LAMS - Laboratoire d'archéologie moléculaire et structurale

Rapport Hcéres

Research evaluation

REPORT ON THE RESEARCH UNIT:
Laboratoire d'Archéologie Moléculaire et Structurale (LAMS)

UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS AND RESEARCH BODIES:
Sorbonne université

Centre national de la recherche scientifique - CNRS

EVALUATION CAMPAIGN 2017-2018
GROUP D

In the name of Hcéres[1]:

Michel Cosnard, President

In the name of the expert committee[2]:

Caroline Tokarski, Chairman of the committee

Under the decree No.2014-1365 dated 14 November 2014,

[1] The president of Hcéres "countersigns the evaluation reports set up by the expert committees and signed by their chairman." (Article 8, paragraph 5);

[2] The evaluation reports "are signed by the chairman of the expert committee". (Article 11, paragraph 2).

This report is the sole result of the unit's evaluation by the expert committee, the composition of which is specified below. The assessments contained herein are the expression of an independent and collegial reviewing by the committee.

UNIT PRESENTATION

Unit name:	Laboratoire d'Archéologie Moléculaire et Structurale
Unit acronym:	LAMS
Requested label:	UMR
Application type:	Renewal
Current number:	8220
Head of the unit (2017-2018):	Mr Philippe WALTER
Project leader (2019-2023):	Mr Philippe WALTER
Number of teams :	1

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair: Ms Caroline TOKARSKI, université de Lille (representative of CoNRS)

Experts: Mr Stephen ELLIOTT, Cambridge university, United Kingdom

Mr Jean-Pierre MAHY, université Paris-Sud (representative of CNU)

Mr Guirec QUERRE, université de Rennes (supporting personnel)

HCERES scientific officer:

Mr Georges MASSIOT

Representatives of supervising institutions and bodies:

Mr Bertrand MEYER, Sorbonne université

Ms Frédérique PERONNET, Sorbonne université

Ms Claire-Marie PRADIER, CNRS

Mr Alain WALKARIUS, CNRS

INTRODUCTION

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE UNIT

The « Laboratoire d'Archéologie Moléculaire et Structurale » (LAMS) is a joint research unit (UMR, Unité Mixte de Recherche) of the CNRS and the Sorbonne university. It was created in 2012. Between 2012 and 2014, the LAMS was located at Ivry-sur-Seine and since October 2014, it is located in the renovated buildings of the Jussieu campus in Paris. The LAMS is composed of 14 permanent staff and 2 researchers on long-term secondment.

MANAGEMENT TEAM

The head of the unit is Mr Philippe WALTER (current and forthcoming contracts) and the deputy head is Ms Maguy JABER for the forthcoming contract.

HCERES NOMENCLATURE

ST4: chemistry
SHS6_2: histoire de l'art
SHS6_3: archéologie

SCIENTIFIC DOMAIN

The LAMS' research activities are dedicated to the study of matter and techniques in the elaboration of artworks and objects of cultural heritage. The scientific work relates to a very long period of our history, i.e. from prehistoric origins to the early twentieth century. The research is organized around two themes and a technical platform. The first theme concerns hybrid materials, their synthesis and ageing; the second is the history and evolution of material production.

UNIT WORKFORCE

Unit workforce	Number 30/06/2017	Number 01/01/2019
Permanent staff		
Full professors and similar positions	1	1
Assistant professors and similar positions	2	2
Full-time research directors (Directeurs de recherche) and similar positions	2*	2
Full-time research associates (Chargés de recherche) and similar positions	3*	3*
Other scientists ("Conservateurs, cadres scientifiques des EPIC, fondations, industries, etc.")	0	0
High-school teachers	0	0
Supporting personnel (ITAs, BIATSSs and others, notably of EPICs)	9*	8
TOTAL permanent staff	**14+3 en détachement**	**15 +1 en détachement**
Non-permanent staff		

Non-permanent professors and associate professors, including emeritus	**1**	
Non-permanent full time scientists, including emeritus, post-docs	**4**	
Non-permanent supporting personnel	**2**	
PhD Students	**6**	
TOTAL non-permanent staff	**13**	
TOTAL unit	**29**	

*Personnel en détachement

GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF THE UNIT

Although it was recently created (2012), the LAMS became quickly an internationally recognized laboratory, both for the excellent research dedicated to the comprehension of artworks and objects from cultural heritage using innovative methodological approaches, and for the original instrumentation developments, in particular concerning the construction of a mobile laboratory equipped with non-invasive techniques. It proposes an interdisciplinary research at the frontier of several sciences: chemistry, physics, geosciences, material sciences, art history, archaeology… This interdisciplinary approach contributes to the proposal of original scientific approaches in a highly challenging field of research, and it clearly represents a great strength of the UMR. The high level of the LAMS research results in part from a combination of the remarkable technical skills of the team and their strong knowledge in cross-disciplinary sciences linked to the studied samples. The scientific axes are varied and complementary; i.e. from the understanding of painting formulations to studies related to the origin of life or geomagnetic variations.

The LAMS research benefits from numerous and well-targeted partnerships at local, national and international levels (e.g. prestigious museums, academic laboratories, governmental agencies, private companies). Some of these partnerships are supported by nationally and internationally funded projects, including PIA projects (2 Équipex, including 1 as leader until 2015). Other collaborations are supported by invited-researcher positions and post-doctoral positions. Despite its small size, the UMR 8220 is highly productive and the quality of the conducted research is shown by the publications in both high-impact analytical journals and also in more specialized ones (archaeology, art history…). LAMS' scientific recognition is also evident by the granting of several prestigious awards and distinctions. The UMR is also a main international actor in the organization of international thematic schools or conferences. On another aspect, the interdisciplinary skills of the LAMS allows the creation of very innovative teaching (Master level), with shared activities between art-history sciences and material sciences.

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