

International Relations at the University of Luxembourg

A University going global



UNIVERSITÉ DU
LUXEMBOURG







Preface

Founded in 2003, the University of Luxembourg is the first and only public university of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and one of the youngest in Europe. Our university has given itself a very specific profile: research-oriented, with a personal atmosphere, but also multilingual and international.

Internationalisation is not a goal in itself, but a means to increase quality. Our University has a growing reputation as one of the most dynamic research universities world-wide. To a large extent this is thanks to our strategy of recruiting academic staff and students internationally.

The aim of this brochure is to present our institution from the latter point of view: as a multicultural university with students of 113 and staff of 82 different nationalities, where three languages - French, German and English - are spoken every day in the classrooms, corridors and offices.

We are particularly proud of the large network of partner universities we have developed worldwide, which forms our Global Exchange Programme, and of our membership in a series of international associations and initiatives. Our international orientation is also reflected in the results our university has achieved in different rankings.

Furthermore, the mobility of our students remains a priority for our institution, where a term abroad is mandatory for all Bachelor students. We are making constant efforts in order to offer an increasing range of international opportunities to all our students and to encourage them to spend a semester beyond the borders of Europe.

Just as importantly, international study programmes and research projects are core elements of our internationalisation process, which is first and foremost a tool in order to achieve excellence in research and education.

**Enjoy discovering
our international university!**

Prof. Tonie van Dam

–
*Vice-President for Doctoral
Education and Training,
International Relations,
and Gender*
–

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Actors of internationalisation

International Relations Office

The mission of the International Relations Office (IRO), is to:

- _ **increase international visibility of the University of Luxembourg as European Research University,**
- _ **attract talented international students, researchers, academic and administrative staff, and**
- _ **create opportunities for UL staff and students to gain experiences from partner universities abroad.**

The IRO is in charge of developing and coordinating the international relations and activities of the University of Luxembourg. Key tasks of the Office include the implementation of the strategic plan on internationalisation; the initiation, preparation and evaluation of agreements with international partner universities; the administration and promotion of the Erasmus + programme; the administration and promotion of staff mobility; the establishment of agreements for the joint supervision of thesis and international visits. Another important division of the Office is the **EURAXESS Service Centre**, which promotes research careers, facilitates the mobility of researchers and provides free advice and guidance to researchers moving to and from Luxembourg. An officer in charge of the cross-border network **University of the Greater Region** is also part of the IRO. The IRO reports to the Vice-President for International Relations, who is responsible for strategic decisions regarding international questions.

International Relations Office
Campus Belval - Maison du Savoir
2, avenue de l'Université / L-4365 Esch-sur-Alzette
iro@uni.lu

All administrative procedures regarding student exchange and Erasmus agreements for student exchange with European partners are handled by our Mobility office.

Student Mobility office
Campus Belval - Maison du Savoir
2, avenue de l'Université / L-4365 Esch-sur-Alzette
Outgoing students: seve.mobility@uni.lu
Incoming students: incoming@uni.lu
Erasmus agreements: erasmus-agreements@uni.lu

International admissions for degree-seeking students are handled by the student department SEVE (Service des Etudes et de la Vie Etudiante). The SEVE also offers a large range of student support services, of which international students can make use.

SEVE
Campus Belval - Maison du Savoir
2, avenue de l'Université
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seve.infos@uni.lu

UniGR (University of the Greater Region) started out as a project funded by the European Union (Interreg IVA Greater Region programme). After the end of the funding period (2008-2013), the partner institutions decided to continue their cooperation as an association of universities.

The University of the Greater Region - UniGR aims to promote student and teaching staff mobility within the Greater Region, best practice exchange as well as cross-border cooperation in teaching, doctoral studies and research.

The **Greater Region** covers Saarland and Rhineland-Palatinate in Germany, the Belgian Wallonia, the French and German communities of Belgium as well as the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. The partner institutions involved are the universities of Saarland, Liège, Lorraine, Kaiserslautern and Trier.

The UniGR in key-figures:

- _ **6 universities**
- _ **4 countries**
- _ **3 teaching languages (French, German, English)**
- _ **more than 135.000 students**
- _ **near 7.000 PhD candidates**
- _ **around 6.500 lecturers and researcher**

The presidents of the member universities of the UniGR network have decided to carry on their cooperation by signing the statutes of a non-profit organisation in Luxembourg in November 2015.

UniGR gives support to teaching staff as well as to researchers on a financial level (seed funding and support for bottom-up activities), but also on an organisational one and as a networking advisor.



© Michel Houet – From left to right: Georg Müller-Fürstenberger, vice-president of Trier University, Eric Pirard, special advisor, and Albert Corhay, president of the University of Liège, Pierre Mutzenhardt, president of the University of Lorraine, Claudia Polzin-Haumann, vice-president of Saarland University, Frédérique Seidel, Secretary General of the UniGR Central Office, Michael Jäckel, president of Trier University, Romain Martin, vice-president of the University of Luxembourg.

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unigr@uni.lu
www.uni-gr.eu

A portrait of Dr. Christian Wille, a middle-aged man with short, light-colored hair and glasses, wearing a dark suit jacket over a light-colored shirt. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The background is a blurred indoor setting with bookshelves.

— Voices of our researchers —

Dr. Christian Wille, Senior researcher and active participant in the Border Studies' cooperation at the University of Luxembourg (Faculty of Language and Literature, Humanities, Arts and Education):

"Due to the UniGR, I could diversify my personal network of border scholars and I had the opportunity to publish a scientific book publication about the everyday realities and political constructions in border regions."



Voices of our researchers

Maria PICHOU, researcher at the University of Luxembourg, about her experience with Euraxess

"I am extremely satisfied by my experience with Euraxess. First, I found the grant on the Euraxess webpage and I applied afterwards. Second, the guide on Luxembourg I was provided with was very helpful. The people working for Euraxess Luxembourg have always been very close to the researchers. Euraxess Luxembourg is doing a fine job assisting people like me and they are always available for consultation to deal with any problems that may arise."

Incoming researchers are assisted by **EURAXESS Luxembourg**. EURAXESS Luxembourg provides free advice and guidance to researchers moving to or from Luxembourg to develop their research career. In particular, it offers essential advice to help newcomers in all the administrative procedures and practical information related to issues of daily life in Luxembourg, such as:

- _ **visas;**
- _ **jobs & funding on the EURAXESS job portal;**
- _ **housing;**
- _ **taxes & social security;**
- _ **family matters & life in Luxembourg.**

EURAXESS Luxembourg is part of EURAXESS, a pan-European network with over 260 service centres located in 40 countries.

Its aim is to **enhance researchers' mobility within and towards Europe** and to contribute to making Europe a centre of excellence in research.

The EURAXESS Luxembourg network is **managed by the University of Luxembourg, in partnership with:**



LE GOUVERNEMENT
DU GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG
Ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur
et de la Recherche



Fonds National de la
Recherche Luxembourg



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INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY



Max Planck Institute
LUXEMBOURG
for Procedural Law

National Contact Point

University of Luxembourg

International Relations office – Euraxess

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Other actors of internationalisation

First and foremost, the University's faculties and interdisciplinary centres play a crucial role in the internationalisation process. The University of Luxembourg currently counts three faculties and three interdisciplinary centres:

- _ **Faculty of Science, Technology and Communication;**
- _ **Faculty of Law, Economics and Finance;**
- _ **Faculty of Languages and Literature, Humanities, Arts and Education**
- _ **Interdisciplinary Centre for Security, Reliability and Trust**
- _ **Luxembourg Centre for Systems Biomedicine**
- _ **Luxembourg Centre for Contemporary and Digital History**

Another protagonist is the **research office**, which deals with international research projects and manages relations with funders and resources to support interdisciplinary collaborative research as well as training and career development.

However, the internationalisation process is not limited to those actors. At the University of Luxembourg, international relations are part of the daily life of all students and staff and internationalisation is a priority in research, studies and administration.



Faculty of Science,
Technology
and Communication



Faculty of Law,
Economics
and Finance



Faculty of Language
and Literature, Humanities,
Arts and Education



securityandtrust.lu



LUXEMBOURG CENTRE FOR
CONTEMPORARY AND DIGITAL HISTORY

Research Support Department
Campus Belval - Maison du Savoir
2, avenue de l'Université
L-4365 Esch-sur-Alzette
recherche@uni.lu



Voices of our students

Cyril Wealer, PhD candidate at the University of Luxembourg and the University of Sheffield (UK), PhD in Language and Cognitive Development (2015-2018):

"I think the internationalization trend surely has established itself in academia and more students than ever study abroad and/or in joint location programmes. I particularly enjoy being exposed to different academic environments and exchange ideas with people from different backgrounds. You will definitely find your viewpoints and scientific thinking challenged to a greater extent in a joint supervision. In addition, you will also benefit from a greater variety of input and feedback, which in my opinion, has been invaluable for the quality of my project."

International Rankings



Times Higher Education

The University of Luxembourg took part for the first time in THE World University Rankings in 2015. Out of almost 1.000 universities in competition, the University made it to the impressive 193th position. In September 2016, it even improved its position by jumping 15 positions from place 193 to **place 178** improving its performance in every category compared to the previous year. The University scored particularly highly in the category "international outlook", where it managed to ascend from second place in 2015 to a joint first place with Qatar University in 2016. It also performed outstandingly well in the category of citations, as it ranked in the **top 20% for citations**, with citations from 23,000 journals published between 2010 and 2015 taken into consideration.

Within Europe, the comparatively small institution climbed 13 positions in the Rankings. It **ranks now 86** compared to 99 in 2015. Furthermore, apart from the Europe University Rankings and the World University Rankings, THE also assesses promising institutions younger than 50 years. In **Young Universities Rankings** published in spring 2016, the University **ranked 11** and thus approaches the Top 10 of the best young universities.

The THE World University Rankings evaluate the strengths of a university in the areas of teaching, research, international orientation, funding from industry and the number of mentions in specialist publications, based on 13 performance indicators.

U-Multirank

In 2016, the University of Luxembourg has for the second time in a row scored the highest possible result in terms of international orientation in the U-Multirank ranking. International orientation includes the following areas: Foreign language bachelor and master programmes, Student mobility, International academic staff, International doctorate degrees and International joint publications. For International joint publications, the University of Luxembourg was specifically mentioned on the list of the 25 top performers worldwide in this field.

It is the second year that the University of Luxembourg participates in U-Multirank. The scores are the highest for International orientation but gratifying also for the University in the other domains; Teaching, Research, Regional engagement and Knowledge transfer.

Overall, the University of Luxembourg has obtained more than 13 A scores.

The first U-Multirank ranking was released in 2014. U-Multirank is a multi-dimensional approach to international ranking of higher education institutions. The dimensions it includes are teaching and learning, research, knowledge transfer, international orientation and regional engagement. Based on empirical data U-Multirank compares institutions with similar institutional profiles and allows users to develop personalised rankings by selecting performance measures/indicators in terms of their own preferences.

International
students
and
staff

With 113 nationalities among its around 6200 students and 82 nationalities among its 1700 staff members end of 2016, most of them speaking at least three different languages, the University of Luxembourg is a highly international institution of higher education.



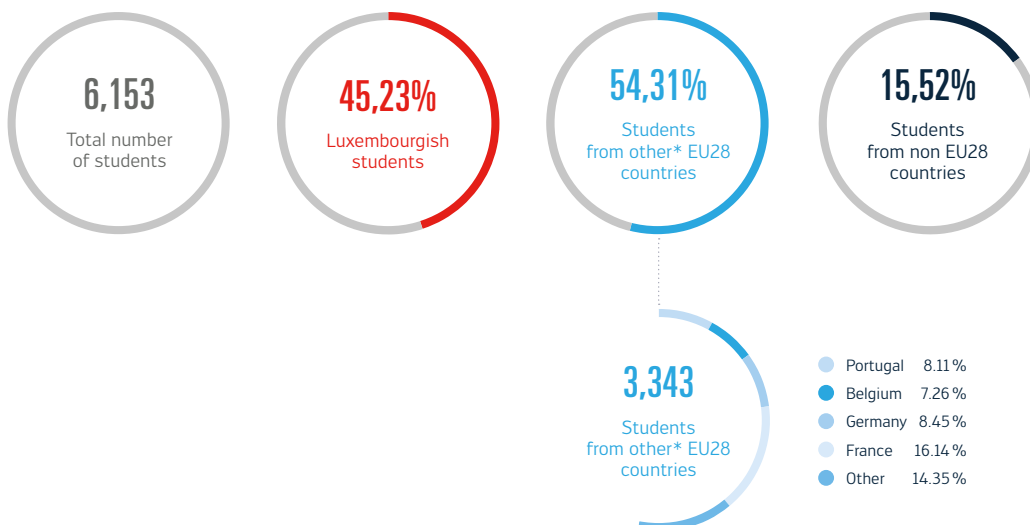
6200 students 113 nationalities



1700 staff members 82 nationalities

International students

Student body nationalities at the end of 2016



*without Luxembourg

Note: as of the AY 15/16 double nationalities are observed. The percentage is therefore not based on the total number of students

A portrait of Ms. Satoko Bizzotto, a woman with dark, shoulder-length hair, looking slightly to the side with a gentle smile. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The background is a soft-focus outdoor scene with trees.

Voices of our staff members

Ms. Satoko Bizzotto, research facilitator at the University of Luxembourg

“What I like about the UL is that it gives all of us an equal opportunity despite of nationalities or backgrounds. I feel welcomed and am fortunate to work in this international and dynamic environment with interesting colleagues! Before coming to Luxembourg in 2014, I was working in a Japanese research funding agency, promoting cooperation between Japan and other countries, where I gained my international experience, first in London to complete my master’s degree in Organisational Psychology and then in Strasbourg to work as an expatriate. When I was a student in Japan, I majoured in English Literature which also made my eyes open to the world.”

Student body nationalities according to the study level at the end of 2016



Students at the University of Luxembourg at the end of 2016



This distribution is particularly interesting in view of the profile of the University of Luxembourg. Indeed, it is a research-centred university focusing mainly on Master programmes, PhD studies and research. While the number of Bachelor programmes and students is therefore supposed to remain more or less stable over the coming academic years, the number of Master and PhD students is expected to grow.

International staff

At the end of 2016, the University of Luxembourg counted 22 different nationalities among its 250 faculty members and 82 nationalities among its 1700 employees (including PhD students and postdocs employed at the University). If the largest percentage of staff members come from the neighbouring countries, i.e. France, Belgium and Germany, (46% of the total staff), it is worthwhile to note that 15% of staff members are not citizens of the European Union.

Mobility

Student mobility is another aspect of internationalisation to which the University of Luxembourg attaches high importance.

On bachelor's level, a semester abroad is mandatory for all students. This **mobility requirement** is actually written into the Act of August 2003 on the creation of the University of Luxembourg, which states that a bachelor's degree can only be conferred if the student has spent a part of his or her study period at a higher education institution abroad.

In order to encourage our students to carry out their study abroad period as far as possible from Luxembourg, the University of Luxembourg has also set up a funding scheme allowing to award grants to Bachelor students who cannot benefit from an Erasmus grant, in particular for study abroad periods outside Europe. In order to make this possible, the enrolment fee for 1st-year Bachelor students has been doubled (from 200 to 400€). This additional income, to which a contribution by the University itself is added, is entirely invested in mobility grants for Bachelor students.

If mobility is not a requirement for the other study levels, it is nevertheless highly encouraged as well and more and more Master students seize the opportunity to study abroad.

Mobility statistics

Student mobility since 2008/2009

STUDENT MOBILITY – EUROPEAN AND OTHER MOBILITY PROGRAMMES

	WS 08/09	SS 08/09	WS 09/10	SS 09/10	WS 10/11	SS 10/11	WS 11/12	SS 11/12	WS 12/13	SS 12/13	WS 13/14	SS 13/14	WS 14/15	SS 14/15	WS 15/16	SS 15/16
INCOMING STUDENTS	64	72	66	63	98	63	85	78	103	78	157	77	132	107	135	106
Bachelor	33	22	36	27	56	30	49	34	50	33	100	32	66	58	55	73
Master	31	50	30	36	42	33	36	44	53	45	57	45	66	49	80	33
OUTGOING STUDENTS	248	231	302	216	338	260	393	280	347	232	336	254	342	241	312	279
Bachelor	235	228	300	216	323	257	372	272	334	231	331	253	332	238	307	275
Master	13	3	2	/	15	3	21	8	13	1	5	1	10	3	5	4

Student mobility office

Campus Belval - Maison du Savoir

2, avenue de l'Université

L-4365 Esch-sur-Alzette

Contact for outgoing students: seve.mobility@uni.lu

Contact for incoming students: incoming@uni.lu

A portrait of a young woman with long dark hair, smiling slightly, wearing a white collared shirt and a dark blazer. The background is a solid light blue.

Voices of our students

Xin LIU, exchange student from Renmin University, China,
Master in Banking and Finan

“ ‘Challenge yourself’ is what I always believe in. It’s the first time I travel and study abroad. Before coming to Luxembourg, I was a little worried about whether I could adapt to the new life here. But friendly professors and classmates as well as the opening learning environment have cancelled all my previous concerns. The University of Luxembourg provides me excellent chances to make acquaintance with friends from diverse backgrounds, greatly broadening my horizon, and making me get near to the goal of “integrating knowledge from both eastern and western culture”, as my home university defends.”

Types of mobility

At the University of Luxembourg, many ways lead abroad. The large majority of our students study abroad within the framework of the **Erasmus programme** (479 students during the academic year 2015/2016). Since 2015, the Erasmus+ programme also offers mobility options with partner universities outside Europe and the University has successfully applied for funding for this so-called "International Credit Mobility" in the last two years.

Furthermore, the students have the possibility of making use of the interuniversity agreements concluded with universities worldwide. In particular, the University of Luxembourg has set up the so-called **Global exchange programme**, which aims to encourage student mobility beyond the borders of Europe.

For the academic year 2017/2018, the Global exchange programme offers University of Luxembourg outgoing students the choice between 51 higher education institutions in the United States, Canada, China, Hong Kong, Japan, India, South Korea, Israel, Taiwan, Singapore, Mexico, Georgia, Thailand, Uruguay, Brazil, Russia and Australia as well as all members of the BCI (Bureau de Coopération Interuniversitaire), a network of universities in Québec. Within the framework of all those agreements, our students are exempted of paying tuition fees at the host university for their mobility term.

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Another possibility is to experience a cross-border mobility, within the Greater Region. Through the "University of the Greater Region" student status, it is possible to follow individual courses at one of the following partner universities: Saarland University, University of Liège, University of Lorraine, University of Kaiserslautern and Trier University,. The cross-border confederation, called "**University of the Greater Region – UniGR**" aims to increase the mobility of students, scientists and lecturers all whilst enriching the courses on offer and research profiles.

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Voices of our students

Claas Seestädt, student from Trier University with UniGR student status, Master en Droit Européen (M1) (2016-2017):

Situated at a hub of the European Union, the University of Luxembourg makes full use of its unique location. The classes in our programme were taught in several languages. This attracted the multi-national and polyglot student body, which I so enjoyed to be part of. It's absolutely worth the time spent on commuting."

A fourth option is a mobility term abroad as a **free mover or fee-paying student**.

Within all of these frameworks, the University of Luxembourg also welcomes incoming students.

Last but not least, our university offers several joint study programmes with universities abroad, allowing our students to earn a joint or double degree.

As to the PhD students, they are offered the possibility of writing their thesis under the joint supervision of the University of Luxembourg and a university abroad in the framework of the so-called «cotutelle» scheme. At the beginning of 2016, more than 100 PhD students (out of around 613 PhD students in total) conducted research projects jointly with a higher education institution abroad.

Joint study programmes

Joint study programmes are another important aspect of our university's internationalisation. As a member of UniGR, the University of Luxembourg offers different binational and trinational study programmes.

STUDY PROGRAMME	PARTNER UNIVERSITIES	DIPLOMA
BACHELOR EN SCIENCES ET INGÉNIERIE - PHYSIQUE - CURSUS INTÉGRÉ SARRE-LOR-LUX EN PHYSIQUE	Saarland University University of Lorraine	Joint trinational diploma
BACHELOR EN INGÉNIERIE - "EUROPÄISCHES BAUMANAGEMENT"	University of Lorraine Saarland University of Applied Sciences	Joint trinational diploma
TRINATIONALER MASTER IN LITERATUR-, KULTUR- UND SPRACHGESCHICHTE DES DEUTSCHSPRACHIGEN RAUMS	Saarland University University of Lorraine	Joint trinational diploma
MASTER IN CONDENSED MATTER PHYSICS	Saarland University University of Lorraine	Joint binational diploma
MASTER EN ÉTUDES FRANCO-ALLEMANDES : COMMUNICATION ET COOPÉRATION TRANSFRONTALIÈRES	Saarland University University of Lorraine	Joint trinational diploma
MASTER EN DÉVELOPPEMENT DURABLE	University of Liège	Double diploma
MASTER IN BORDER STUDIES	University of Luxembourg University of Lorraine Saarland University University of Kaiserslautern	Joint trinational diploma

Furthermore, the University of Luxembourg offers a **European Master of Small Animal Veterinary Medicine** together with ESAVS (European School for Advanced Veterinary Studies).

The University also offers double degrees with Shandong University in China in Systems Biology, with Renmin University in China in Law and Banking & Finance, with the National Research University – Higher School of Economics in Law and Economics with King's College London in the area of Law and with the University of Strasbourg in Biology.

Partners and networks

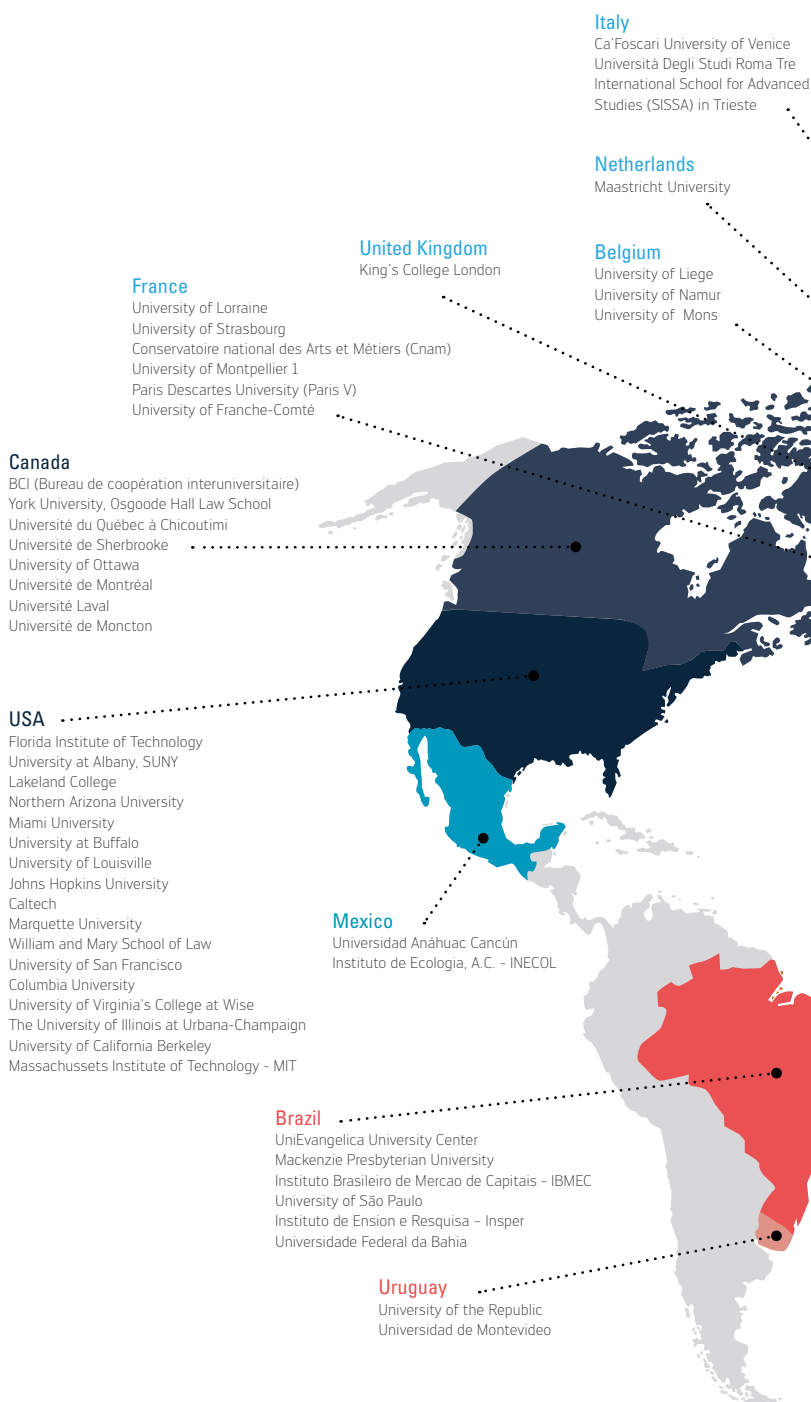
Framework agreements

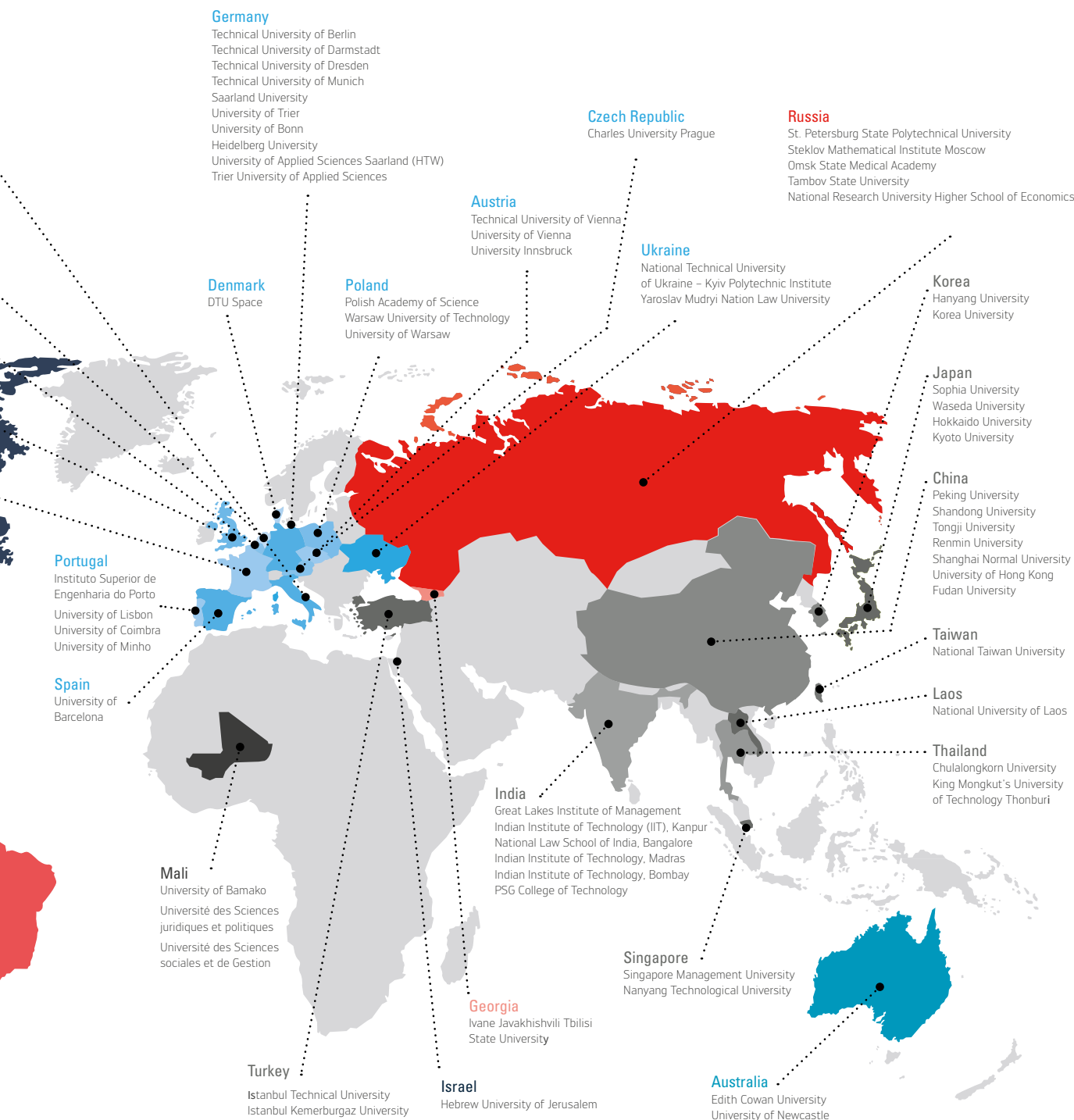
Our partners worldwide

An important task of the IRO is the initiation, preparation and evaluation of agreements with international partner Universities.

We call framework agreements all those partnerships which are not linked to the ERASMUS+ programme. They allow for student exchange, faculty exchange as well as cooperation in teaching and research. They can either be concluded for the whole university or be limited to one specific faculty or interdisciplinary centre, or to a particular field.

Currently, the University of Luxembourg maintains partnerships with over 100 partner institutions worldwide





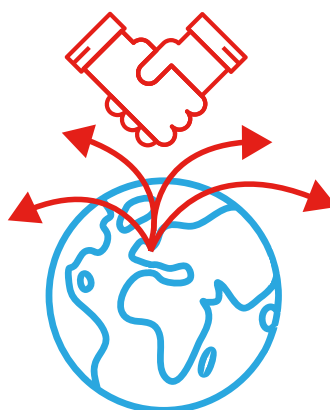
Erasmus agreements

The University of Luxembourg has signed a series of agreements with partner universities throughout Europe. Those agreements allow for student exchanges and they involve research projects and faculty exchange.

In the framework of the Erasmus programme, the University of Luxembourg currently maintains more than 450 bilateral agreements with over 200 universities in 24 countries. The Erasmus bilateral agreements are signed on faculty level for specific fields or study programmes. They can foresee student exchange on all levels, but also teaching staff mobility and administrative staff mobility.

Erasmus bilateral agreements by country (August 2016)

Austria	6	➤
Belgium	28	➤
Bulgaria	3	➤
Cyprus	2	➤
Czech Republic	15	➤
Estonia	1	➤
Finland	8	➤
France	98	➤
Germany	157	➤
Greece	2	➤
Hungary	4	➤
Italy	32	➤
Latvia	2	➤
Liechtenstein	2	➤
Lithuania	5	➤
Netherlands	6	➤
Poland	8	➤
Portugal	33	➤
Spain	15	➤
Sweden	2	➤
Switzerland	20	➤
Turkey	2	➤
United Kingdom	2	➤



450 bilateral agreements
with over
200 universities
in
24 countries

Erasmus Agreements
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Networks

An important aspect in the University of Luxembourg's international orientation is also its membership in several international university networks and associations.



EUA's (European University Association) mission is to influence the outcomes of European level policy debates on issues that will have an impact both at national level on the work of national university associations and for the association's individual member universities. It is currently headed by the former University of Luxembourg's President Prof. Rolf Tarrach.



EURAXESS is a pan-European network with over 260 service centres located in 40 countries. Its aim is to enhance researchers' mobility within and towards Europe and to contribute to making Europe a centre of excellence in research.



European University Foundation - Campus Europae aims to encourage student mobility between its member institutions and to improve the quality of such exchanges, among others by facilitating recognition of credits earned abroad and by providing opportunities of learning the language of the host university.



UNeECC (University Network of the European Capitals of Culture) brings together almost 50 member universities, all of which are located in cities which have been, are or will be European Capitals of Culture.



UNICA (Network of Universities from the Capitals of Europe) brings together 46 universities from 35 capital cities of Europe. Its role is to promote academic excellence, integration and co-operation between member universities throughout Europe. It seeks also to be a driving force in the development of the Bologna process and to facilitate the integration of universities from Central and Eastern Europe into the European Higher Education Area.



UniGR - the University of the Greater Region - is a network of six universities (the University of Kaiserslautern, the University of Liège, the University of Lorraine, the University of Luxembourg, Saarland University and Trier University) which are located on the cross-border area of the Greater Region. The university confederation aims at facilitating the cross-border mobility of students, PhD candidates and scholars as well as to support the creation of new networks, in order to strengthen the Greater Region as a place of science and knowledge.

Top student prize

With the help of one of its partner universities, the University of Luxembourg awards each academic year a special prize to the three best students from each of its faculties, on Master or Bachelor level, who are selected to attend an international summer school.

After several groups of students attended a summer course at Shandong University in Jinan, China, this prize was transferred to Sophia University in Tokyo, Japan, as of 2013. Three students from each of the University's three faculties are selected each spring to follow the Summer Session in Asian Studies at Sophia University. The places at the summer school are tuition-free and accommodation is provided by Sophia University, while all travel costs are covered by the University of Luxembourg.

The double objective the University pursues with this initiative is to allow its top students to make a truly international experience and to encourage and promote excellence among its students.



The Ambassador of the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg to Japan, Mrs Béatrice Kirsch (in the centre), congratulated the 9 top students selected to attend the summer school at Sophia University, Japan, in 2016: Mr. Bilgehan Bayar, Mr. Christof Ferreira Torres, Mrs. Nina Schwartz, Mr. Yann Spielman, Mrs. Milena Vankova, Mr. Valérian Catuhe, Mrs. Djenna Hutmacher, Mrs. Lena Kirsten, Mrs. Jenny Kisch) and four students from Luxembourg who chose Japan as their study destination (Mr. Barbara Ujlaki, Mr. Frank Baustert, Mr. Laurent Pels, Ms. Nina Jacobs).

A young woman with long dark hair, wearing a black tank top with a white anchor graphic and the text 'DON'T TRAVEL' and 'MADE IN USA', stands on a hill overlooking a city. The city features a river, a bridge, and a tall tower in the distance. The image is overlaid with a blue gradient.

Voices of our students

Ms. Jenny Kisch, Bachelor student in Social and Educational Sciences, about her experience as a participant of the Summer Session in Asian Studies 2016 at the Sophia University in Tokyo, Japan:

"Given the opportunity to attend a three-week summer program at one of the top universities in Japan was a huge honor and was truly an amazing and life-changing experience. The program offered a spectrum of different subjects from Japanese Business & Economy to Japanese Society etc., based on highly effective teaching and learning practices, which allowed a greater and interesting insight into Japan. Besides the academic aspects there had been a variety of activities organized in order to get a deeper understanding of the wonderful Japanese culture and customs. I truly had the most amazing time over there!"

Internationalisation in research

Research at the University of Luxembourg

Defined as a research-centred university, the University of Luxembourg has identified a reduced number of research priorities:

- _ **Computational Sciences**
- _ **Law, stressing European Law**
- _ **Luxembourg School of Finance**
- _ **Educational Sciences**
- _ **Interdisciplinary Centre for Security, Reliability and Trust**
- _ **Luxembourg Centre for Systems Biomedicine**

Embedded into an international business environment as that of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the University of Luxembourg also enjoys relations with global industrial leaders. The funded chairs pay tribute to interaction with industry. Since its creation in 2003, the university has had the following endowed chairs:

- _ **TDK Europe Chair "New materials for solar cells"**
- _ **City of Luxembourg Chair in Urban Studies**
- _ **ATOZ Tax Advisors Chair for International and European Taxation**
- _ **SES S.A. Chair in Satellite Communications and Media law**
- _ **Arcelor Mittal Chair in Façade Engineering**
- _ **Deutsche Bank Chair of Finance**
- _ **Chair in Social Business and Social Management by the City of Esch-sur-Alzette**
- _ **ADA Chair on Financial Law**
- _ **Chair of Legislative Studies by the Chambre des Députés du Luxembourg.**

Furthermore, the University also has a UNESCO-Chair in Human Rights, a Jean Monnet Chair in EU Public Law and a Jean Monnet Chair on "The objectives of the European unification process".

Research Support Department
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International research projects

National Funding

Rapid and substantial increases were achieved between 2012 and 2015, notably an increase of 44% in *Fonds national de la recherche* funding, from EUR 15.5 to 27.7 million ('money spent').

Fonds National de la Recherche (FNR)

The Luxembourg National Research Fund is the main funder of research activities in Luxembourg. They invest public funds and private donations into research projects in various branches of science and the humanities, with an emphasis on selected core strategic areas. Furthermore, they support and coordinate activities to strengthen the link between science and society and to raise awareness for research. They also advise the Luxembourg government on research policy and strategy.

The University of Luxembourg has been particularly successful in attracting high profile researchers from abroad through the excellence programmes ATTRACT (for young researchers who each receive up to EUR 1,5 million to set up independent research teams) and PEARL (for internationally recognised senior researchers who each receive up to EUR 5 million to transfer and establish their research programmes in Luxembourg), both financed by Luxembourg's FNR. Currently, the university hosts ten ATTRACT fellows and four PEARL chairs.

ATTRACT

The programme is designed for researchers not yet established in Luxembourg, who demonstrate the potential to become leaders in their field of research. The scheme offers promising junior researchers the opportunity to set up their own research team within one of the country's research institutions.

PEARL

With the PEARL programme, the FNR offers Luxembourg research institutions attractive funding to enable them to draw established and internationally recognised researchers from abroad to Luxembourg.

Through the FNR's INTER programme that runs bi-lateral cooperation agreements with funding agencies in different countries, from 2012-2015 our university was involved in 26 international projects.

INTER

This programme is the FNR's main funding instrument to foster international collaboration. It aims to give Luxembourg's public research a higher profile in the international context by providing funding for international collaboration. INTER enables the FNR to initiate bi or multilateral arrangements for project calls in conjunction with other national or international funding bodies. FNR has entered a number of cooperation agreements with foreign funding agencies to provide funding opportunities for bilateral projects. Furthermore, FNR has joined several international consortia which provide funding opportunities for multilateral projects.



Research Success Story

A Preschool Oral Language Intervention for Language-Minority Children

The Luxembourg Early Language Intervention for Language Minority Children is designed to improve the spoken language ability of Portuguese-speaking language minority children during the preschool years. It is targeted at children at risk of developing learning problems and is administered in the children's first language Portuguese. The project currently runs in 16 schools across the Grand-Duchy and involves 186 children.

The intervention was developed by a team of seven researchers, led by Prof. Pascale Engel de Abreu at the University of Luxembourg in collaboration with the University of Oxford (UK) and University College London (UK).

"We are very excited about this project because it is the first randomized controlled trial in education ever conducted in Luxembourg" says Principal Investigator Pascale Engel de Abreu. In the study children are randomly allocated to the oral language intervention or an active control condition who receives an intervention focusing on early number and math skills. "This design allows us to compare the effectiveness of different interventions while minimizing both known and unknown factors that may influence the possible outcome under investigation." Although recognized as the gold standard for evaluating the effectiveness of an intervention, randomized controlled trials have been relatively rare in education. "Such trials are extremely difficult to set up in schools and associated with high costs, yet they are the only way to ensure that an educational program delivers what it promises and an important step towards evidence-based policy making" added Pascale Engel de Abreu.

A portrait of Conchita D'Ambrosio, a woman with long dark hair, looking slightly to the side with a gentle smile. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The text is positioned on the right side of the image.

Research Success Story

Analysis of individual and social well being

Conchita D'Ambrosio holds a PEARL Chair, the "Programme Excellence Award for Research in Luxembourg" financed by the Fonds National de la Recherche, to conduct research in the analysis of individual and social well-being from a theoretical and empirical perspective.

"It is to be expected that the poor are less satisfied with life than the well off, but we wanted to test whether well being would bounce back as the individual adjusts over time," explained Prof. D'Ambrosio. Data and on-going interviews with over 45,000 people living in Germany from 1992-2011 showed no evidence of such adaptation. The research team found this conclusion held true even when using different definitions of poverty and when taking into account concurrent life events such as unemployment, bereavement, disability and retirement. Although this study relies on individuals' self-assessment of their own well being, this has been shown to be a fairly reliable measure in other research.

So, for example, a severe drop in income (to half the poverty line) has the same negative effect on well being as does relationship separation. Even falling just below the poverty line has a significant negative effect. In both cases, the decline in well being persists as long as income remains at the new low level.

This finding is a valuable contribution to the debate on whether money is the source of happiness. There has been substantial research into what happens when income increases. Unsurprisingly, richer people are more satisfied with their lives, but this rise in well-being may be only short-lived. This paper is one of the few to look at the effect of falling incomes. "While it may be true that more money has no long-lasting effect on well-being, the fall in income that leads to poverty is never forgotten," said Prof. D'Ambrosio.

International Funding

Since the launch of Horizon 2020, EU funding has increased from EUR 5.2 in 2014 to 10.6 million in 2015 ('money acquired' as 'money spent' is lower due to the recent start of H2020).

The total competitive funding increased from EUR 18.6 to 32.4 million from 2012-15. Since the launch of Horizon 2020, Luxembourg with the University as the best performing institute (17.5% success rate) has managed to be ranked among the top 10 EU Member States who have an average success rate of 16%. The University hosts 4 European Research Council Grantees and is involved in 28 Horizon 2020 projects. Together with Luxinnovation and Luxembourg's main public research institutions, the University opened a Brussels office in 10/2015 with the objective to re-enforce the strategic positioning of Luxembourg in influential networks.



European
Commission

Horizon 2020
European Union funding
for Research & Innovation



Research Success Story

Sharc25 - preparing the next generation of solar modules

Sharc25 is a European project with the aim of developing an extremely efficient thin-film solar cell for the next generation of more cost-effective solar modules. This project gathers 11 partners, including the University of Luxembourg, from 8 countries.

Sharc25 brings the best groups in Europe who make these solar cells together with experts for specific characterisation techniques to improve the understanding of the materials and devices and to point out ways to enhance the efficiency of these solar cells. This project is only possible with a Europe wide collaboration.

The group of Prof. Susanne Siebentritt of the Physics and Materials Science Research Unit is part of this joint effort and brings their expertise on electronic structure and defect characterisation into the project. Our first task was actually unexpected. It turned out that it was necessary to develop an optical method that is not hampered by the fact that in these high quality smooth films the reflection of the front and the backside is important. The new method has recently been presented at an international conference.

A portrait of Professor Jan Lagerwall, a man with short grey hair, a goatee, and glasses, wearing a suit and a striped tie. He is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a blurred outdoor scene with trees. The entire image has a blue color overlay.

European Research Council grant for Professor Jan Lagerwall

The “Consolidator Grant” by the European Research Council (ERC) has been awarded to Prof. Dr. Jan Lagerwall, an expert in liquid crystals and physicist at the University of Luxembourg. The grant is one of the most sought-after competitive research grants in Europe and supports highly promising young scientists. The grant will focus on investigating soft artificial “muscles” for new types of robots. Unlike hard industrial robots, these “soft” robots can interact directly with people and therefore provide valuable assistance in everyday situations. Still in its infancy, this discipline, which is known as “Soft Robotics”, is currently seen as a particularly promising area for the future.

In total, the University of Luxembourg holds 6 ERC grants.

Welcome
and
support
services

Due to its large number of international students, our university offers a large range of welcome and support services to international students and researchers. Incoming students are guided and supported by our **Student mobility office** throughout the application process, including visa application, until their actual arrival on campus.

Furthermore, many welcome activities and support services are offered to international students once they are in Luxembourg. At the beginning of each academic year, the university organises the **"Welcome Days"** to help new international students integrate and get to know their university and their city.

Moreover, the university offers a service called "Meet and Greet", coordinated by the Student Mobility office. Incoming students who make use of this service are picked up at the airport or station by a regular University of Luxembourg student and taken to their new home.

As far as **housing** is concerned, the University of Luxembourg has residences in different areas of the city of Luxembourg and mostly in the southern region near Belval. Currently, the university has a total of 36 residences with 1067 rooms and studios.

Our student housing facilities



35 student housing facilities



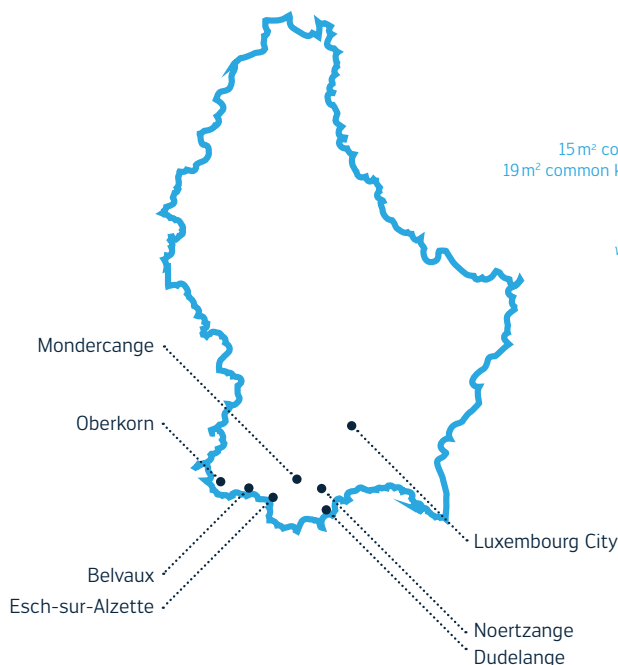
1,009 rooms and studios



average monthly rent

15 m² common kitchen / bathroom 360€*
19 m² common kitchen / private bathroom 440€*
22 m² studio apartment 595€*

**included charges:
water, gas, electric. heating, internet*



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The University of Luxembourg also offers intermediate and advanced **language courses** for its students and staff in cooperation with the "Institut National des Langues".

Language Centre
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Furthermore, the student department SEVE offers **arts workshops** as well as a large range of **sports activities** free of charge.

SEVE
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"Espace cultures" coordinates a broad range of cultural activities, including the University Choir, the University Chamber Music Ensemble, the student theater group EduDrame, the dance group "Dance Cluster" and a mime workshop. There are also guided tours and sightseeing, study trips and exhibitions as well as free tickets for cultural events on offer.

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life @ uni.lu



Final
words

The University of Luxembourg's current situation in terms of international relations is already quite exceptional. With more than 50 percent international students of 113 different nationalities and staff members of 82 nationalities using three to four different languages every day, our university can say that it is probably one of the most international worldwide.

Nevertheless, internationalisation is not an end in itself, but rather a tool and a strategy for the university to reach increased quality in research and education. An international approach to higher education makes the students more competitive on the globalised job market; it gives important input to the faculty members and provides opportunities for them to create new connections and also possibilities to seek financing for international projects. In addition, it makes the university more visible all over the world.

Internationalisation therefore remains a core element within the University of Luxembourg's strategy for the coming years. Mobility and intercultural experiences shall continue to be strongly encouraged and joint study programmes will continue to be promoted. The University will also continue to recruit internationally with the aim of attracting the best students and researchers from all over the world.

Hence, internationalisation will remain a priority for our university, which will continue to "go global".



International Relations Office

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Colophon

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