An international university at the heart of Europe

Université libre de Bruxelles
In research, deductive logic is important but cannot suffice. Creativity stems from the uncovering of new ideas and new ways of thinking that are beyond our conscious world.

François ENGLERT, Nobel Prize in Physics 2013, ULB
… at the heart of Europe
The ULB provided me with skills and opportunities. I wouldn’t have had at home and unlocked doors to success.

PETER KASAIJA  
MASTER STUDENT FROM THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

Studying at the ULB was a great experience. The university truly reflects the overall international ambiance of Brussels.

RIZKALLAH TOUSA  
ERASMUS MUNDUS STUDENT FROM SYRIA

I find life here very exciting and thought-provoking. The ULB is an excellent university that offers many academic opportunities. Most importantly, it’s a truly FREE university, promoting freedom of spirit, of thought and of research. This is how bright ideas are born!

YUAN FENG  
PHD STUDENT FROM CHINA

Internationalization

One third of our 24,000 students come from abroad. With over 100 different nationalities in its student body, the ULB is a place where different cultures and philosophies intermingle.

A quarter of our staff is non-Belgian and comes from more than 70 different countries. We currently have more than 1,800 PhD students, of whom more than 40% come from abroad.

Undergraduate and graduate student mobility is a daily reality at the ULB. The university has 1,020 agreements covering all disciplines with its 430 Erasmus partner universities and 230 non-EU bilateral cooperation agreements.

The ULB also promotes the creation of joint Master and PhD programmes. We currently run joint programmes with more than 40 universities around the world, some of which have been selected for “Erasmus Mundus” funding. By the time they are awarded their Master degree, one fifth of ULB students have had a study-abroad experience.
The ULB has developed strategic partnerships with some of the leading universities around the world.

**The G3 network**: The G3 network involves 3 major French-speaking universities, the Université libre de Bruxelles, the Université de Montréal and the Université de Genève. This unique partnership was created with a view to developing innovative models of collaboration in the domains of education and research.

**Privileged partners**: The ULB’s academic authorities have appointed a limited number of foreign institutions as “privileged partners”. The choice of “privileged partners” was based both on the number and quality of scientific and teaching contacts with these institutions and on the ULB’s international strategic orientations.

The ULB’s privileged partner universities are currently: the University of California, Berkeley (USA), the University of Oxford (UK), the University of Cambridge (UK), the University of British Columbia (Canada), the Université de Montréal (Canada), Beihang University (China), Waseda University (Japan), the Université Pierre et Marie Curie – Paris VI (France), the Universidade de São Paulo (Brazil).

**UNICA**: The ULB is a founding member of UNICA, the Network of Universities from the Capitals of Europe. UNICA brings together 46 universities located in European capitals and represents over 120,000 staff and 1,500,000 students.

**Geographical priorities**: The ULB has decided to develop specific partnerships with Chinese and Brazilian universities.

**Networks**: The ULB is a member of the European University Association (EUA), the International Association of Universities (IAU), the Agence universitaire de la francophonie (AUF), Top Industrial Managers for Europe (TIME)…
Four Scientific Nobel Prizes, including the recent Nobel Prize in Physics awarded to Professor François Englert, one Nobel Peace Prize, one Fields Medal, three Wolf prizes, two Abel prizes and numerous other awards bear witness to the University’s long tradition of excellence...
Actively involved in the European Research Area, the ULB coordinates or participates in many European projects and networks. The university has been awarded 16 European Research Council (ERC) grants in a wide range of domains (neuroscience, cancer, physics, mathematics, artificial intelligence, information technology, earth sciences, economics, political science, sociology). Moreover, our Institute for European Studies is recognized as a Jean Monnet European Research Centre for its work on European integration. 

A key player in the regional development of both Brussels and Wallonia, the ULB is very active in finding business applications for the results of its research. It currently manages a portfolio of 120 families of patents, 32 active spin-offs, 3 incubators, an investment fund and a biotechnology business park, the Biopark Charleroi Brussels South. The Technology Transfer Office (TTO) promotes collaborative research and business development between the university and its external partners (businesses, public bodies, competition clusters, professional associations etc.) and contributes to local and regional development.
Development Aid Cooperation is one of the priorities of the ULB’s international policy. We have set up research and teaching projects with our partner universities in developing countries, in order to further their development through the reinforcement of their universities’ human and scientific capabilities. Our philosophy is based on win-win collaboration: Development Aid Cooperation is not just a generous action – it is also essential for our own development as a research and teaching institution.

ULB students have the privilege of attending a university located at the heart of the capital of Europe. The ULB offers students the opportunity to practice around 50 different sports under the supervision of professionals, both at lunchtime and in the evening, and to enjoy a wide range of cultural activities (theatre, concerts, exhibitions...).

Close to the city centre and easily accessible by public transport, the ULB’s Solbosch and Plaine campuses in Ixelles are next to the Bois de la Cambre, thereby enjoying the benefits of both the city and green spaces, while the health sector campus and teaching hospital in Anderlecht are on the edge of the countryside.

The ULB has an International Welcome Desk that offers assistance to foreign academic staff, researchers, postdocs, visiting professors, PhD students and Erasmus Mundus students. The International Welcome Desk is a Euraxess contact point, providing information about and assistance with all the administrative steps to be undertaken before arrival in Belgium (e.g. visa); the various formalities to be completed on arrival (e.g. residence permit, health insurance etc.) and life on and around campus.
“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”

NELSON MANDELA, DOCTOR HONORIS CAUSA ULB, 1984