

LPTENS - Laboratoire de physique théorique de l'ENS

Rapport Hcéres

► **To cite this version:**

Rapport d'évaluation d'une entité de recherche. LPTENS - Laboratoire de physique théorique de l'ENS. 2018, École normale supérieure - ENS, Centre national de la recherche scientifique - CNRS, Université Pierre et Marie Curie - UPMC. hceres-02031530

HAL Id: hceres-02031530

<https://hal-hceres.archives-ouvertes.fr/hceres-02031530>

Submitted on 20 Feb 2019

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REPORT ON THE RESEARCH UNIT:

Laboratoire de Physique Théorique de l'École
Normale Supérieure
LPT-ENS

UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS AND RESEARCH BODIES:

École Normale Supérieure - ENS
Université Pierre et Marie Curie
Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique -
CNRS

ÉVALUATION CAMPAIGN 2017-2018
GROUP D



In the name of Hcéres¹ :

Michel Cosnard, President

In the name of the expert committee² :

Marc Henneaux, Chairman of the
committee

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

¹ The president of HCERES "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 de Physique Théorique de l'École Normale Supérieure
Unit acronym:	LPT-ENS
Requested label:	UMR
Application type:	Renewal
Current number:	UMR 8549
Head of the unit (2017-2018):	Mr Constantin BACHAS
Project leader (2019-2023):	Mr Denis BERNARD
Number of teams:	2

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair:	Mr Marc HENNEAUX, université libre de Bruxelles, Belgique
Experts:	Mr Fabian H.L. ESSLER, university of Oxford, United Kingdom Mr Eric RAGOUCY, CNRS LAPTH (representative of CoNRS) Mr Emmanuel TRIZAC, université Paris Sud Mr Dimitrios TSIMPIS, université Lyon 1 (representative of CNU)
HCERES scientific officer:	Mr Yannis KARYOTAKIS
Representatives of supervising institutions and bodies:	Mr Yves LASZLO, ENS PARIS Mr Bart VAN TIGGELEN, CNRS Mr Pascal VINCENT, U PARIS 6

INTRODUCTION

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE UNIT

The LPTENS was founded in 1974 by Philippe MEYER and Claude BOUCHIAT when a group of theoretical physicists (high energy physics and particle physics) moved from the LPTHE of the university of Orsay to the École Normale Supérieure in Paris. LPTENS is located 24, rue Lhomond, in Paris.

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Mr Constantin BACHAS (Directeur),
Mr Rémi MONASSON and Mr Jan TROOST (responsables d'équipes),
Mr Kay WIESE (assistant de prévention)
Mr Marc-Thierry JAEKEL (informatique)
Ms Sandrine PATACCHINI and Ms Viviane SEBILLE (administration-gestion)

HCERES NOMENCLATURE

ST2 Physics

SCIENTIFIC DOMAIN

The research of the laboratory was initially devoted to theoretical high-energy physics. It has expanded to cover a much broader range of topics. LPTENS is organized now in two teams.

Team A covers the study of the fundamental interactions between particles and fields, which includes quantum field theory, string theory, quantum gravity and applications.

Team B works on statistical physics and its numerous applications, which include many-body quantum mechanics, glasses, biophysics and combinatorial optimization.

UNIT WORKFORCE

Unit workforce	Number 30/06/2017	Number 01/01/2019
Permanent staff		
Full professors and similar positions	3	3
Assistant professors and similar positions	2	2
Full time research directors (Directeurs de recherche) and similar positions	10	9
Full time research associates (Chargés de recherche) and similar positions	5	6
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)	2	2
TOTAL permanent staff	22	22
Non-permanent staff		
Non-permanent professors and associate professors, including emeritus	3	
Non-permanent full time scientists, including emeritus, post-docs	17	
Non-permanent supporting personnel	0	
PhD Students	18	
TOTAL non-permanent staff	38	
TOTAL unit	60	

GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF THE UNIT

LPTENS is an outstanding research unit with exceptional international visibility. It has contributed leading breakthroughs in theoretical physics and continues to pursue outstanding research with the same vigour and excellence.

The members of the laboratory regularly participate in outreach activities where the latest developments in theoretical physics are made available to the public at large (popular lectures, radio or television interviews, press articles).

The unit is extremely attractive to PhD students and postdocs due the excellence of its research and the involvement of its members in teaching and training through research.

The coexistence of a great variety of research directions with a fruitful overlap between themes and methods is a remarkable feature of the laboratory. There is a strong feeling of belonging and shared values amongst all members of the laboratory.

The committee is impressed by the scientific strategy as well as by the broadness and depth of the projects. It is convinced that significant progress will continue to be achieved with the same exceptional success.

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