

Application to organise the 2nd PARSEME training school La Rochelle, France



LOCAL ORGANIZERS :

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LA ROCHELLE

Excerpt from the [Wikipedia](#) :

La Rochelle is a city in western France and a seaport on the Bay of Biscay, a part of the Atlantic Ocean. Its main touristic feature is the "Vieux Port" ("Old Harbour"), which is at the heart of the city, picturesque and lined with seafood restaurants. The city walls are open to an evening promenade. The old town has been well preserved. From the harbour, boating trips can be taken to the Île d'Aix and Fort Boyard (home to the internationally famous TV show of the same name). Nearby Île de Ré is a short drive to the North. The countryside of the surrounding Charente-Maritime is very rural and full of history (Saintes). To the North is Venise Verte, a marshy area of country, criss-crossed with tiny canals and a popular resort for inland boating. Inland is the country of Cognac and Pineau. The attractive Île de Ré is accessible via a bridge from La Rochelle.

Last, it should be noted that insolation is remarkably high. The student population is about 10,000 out of 80,000 inhabitants. Touristic information from Wikitravel is given at the end of this document.

TENTATIVE DATES PROPOSED: Open, preferably September or October 2016

In summer, the first 3 weeks of July, as well as the last week of August are possible. However, a minor inconvenience is that university restaurants are closed in Summer (other lunch options are however available nearby). This would also threaten the organization of coffee breaks. Summer also likely increases the cost of housing as the city is a popular tourist destination.

Therefore, any time after the 1st week of September is preferable. September is slightly better because several low-cost airlines are still operating their seasonal flights to La Rochelle, while all the University services are already up and running (options: 5-9, 12-16, 19-23 and 26-30 September). However, September should be the time of the 7th general meeting. Hence we suggest October, which is comparably good, and where all weeks are fine: 3-7, 10-14, 17-21 and 24-28 October.

LOCATION AND AVAILABLE MEETING ROOMS

Main Meeting venue :

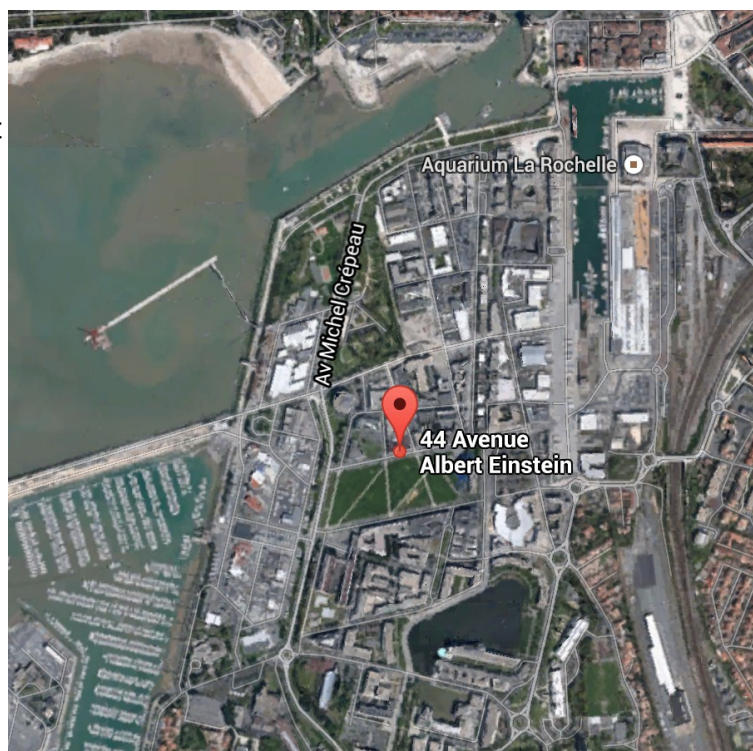
Pôle communication, multimédia et réseaux
University of La Rochelle
44, avenue Albert Einstein
17000 La Rochelle, France

The main conference room was recently built in the « Pôle communication, multimédia et réseaux ». It can seat 200 people and is equipped with all the latest recording and broadcasting facilities. It includes 7 seats and microphones on the stage, e.g., for panel discussions. Full details are available at the following url (in French):

<http://services-numeriques.univ-larochelle.fr/Location-amphitheatre>

Smaller rooms and lab rooms are available for parallel sessions and exercises.

The conference room is located 200 meters from the « port des minimes », a 10-minute walk from the old port and the 3 towers, and a 15-minute walk to the closest beach.



Lunches: If the training occurs in September/October, one of the university cafeterias will be operating in the same building as the lab rooms. Should the training occur in Summer, we will need to resort to the several private joints operating around the “[Technoforum](#)” building, which hosts the main administration of the University of La Rochelle. This is also the place where poster sessions may take place if needed (about 35 poster boards are readily available, others can be added).



ACCOMMODATION

This list is only including hotels very near the conference setting, known to be ok, and for which we have lately been able to agree on the following discounted prices. Regular prices may be slightly higher and can be found with booking engines (e.g. www.booking.com, www.hotels.com, etc.). There are numerous other options given the fact that La Rochelle is a touristic city, while vacancy will not be an issue if the meeting is on weekdays and off-season.

[Hôtel Saint-Nicolas](#)

60€ / night (breakfast included)

[Hôtel ibis, Vieux Port](#)

89€ / night (1-2 person)

[Altica Hotel](#)

46€ / night (+ 5.90€ breakfast)

[Hôtel Kyriad](#)

89€ / night (+ 11€ breakfast)

[Hôtel Les Gens de Mer](#)

68 € / night (+ 9€ breakfast)

triple rooms (90€ / night)

Travel

La Rochelle can be reached in several ways:

1. By plane from Lyon, London, Paris-Orly, Porto...: <http://www.larochelle.aeroport.fr/en/>
2. By train: <http://en.voyages-sncf.com/en/>
3. By car

By plane (International airport of La Rochelle-Ré)

The airport has daily connections the French hub of Lyon, hence making it simple to reach La Rochelle with a connecting flights from numerous European cities. In addition, direct flights are provided on a non-daily basis by Ryanair and Easyjet, towards Birmingham, Bristol, Brussels (Charleroi), Dublin, East Midlands, Edinburgh, Geneva, Leeds, London Gatwick, London Stansted, Manchester, Paris, Porto, Southampton. Please refer to booking sites for updated multiple leg connections, for instance www.skyscanner.com or www.edreams.com.

From the airport, you can reach the conference venue by taxi or by bus (with line number 7 until place de Verdun and then bus number 3 until the Technoforum bus stop, 1.30€ for 1 ticket, 11€ for a 10-trip ticket).

By plane (other airports)

Traveling to La Rochelle can also be achieved by flying to one of the larger nearby airports of Paris CDG, Paris Orly, Bordeaux or Nantes.

If you're not flying to La Rochelle, we recommend that you fly either to Paris CDG, from which you can take a train to La Rochelle without going through Paris, or that you fly to Bordeaux airport which is generally better connected than Nantes airport.

By train

- Paris CDG airport – La Rochelle: about 4 hours
- Paris center (Montparnasse station) - La Rochelle: about 3 hours
- Bordeaux – La Rochelle: about 2 hours
- Nantes – La Rochelle: about 2 hours

Walking from the train station to the conference center takes 10 minutes. Alternatively, you can take a taxi, or bus number 3 towards the stop “Technoforum”.

By car, follow signs to “Les Minimes”,

The conference venue (University) is located between the SNCF railway station and the harbor of Les Minimes.

Visiting La Rochelle

Copy/paste of the “See” section of La Rochelle's [Wikitravel](#) page :

The Old Port ("Vieux Port")

This is the oldest and also the most picturesque part of La Rochelle. Most of the town buildings are hundreds of years old and very well maintained. The narrow streets and pale stone buildings give the Old Port a distinctly mediterranean quality.



The Three Towers (Tour St. Nicolas, Tour de la Chaine & Tour de la Lanterne)



When visiting the Old Port you cannot fail to notice the the three defensive towers, which guard the harbour. They date back to medieval times when control of the city was contested by both French and English. They are well worth a visit although you will have to be in good health to climb the stairs. The staff are friendly and speak both English and French. All the signs to the various rooms and exhibits are also both in French and English. You'll also be given a returnable booklet containing lots of historical information about what is in each room.

The Aquarium

Nature fans will enjoy the huge aquarium, which can be found within easy walking distance of the harbour. The whole tour takes approximately 2-3 hours to experience and is an excellent activity if the weather outside is poor. Audio devices for various languages are available but all educational notices for each exhibit are also translated into English.

Port des Minimes One of the biggest ports of pleasure boats in Europe. Be prepared to be blown away by the number of yachts in this enormous port. Also, visit the beach beside the port.