

## **Press Release**

## Ecole Centrale's Nantes campus hosts its first intake of international "Bachelor of Science in Engineering" students

After two years of study on the Mauritius campus, the first students from Centrale Nantes' "Bachelor" programme start today their third academic year on the Nantes campus. This four-year university degree is open to international high school graduates.



Since opening its doors in September 2016, the Centrale Nantes Mauritius campus has been hosting Mauritian and Sub-Saharan African students, for a four-year Bachelor of Engineering degree. The third year of the programme, which is taught in English, takes place on the Centrale Nantes campus.

This degree programme is tailored to meet the expectations of students and companies from Indian Ocean and African countries: a vocational

course with strong international exposure via 12 months of mandatory internships in Mauritius and outside the country throughout the curriculum.

To help finance their studies, some students benefit from industrial scholarships awarded by French and international companies or by Centrale Nantes.



As part of the Ecoles Centrale Group's development of international establishments, Mauritius proved a natural choice for a campus location. Building on the Mauritian government's goal to develop a platform for higher education and regional research, Centrale Nantes - in partnership with the Medine Mauritius group (which runs the UNICITI Education Hub) - opened this innovative programme to deliver French engineering training to English-speaking students.

This year, the Nantes campus welcomes the first 23 students from Mauritius, Kenya, Tanzania, and Ethiopia, including **Sasha WANJIKU** (from Kenya):



"What I appreciated the most when I arrived on the Nantes campus was the diversity and warm welcome we received. I am very excited to start this third year which will be technical with a strong professional focus. It will be a real asset for me to undertake an internship in France at the end of this year.

I intend to pursue a career in civil engineering after the bachelor programme. I completed my first internship in Madagascar in a civil engineering company, which is sponsoring my studies. After graduation, I already have a four-year contract with this company for a civil engineering post based in Africa."

## and Jeshna SOORIAH (from Mauritius):



"I was delighted to discover Nantes: everything is green, the atmosphere on campus is dynamic, the infrastructure is amazing; I can't wait to start my programme and benefit from the school's research laboratories. I'm looking forward to carrying out my end-of-year internship in France, a real plus for my career.

After graduation I'll undoubtedly start out in the civil engineering sector and maybe, after a few years of experience, I'll pursue my studies with a master's programme."

The majority of the students wish to deploy the skills acquired during the Bachelor programme to contribute to urbanization and infrastructure development in their home country.

"These students are pioneers in this school, they illustrate the benefits of the Centrale Nantes curricula. Whether they be pursuing an engineering, master or bachelor degree, they are part of a programme of excellence with the same criteria of quality and standards" - Arnaud Poitou, Director of Centrale Nantes.

"We have witnessed the progress of these Bachelor students over the last two years and cannot but appreciate their dynamism and maturity. It is a unique opportunity for these young people to confront international excellence and multiculturality, in line with the values of Centrale Nantes" - Frédéric Meslin, Director of Centrale Nantes Mauritius Campus.

## **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, 170 Executive Education and ITII degree apprenticeship students, 270 PhD students, 430 Masters students, and 100 Bachelor/Foundation Master students on its 40-acre campus.

For more information, visit: <u>www.ec-nantes.fr</u>

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