



XL-CHEM News

EUR XL-Chem bi-annual newsletter

#1

The management team of the XL-CHEM Graduate School of Research*, certified at the end of 2019, is pleased to present in this newsletter **the actions that have been carried out this semester** in order to prepare the reception of the first 2020 class of XL-Chem students.

COMMUNICATION

A website has been created to promote the activities of the XL-Chem Graduate School of Research (www.xl-chem.fr). Flyers in French and English presenting the training program have been made available for the communication and international relations departments of the partner institutions. These communication tools are intended both for students and institutions.

XL-CHEM RELATED RESEARCH

Normandy Regional council has founded a 3-year research program. In this **XL-Chem 2020 RIN label project**, eight PhD projects have been submitted and will be co-funded with the universities of Le Havre Normandie, Macquarie (Sydney - Australia), Munich and Munster (Germany), Nottingham (England), Montreal (Canada), Copenhagen (Denmark), Penn State (USA). These partnerships involve all Norman establishments.

MASTERS XL-CHEM

The XL-Chem Master's curriculum, involving each one of the three universities, has been presented to and validated by the three councils (CFVU**). This XL-Chem curriculum will associate "à la carte" high level courses and lectures in chemistry and chemical biology given by high level French and international academics and industrials, to a reinforced training through research in international laboratories and industries, under the guidance of an academic mentor, and a dedicated innovative set of soft skills and management courses leading to an additional certification fitting with Candidate career project. **The first class of XL-Chem Master students will begin their training in September 2020.** In order to select the students, the training offer was opened via e-candidate on the portals of the three universities. A selection committee representative of the Universities met twice in May and June 2020 to evaluate the applications submitted, and to interview the pre-selected applicants.

* University School of Research (Ecole Universitaire de Recherche)

** Commission for Training and University Life (Commission de la Formation et de la Vie Universitaire)

A first class of ten students has thus been selected and will be able to join our universities from September.

At the same time, nearly twenty mentorship proposals were submitted by members of the research teams associated to XI-Chem. These projects will soon be presented to students in order to enable them to develop the tutored research project corresponding to their wish for professional integration. In a final step, the student / mentor pairs will set up the appropriate educational path for each candidate.

A double degree agreement for a Master of Chemistry between the University of Florence (Italy) and the University of Rouen Normandy is being finalised.

The "**Analysis and spectrochemistry**" curriculum of the master of chemistry of the University of Rouen Normandy has also been opened to the work-study program, and will welcome the first students at the start of the 2020 school year. A contract is being signed and 5 other students (from M1 Chemistry in Rouen) are currently looking for a company. Given the current context, we hope to have 2-3 work-study students for this first year. The current course is adapted by extending the teaching period (September-end of February instead of September-end of December) to allow a rhythm of alternation of two days of training (Monday, Tuesday) and three days in the company (Wednesday, Thursday, Friday). The professionalisation of training (addition of a "guided self-learning experience" tutored project and 26 hours of practical work) is reinforced.

THE FRENCH NATIONAL RESEARCH AGENCY (ANR) CONVENTION

The convention with the French National Research Agency (ANR) was signed in April 2020.

XL-CHEM INAUGURATION

All of these actions, as well as the ambitions of the XL-Chem Graduate School of Research will be presented at the **inauguration** of this University Research School, **Thursday October 15th, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. at the Abbaye-Aux-Dames - Hotel de Région**, Caen. Initially scheduled for March 26th, 2020, this inauguration has been postponed due to the COVID-19 crisis.

XL-CHEM PROJECT BUDGET

The XL-CHEM Graduate School of Research is funded by the ANR - French National Research Agency (4.1 M€) over the duration of the project (November 15th 2019 - August 15th, 2028). A first co-financing by the Normandy Region via the RIN Label XI-Chem 2020 project (968.6 K€) was obtained for the first three years of the educational program (October 1st 2020 - December 31st, 2023), including the co-financing of 8 PhD theses.

