The Centre d'Études Supérieures de la Renaissance (Centre for Advanced Studies in the Renaissance) is a teaching and research institution which welcomes students and researchers seeking initial or supplementary instruction in all aspects of the Renaissance. It enjoys a double status:

- as a teaching and research unit (Unité de Formation et de Recherche) of the University François Rabelais, Tours
- as a combined unit ("unité mixte") of the French national research council (CNRS) and of the University

The Centre was initially constituted in 1956 on the basis of a library and a documentary archive, supplemented by a collection of photographs and databases. It is also a venue for multi-disciplinary instruction, which, in association with the various Faculties of the University, has responsibility for the following programmes:

- A specific designation "Renaissance" within the Master "Arts, Lettres, Langues et Civilisations"; this diploma is further distinguished by the research specialisation: "Genèse de l'Europe moderne"

- A professionally oriented specialty, "Patrimoine écrit: histoire et pratique de l'édition [The Written Heritage: History and Practice of Publication]"

- A doctorat in the disciplines represented (History, History of Art, Literature, Languages, Musicology, and Philosophy).
Finally, the CESR is a research centre bringing together fifty or so researchers—members of the University and of the CNRS—committed to the investigation of the "civilization of the Renaissance" from Petrarch to Descartes. Conferences, Round Tables, and Study Days are regularly organized.

Instruction
The CESR: A Documentary Centre
Research Programmes

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