Université libre de Bruxelles, a great European University

A tradition of academic excellence
The highest teaching standards
Open to the world from the heart of Europe

Welcome to Brussels!

Brussels, a city on a human scale
In the heart of Europe, just 1h20 by train from Paris, 1h30 from Amsterdam, and 1h50 from London and Cologne, Brussels offers all the advantages of a capital city and the quality of life of a large and lively town.

Brussels is home to all the major European institutions. It is the official seat of the EU and many other political and economic decision-making entities, and boasts a growing number of businesses, organisations and international experts.

The long tradition of hospitality and exchange in Europe’s greenest capital means visitors and residents alike can enjoy a broad mix of world food and music, while culture vultures can choose from a host of museums and shows.

Located in the heart of the city, the Université libre de Bruxelles or ULB also offers many cultural, festive and sports activities. The university campuses and surrounding areas are extremely attractive, providing just the right mix between study and leisure.

Multicultural and international
As a multicultural university with almost one third of students and researchers from abroad, international relations is a daily reality for the Université libre de Bruxelles, just like the city of Brussels itself, one of the world’s most cosmopolitan cities.

Collaboration with universities from around the world has been stepped up in both education and research, thanks in large part to the various European mobility programmes. In addition to student mobility programmes, the University offers diverse integrated programmes with foreign partners, including joint Master and doctoral degrees. Several of these programmes have received the prestigious Erasmus Mundus accreditation.

Its outward-looking position with regard to Europe and the world has resulted in a number of agreements, collaborations and special partnerships being set up with some of the world’s top universities.

With many years of experience on the international stage, the University launched UNICA, a network of 45 leading European universities that encompasses over a million students. It is also a founder member of the International Forum of Public Universities (IFPU).
Groundbreaking research
Four Nobel Prizes (Henri La Fontaine, Jules Bordet, Albert Claude and Ilya Prigogine), one Fields Medal (Pierre Deligne), three Wolf Prizes and two Marie Curie Prizes are further evidence of the University’s longstanding tradition of excellence.

The Université libre de Bruxelles is an active member of the European Research Area and is involved in almost 80 projects financed by the 6th and 7th European Framework Programmes. Over the past few years, it has obtained five Starting Grants from the European Research Council (ERC) to finance research in Medicine, Economics, Mathematics and Political Science, as well as an Advanced Grant in Artificial Intelligence. In addition, the University’s Institute for European Studies is recognized as a “Jean Monnet European research centre” for its work on European integration.

The University also conducts research in close collaboration with the business world and exploits its findings through patents and spin-offs. The University has been actively involved in maximising research potential in both Brussels and Charleroi, where it has set up Biopark Charleroi Brussels South, a biotechnology park (with about 500 people), around its renowned Institute for Biology and Molecular Medicine (IBMM) and Institute of Medical Immunology (IMI).

High teaching standards
The Université libre de Bruxelles has 13 faculties, schools and specialized institutes that cover all the disciplines, closely combining academic input and research. It offers almost 40 undergraduate programmes and 235 graduate programmes. It also partners 20 Doctoral schools, with almost 1,600 PhD in progress.

Some of our Master programmes focus on transdisciplinarity, whilst others place more emphasis on international relations through European Masters degrees, or on multilingualism. We have also been working in close collaboration with the VUB (Brussels Flemish-speaking university) for a number of years.

In the field of health, in addition to the Erasme teaching hospital, the University works closely with an extensive network of hospitals around Belgium.

One of the University’s main aims is to give its students a solid foundation in critical thinking as well as a taste for research, while at the same time catering to the needs of new publics.

Executive education programmes and courses with specially adapted hours for working professionals are offered alongside more traditional programmes and courses involving cutting-edge research.
A University with a focus on linguistic and cultural diversity
As a French-speaking university, most of the courses at the Université libre de Bruxelles are delivered in French. However, a growing number of Master programmes are partly or entirely delivered in English or in other languages.

Studying at the Université libre de Bruxelles will not only give you the chance to develop your fluency in French but will also allow you to enjoy life in the cosmopolitan and multilingual environment of Europe’s capital.

The University offers a wide range of French courses, prior to and during the academic year, to help its international students improve their language skills.

A committed University
The Université libre de Bruxelles is determined to give everyone the chance to continue their higher education studies and has developed a range of student support initiatives: e.g., financial and psychological support, guidance, French classes, etc.

The University also provides off-campus academic support. One notable example is a support programme for underachieving secondary school pupils which was awarded the UNESCO Comenius prize.

Since its foundation in 1834, the Université libre de Bruxelles has been closely involved in the ongoing debate on critical thinking and freedom. This has included outspoken opposition to dictatorships and other nationalist abuses, the promotion of equal opportunities and a raft of other social issues.

After founding one of the first NGOs (CEMUBAC), the University has continued to play an active role in development aid and international cooperation.

European and international, welcoming and independent, committed and dynamic, the Université libre de Bruxelles can also count on its vast global alumni network (UAE), the University’s best ambassadors.

Based on the principle of free enquiry that postulates independent reasoning and the rejection of all dogma, the University has retained its original ideals as a free institution that is firmly engaged in the defence of democratic and human values.