From a 17th century garden of medicinal plants to today’s major teaching and research institution, the Muséum National d’Histoire Naturelle has derived its complexity and profound originality from four centuries of growth. Within its domain—the humanities and natural sciences—the museum pursues basic and applied research while conserving and expanding its collections of natural and cultural heritage. Other essential missions include teaching, consulting, and spreading knowledge. The museum also has a national mission to inventory and track biodiversity at the national and regional levels. The museum is deeply engaged in international networks and partnerships designed to analyze and protect biodiversity and to understand the history of man’s relations with his environment.

◆ MAIN PROGRAMMES OF STUDY

The multidisciplinary master’s program in evolution, natural heritage, and societies spans the natural sciences and the humanities, affording students the benefit of the museum’s unique collections and universally renowned expertise. The program offers 6 specializations:
- 3 specializations offered jointly with Université Paris 6, AgroParisTech, the École Normale Supérieure, and Université Paris 11: (i) ecology, biodiversity, and evolution; (ii) environment, development, land, and society; and (iii) systematics, evolution, and paleobiodiversity.
- 1 specialization, in the Quaternary period and prehistory, is offered by an Erasmus Mundus consortium that links the museum with university partners in Italy, Spain, and Portugal.
- 1 professional-track specialization in development and integrated territorial development is designed primarily for students from the global South. This program is a UNESCO chair project.
- 1 international program in tropical plant biodiversity and environment involves alternating periods of study in the North and South (a semester in Paris followed by a semester in Cameroon or Senegal). The museum also delivers an occupational certification known as C2i® MEAD, a level-2 computer and Internet credential under the French occupational certification system (in the category of sustainable development and environmental occupations).

◆ RESEARCH

The doctoral department on humanities and the natural sciences welcomes doctoral candidates in the following research fields: systematics, biology and physiology of organisms, populations and their relations with their environment, relations between societies and their natural setting, space sciences, paleontology, and prehistory, among others. Approximately 1 in 4 of the department’s doctoral candidates is from outside France.

◆ STRENGTHS

The strengths of the museum’s educational programs are interdisciplinarity and small classes (which allow each student to receive individual attention), fresh thinking, top-quality teaching and support, access to world-class museum collections and experts in various fields, and career opportunities. Participation in major European and international research programs is a very important component of the museum’s scientific research strategy.

◆ LOCATION

The Muséum National d’Histoire Naturelle, with its historic center in Paris’s Jardin des Plantes, occupies 14 distinct sites in Paris, Île-de-France, and elsewhere in France.

http://www.mnhn.fr