

**PRESS RELEASE**

Paris-Saclay, 19 May 2021

**Université Paris-Saclay launches the  
“Women in business: BeCome a leader” programme**

**Université Paris-Saclay is committed to achieving an inclusive university that promotes equal opportunities. In line with this approach, the University is launching a new intensive training programme for young women, in partnership with the *Women Initiative Foundation*. The innovative programme aims to help young women develop their leadership skills and potential in business and the economy.**

Equality and equal opportunities are at the heart of Université Paris-Saclay’s core missions and the University has decided to launch the “*Women in business: BeCome a leader*” programme in partnership with the *Women Initiative Foundation* – an international foundation that works to promote the advancement of women in the workplace.

The programme is aimed at young women with less than five years of professional experience who have studied in higher education for two to three years. It is designed to offer participants new possibilities in their careers, helping them to develop their network and, at the end, provide them with a 360° view of companies and their organisation.

The training course will last 12 days and is divided into two parts: an initial week of in-person training which will start on 6 September 2021, followed by seven days spread out throughout the year, taught in-person and remotely. The programme will feature expert speakers from the corporate and business world, role plays and meetings with inspiring personalities, researchers, Nobel Prize winners, leaders of major French CAC 40 companies, top athletes, etc.

Thanks to the participation of the government of Quebec, which is committed to achieving a more equal society, an end of course trip to Quebec will be organised in May 2022. The trip and partnership will provide the young women selected with an international perspective.

*“The programme aims to provide leverage for young women to help them boost their professional careers. What makes it unique is that it is not aimed at top-ranking executives who are easily identifiable in companies. Instead, the programme is aimed at young women who have studied for 2-3 years in higher education with a few years of professional experience and who often go unnoticed for this kind of initiative,”* said Estelle Iacona, Vice President at Université Paris-Saclay.

For Martine Liautaud, founder and president of the Women Initiative Foundation, *“the project is much more than just a training course; it also strives to unveil and act as a catalyst for female talents. It has the potential to have a real social impact in companies and is fully in line with the mission that WIF has been coordinating for over 10 years now.”*

Applications for the programme are open until 31 May 2021.

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## ABOUT UNIVERSITÉ PARIS-SACLAY

*Université Paris-Saclay brings together ten constituent faculties and institutes, four Grandes Écoles, the Institut des Hautes Etudes Scientifiques, two associate institutions and shared laboratories with six national research organisations.*

*With 48,000 students, 8,100 lecturers and 8,500 administrative and technical staff members, Université Paris-Saclay offers a comprehensive and varied range of undergraduate to doctorate level programmes and engineering degrees, renowned for their quality thanks to the reputation and commitment of the University's academic staff.*

*Located in the south of Paris on vast sites that stretch across Paris, Orsay, Évry and Versailles, Université Paris-Saclay benefits from a strategic geographical and socio-economic position that is strengthened by its international visibility. A leading University, Université Paris-Saclay is recognised for its excellent Mathematics and Physics programmes but also for Biological and Medical Sciences, Agriculture, Engineering, and its extensive Humanities and Social Sciences courses. Close to Paris, Université Paris-Saclay is nested in a protected natural area, at the heart of a dynamic economic hub.*



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## ABOUT WIF

*The Women Initiative Foundation (WIF) was founded in 2009 by Martine Liautaud to promote the advancement of women in the economy. Today, WIF is an international foundation based in Paris that is also present in New York, San Francisco, Montreal and Singapore.*

*From its first mentoring programmes to the virtual intercompany and intercontinental programmes it developed during the 2020 health crisis, WIF continues to pursue its mission in promoting women in business and the economy.*

*Convinced by ten years of work, meetings and thinking that diversity is a central pillar of transformation, WIF strives to help companies develop, grow and protect their human capital.*



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