



**Research Center on
Advanced Materials**

Welcome Guide

Join CERMA in 7 easy steps!

Have you just joined one of CERMA's 21 member research groups? Then welcome to CERMA! Here are a few steps to follow as soon as you arrive at the center to ensure that you are well integrated and aware of all the possibilities that are open to you now that you are a member of CERMA. CERMA is here to help you at every stage of your studies.

1

Ask your colleagues about the identity of the spokesperson of your research group.

Spokespersons are the links between the CERMA direction team and its student members. There is one spokesperson per research group and their role is to keep an up-to-date list of their group's members and to transmit important information from the student committee and the CERMA direction team.

Make sure that your spokesperson has informed the student committee and the CERMA direction team of your arrival at the center.

This step is important to ensure that you receive all information and updates from CERMA. If you are not sure, you can always write to the CERMA coordinator [Thierry Lefèvre](#) to make sure.

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Read the *What is CERMA?* section of this document to familiarize yourself with how the center works.

Make sure to know who sits as a student representative on the CERMA board of directors.

The role of the student representative is to represent all CERMA students and postdoctoral fellows to the management of the center. You can contact this person regarding any issues, comments, questions, suggestions for improvement concerning life at CERMA that you wish to bring to the attention of the board of directors. Students are very important at CERMA and your participation in the activities and decisions of the center is strongly encouraged.

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Read the *How can CERMA help you?* section of this document to learn about the different ways you can take advantage of your position at CERMA.

Don't forget that the training of students is our first mandate at CERMA. We work for you in order to enrich your education as much as possible. So, do not hesitate to use the communication channels at your disposal (representative, spokesperson, student committee, coordinator, Slack, etc.) to inform us of any action we could take to support you in your graduate studies.

Follow us on social networks (See *Social Networks* section).

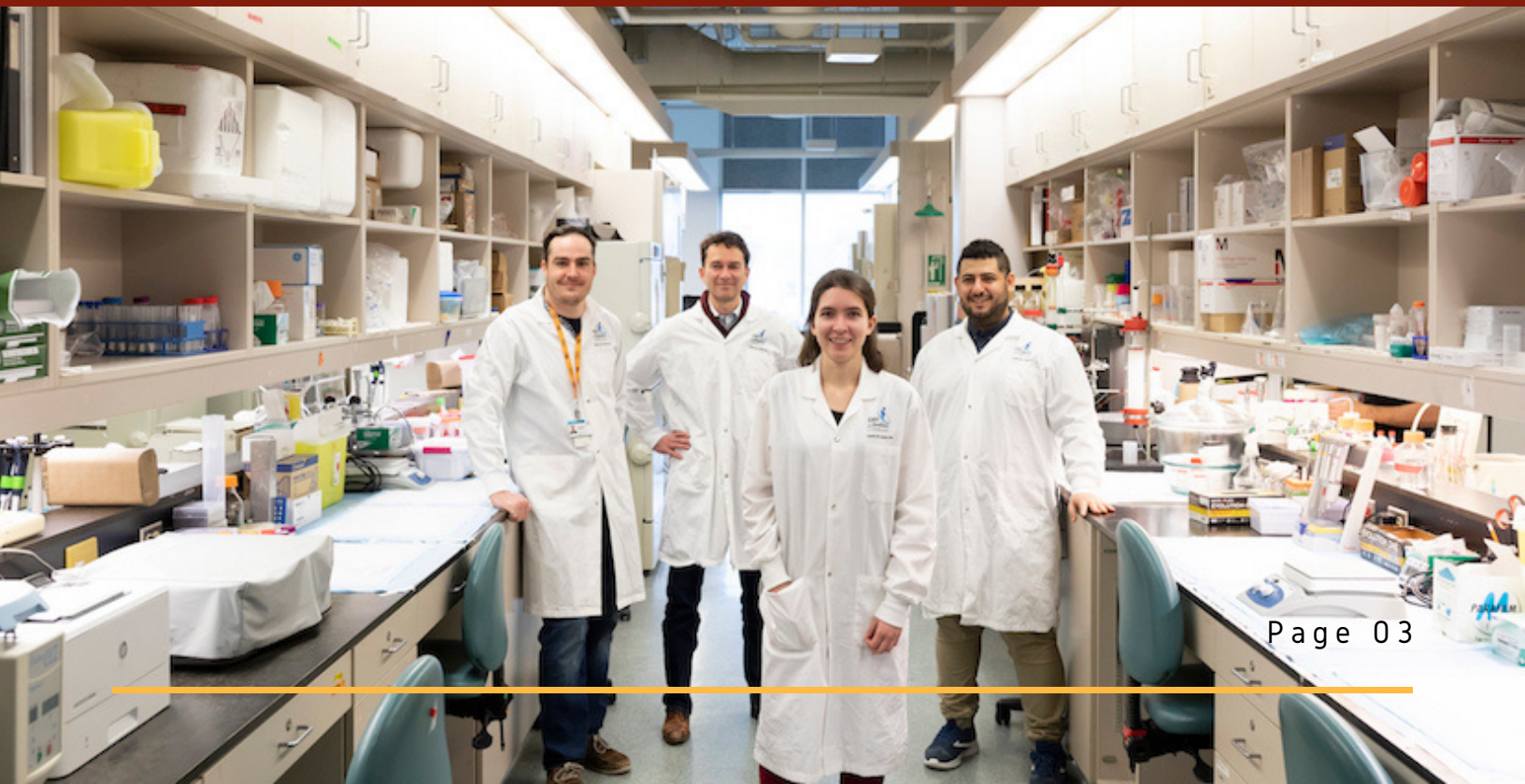
Each of our social networks has a different communication objective. It is important to follow us on all of our networks so that you don't miss out on any of the different content shared by CERMA.

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Find out about the different resources at Laval University that are available to you if you need them.

Do not hesitate to contact [Thierry Lefèvre](#), CERMA's coordinator, for any questions you may have that are not answered by Université Laval's resources. He will be happy to direct you to the help you need.





What is CERMA?

The Research Center on Advanced Materials (CERMA) is a research center recognized by the Commission de la recherche de l'Université Laval (UL) and is one of the components of the Quebec Centre for Advanced Materials (QCAM). CERMA is dedicated to fundamental or applied studies aimed at developing a variety of materials that can benefit Quebec society. The Centre's mandate is to advance fundamental and applied knowledge in materials science, to train highly qualified personnel and to participate in the Quebec innovation ecosystem.

Consisting of 21 UL professors, 165 students, 15 postdoctoral fellows and 19 research professionals and technicians, the Centre brings together researchers from a variety of backgrounds such as pharmacy, electrical, mechanical and chemical engineering, materials science, chemistry, medicine and wood science. The presence of such diverse members from four faculties allows everyone to find the expertise necessary to advance their research work. Furthermore, the equipment owned by the Centre is available to all members as well as to external users, whether academic, governmental or industrial.

Advanced materials refers to any material that offers an advantage over conventional materials, whether in terms of performance, application, manufacturing or environmental or social impact.

What expertise do we find at CERMA?

CERMA covers a wide range of materials: from biological molecules to synthetic molecules, through solid state or viscoelastic materials, nanomaterials and hybrid materials. It thus concentrates its activities in the field of "soft" materials, i.e. organic or hybrid materials. The targeted applications range from energy to health, including the wood industry, electro-optics, 3D printing, photonics and the environment. These various research themes are divided into four main themes:

- Synthetic and natural macromolecules
- Nanomaterials
- Biomaterials
- Surfaces and interfaces

CERMA also adopted a strategy in 2020 to integrate sustainability into its research projects and to promote sustainable materials. To learn more about the expertise of our members, we invite you to take a look at our first ever annual report which lists everything there is to know about CERMA and our members for the year 2020.

CERMA's organization

The current director of CERMA is Jean-François Morin, a professor in the Chemistry Department Chemistry, and has been since 2017. The main decision team of CERMA is the board of directors (BDR). It defines the orientations of the Center and makes decisions that it deems important to this effect. It approves membership applications and decides on the use of the Center's grants. It puts in place the means and measures that it deems most conducive to the smooth running of the research programs of its members and to the achievement of its objectives. It receives, studies and follows up on the requests, proposals and suggestions presented to it by its members. The important decisions of CERMA are taken in all collegiality within the BDR and are validated during the annual General Assembly. The Board of Directors is composed of professors and a student representative.

CERMA is also made up of various committees that help guide the Center's activities:

- **Student Committee**

The Student Committee is an essential part of the scientific and social life of CERMA due to the activities it organizes (see below the activities). Don't hesitate to get involved in this committee, the atmosphere is friendly, everyone chooses their tasks and contributes according to the desired time investment. To join the Student Committee, contact: cerma_etudiants@ulaval.ca.

- **Sustainable Development Committee (SD)**

The SD Committee assists the direction team in its mission to develop the Centre's SD strategy and to help members better integrate SD into their projects, in accordance with the orientations of the Quebec Research Funds. Involvement simply requires attending a few meetings per year. To join the SD committee, contact [Thierry Lefèvre](#).

- **Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Committee**

CERMA believes it can play an important role in promoting equity, diversity and inclusion. The EDI Committee is a joint committee with the Research Center on Renewable Materials (CRMR) of Laval University. It aims to help research centers adopt best practices in equity, diversity and inclusion, in accordance with the orientations of the Quebec Research Funds. To get involved in the EDI Committee, contact [Thierry Lefèvre](#).



How can CERMA help you?

Being a member of CERMA, whether you are a student or a post-doctoral fellow, has several advantages:

- **Access to funding**

Each year, CERMA awards four \$5,000 grants to students. The main objective of these grants is to encourage the creation of new collaborative projects involving several CERMA faculty members. This initiative also aims to diversify students' training and improve their CVs. Finally, the competition aims to promote a greater integration of sustainable development in projects, in line with CERMA's new strategic orientations. The competition is usually launched in May/June. For more information, contact [Thierry Lefèvre](#).

- **Access to the instrumental park**

Thanks to its members, CERMA has a wide range of instruments that are accessible according to their availability. The list of instruments available at CERMA and the persons to contact to have access to them can be found [here](#). For more information, contact [Josyane Turgeon](#).

- **Access to CERMA's expertise**

The Center is composed of [21 research teams](#) with diversified research fields. If you need to have recourse to their expertise within the framework of your work, do not hesitate to contact [Thierry Lefèvre](#).

- **Access to a vast network of industrial contacts**

CERMA is very active in the Quebec advanced materials ecosystem. Through the development of research partnerships and the organization of numerous activities and events, CERMA is constantly expanding its network of contacts. You can take advantage of this by attending our networking events or by participating in a collaborative research project. If you would like to be put in touch with a specific company, contact [Josyane Turgeon](#).

- **Activities organized by the Center**

CERMA activities allow members to interact with other members, broaden their horizons and acquire new knowledge and skills.

- Annual meeting

The annual meeting is an opportunity to review the year's activities and the budget. Members may be asked to vote on certain issues.

- Conferences and webinars

CERMA conferences allow members to better understand their own field of research thanks to international experts and to discover related fields in materials science. They also allow members to develop multidisciplinary knowledge outside their usual fields of expertise.

- Reducing our digital environmental impact

Reducing the digital environmental impact of our research activities is part of our responsibilities as a member of Laval University and as a member of the research community. This activity aims to reduce members' environmental impact by taking some time to delete outdated files and emails from computers and storage servers. [See what you can do to reduce your digital footprint.](#)

- **Activities organized by the student committee**

The CERMA Student Committee organizes various activities that allow you to socialize with other students, to showcase yourself and to develop complementary skills. We invite you to participate in these activities:

- [Annual conference](#)

This is the main activity of CERMA. It gives all students the opportunity to present their work and meet other specialists in materials science.

- **Activities organized by the student committee (continued)**

- Technical day

This activity aims to introduce all members to the various techniques and expertise available at CERMA. Presentations are given by CERMA members who are specialists in their field. The Day is accompanied by a visit to one of the Center's instrumental platforms. It is a unique opportunity to open up one's horizons and to launch collaborations.

- Popularization articles

This initiative allows students and postdoctoral fellows to make their research work better known to other members and to a wider public through the CERMA network. The publication of articles is accompanied by a grant.

- Video contest

The video competition gives students and postdoctoral fellows the opportunity to showcase their research in a medium that is different from those usually used in science. The competition includes prizes.

- Image contest

The image competition gives students the opportunity to showcase their research through images that combine scientific, technical and artistic quality. The competition is accompanied by prizes.

Social networks

To know everything about CERMA and its activities, follow us on our different platforms.

- **Slack** (Ask for the connection link to your spokesperson, Thierry or Josyane)

To exchange with other members and the student committee, seek expertise, ask scientific or technical questions. The CERMA team also shares relevant information that you won't see anywhere else (conferences, webinars, training, job offers, important reminders). This platform is new for CERMA. So, don't hesitate to send us your comments to improve it, either by writing to us directly or through your spokesperson.

Social networks (continued)

- **Facebook**
Information for members
- **Twitter**
Corporate information; link with academic partners
- **LinkedIn**
Professional information; job offers; link with industrial partners
- **Youtube**
Archives of CERMA conferences and webinars and student videos

Resources at Laval University

Harassment prevention and intervention : <https://www.ulaval.ca/prevention-du-harcelement>

Psychological help and support : <https://www.aide.ulaval.ca/psychologie/des-sentinelles-a-l-universite-laval-pour-vous-soutenir/>

Other support resources : <https://www.ulaval.ca/etudiants-actuels/ressources-daideet>
<https://www.aide.ulaval.ca/>

Help with bibliographic research : <https://www5.bibl.ulaval.ca/services>

Who to contact in case of need?

Thierry Lefèvre, coordonnateur, thierry.lefevre@chm.ulaval.ca | 418-656-2131 #406460

Josyane Turgeon, agente de liaison, josyane.turgeon.1@ulaval.ca | 418-332-0418

Welcome to CERMA!