COMPÉTENCES POUR L’ENTREPRISE - CPE” (Skills for the business world).

On 4 December 2017, Centrale Nantes launched the “Skills for the business world” course for ten unemployed PhD holders, from different academic backgrounds. Centrale Nantes was given the approval of the CDEFI (Conference of Deans of French Schools of Engineering) to provide CPE courses last May.

As the first engineering school to offer the “Skills for the business world” course to 10 job seekers from all disciplines, Centrale Nantes is offering its expertise to PhD holders trained in other academic fields for this first experiment. Usually open to PhD students, the CPE course, initiated by the CDEFI and supported by the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, has never before been opened up to PhD holders.

This course is based on the following observation: the PhD degree is the most internationally recognized qualification; our French PhD holders are very sought after internationally. Above all, it is important for these young graduates to understand how to enhance the excellence of their training with their future employer. Designed to help PhD holders secure employment, the course aims to pass on a number of skills required in business. Successful course participants receive a nationally-recognised certificate of achievement.

This 250-hour course will take place at Centrale Nantes in the form courses split into four sessions, followed by a 3-month internship. The PhD graduates will cover all the following subjects allowing them to enhance their diploma and skills:

- Understanding how companies work: organization of R&D, intellectual and industrial property, labour law - HR management, basics in entrepreneurship / intrapreneurship, innovation, real business problem to solve etc.
- Personal development: managerial posture, emotional intelligence, interpersonal communication, time management and ability to prioritise, career plan and job-seeking techniques
- Management: leadership workshop, (industrial) project management, finance for non-specialists, professional communication, conducting meetings and interviews, drafting reports and patents
- International exposure: professional English and TOEIC test, intercultural communication

The PhDs holders will then undertake 3-month internships in companies from 5 February 2018 to 30 April 2018 (for more information: cpe@ec-nantes.fr).

Quality support will be provided throughout the training course by project tutors, coaches and company mentors, all involved in helping the participants to understand and join the job market. At the end of the course, an examinations board, composed of company mentors and representatives of Centrale Nantes, will award the CPE course certificate to successful trainees.

Through this joint project, Centrale Nantes and Pôle Emploi are demonstrating their ability to prepare graduates for different company roles and functions together and to support skills development throughout working life. Centrale Nantes, a training provider that has proven its expertise in higher education as well as in shorter training programmes, is building bridges between the higher education community and industry by promoting the employability of its trainees.

About Centrale Nantes

Centrale Nantes is a French engineering school and member of the Ecoles Centrale Group. Its graduate, master and PhD programmes are based on the latest scientific and technological developments and the best management practices. Founded in 1919, Centrale Nantes' 40-acre campus welcomes 2250 students, including 1340 graduate students, 200 Executive Education and degree apprenticeship students, 240 PhD students and 270 Master and Advanced Master students.

About Pôle emploi

Pôle emploi (Employment Centre) is a major player in the job market where it is committed to facilitating the return to employment of jobseekers and offering companies solutions tailored to their recruitment needs. Its role: welcome, registration, benefit payment, career guidance, training and job placement for jobseekers; support for companies in their recruitment and expertise in the labour market. Pôle emploi provides the public with the following tools: pole-emploi.fr website, MOOCs (online courses), an employment store (platform for the provision of web and mobile employment services), call centre for job seekers (dial 3949) and for businesses (dial 3995).

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