

16 applications were received this year. We created a first shortlist of 2 names and contacted one of the persons indicated as references by each candidates. Following these interviews we decided to retain one candidate only on the basis of her successful studies in physics and the experiences she built in an internship in atmospheric sciences.

One student was hence interviewed in Paris. The departmenet covered her travel expenses.

The first examination (about 1 hour) was on geosciences in a broad sense. The goal was to evaluate the skills of the applicant to solve geophysical problems that she may not have studied before, but that she could tackle based on fundamental physical and mathematical principles aquired in her previous education. We proposed a classical problem on the vertical structure of the atmosphere, based on thermodynamics and physics. The candidate clearly showed that she knew how to solve the problem although that was not necessary part of her physics curriculum. The second question was about the thermodynamics of the deep Earth and the forces at play in the Earth's mantle and core.

The second examination (about 1hour) started with the minor subject, mathematics. Several small problems were proposed on the whiteboard: analysis, geometry, and algebra. The goal here was to see how the student would solve problems, and what her math skills would be. Following that, we interviewed the student about her motivations, her study and professional plans, and how she envisaged her period at Ecole Normale Supérieure.