The ULB today, at the heart of Belgium

At the heart of Brussels:
3 campuses: Solbosch, La Plaine and Erasme
2 sites: Flagey and Uccle

And in Charleroi:
Gosselies Biopark, UCharleroi campus and Parentville site
First mission: pursuit of excellence

Research is at the foundation of ULB’s activities.

The university aims to be a key hub for research on major topics that require a transdisciplinary approach, while pursuing excellence and sustainable development.

October 9, 2013
François Englert
Nobel Prize in Physics
Our research

3600 Researchers and teachers
2000 PhD candidates
250 + PhD theses defended each year
185 Million € Annual research budget

200 + research units and 9 high-quality interdisciplinary research institutes

- Institute for European Studies
- ULB Neuroscience Institute
- Interuniversity Institute of Bioinformatics
- ULB Cancer Research
- U-IRIS
- Institute for Human Sciences
- Institute for Interdisciplinary Innovation in Healthcare
- EBx1, ULB’s network of Studies on Brussels
- Research Institute on Immunology
- TRANSFO, Research Centre for Social Change
Prizes and distinctions

4 Nobel Prizes in Science

Jules Bordet 1919, Medicine
Ilya Prigogine 1977, Chemistry
Albert Claude 1974, Medicine
François Englert 2013, Physics

1 Fields Medal
2 Marie Curie Prizes
3 Wolf Prizes
4 Nobel Prizes in Science
25 Francqui Prizes
41 European Research Council Grants
21 FNRS Quinquennial prizes (out of 42)
The ecosystems associated with research at ULB

- BRUSSELS SOUTHERN CHARLEROI BIOPARK
  - 1700 + Jobs
  - 50 Companies

But also:
- Health Valley
- CapInnove
- EEBIC Incubators
- Theodorus fund
- 41 active spin-offs
A few figures

BUDGET

268 Million €
Global ULB Budget

210 Million €
Governmental Endowment

185 Million €
Annual research budget

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

20.3 Million €
Capitalization of the 3rd fund

41.9 Million €
Capitalization of the 4th fund
ULB is also committed to helping its students become responsible citizens, by focussing on learning rather than teaching, and by preparing them for a world that is forever changing.
The ULB, a comprehensive university

A wide range of programmes in all fields of study

Programmes are taught in French but also partly or entirely in English

- 32,000 Enrolled Students
- 12 Faculties
- 40 Bachelor's programmes
- 158 Master's programmes
Innovative teaching

Institutional support for innovative teaching projects

SimLabs, FabLab, training dispensary, flipped classrooms, Syllabus 21...

Pedagogical support unit: teaching, action research, and ICT-based learning, MOOCs, recorded lectures, educational videos, blended learning

Quality unit: support for internal and external evaluations, development of action plans and follow-up
A rich catalogue of life-long learning programmes

100+ Certificates
150+ Vocational training programmes
5000+ Students each year
Third mission: strong social commitment

Healthcare
- Erasme teaching hospital and a vast hospital network in Brussels and Wallonia

Education
- Schola ULB, free learning support, which has already helped more than 28,000 pupils
- Creation of a Children's university in 2016
- Support for new innovative secondary schools ("écoles plurielles")
A university strongly committed throughout its history...

- To **women's emancipation**: ULB was the first Belgian university to open its doors to women, in 1880; today fully committed to a Gender policy.

- To **critical thinking**: Inclusion of the principle of free enquiry in our statutes in 1894.

- To **a social policy**: 1st student hall of residence in 1932.

- To **development cooperation**, since 1938.

- **Against fascism**: Closure of the university in 1941, in resistance to the Nazi occupation.
A university strongly committed throughout its history...

to equality
Nelson Mandela, Honorary Doctorate

to ethical debates
Liberalisation of abortion, euthanasia

to fairness and success
Unesco Comenius Medal for our Tutorial Programme in 2004

to solidarity with refugees
Since 2015, creation of solidarity fellowships and a Welcome Desk for refugee students

to sustainable development
Adoption of a climate plan in 2019
A committed university: **two Nobel Peace Prizes**

**Henri La Fontaine** - 1913
Committed to peace and to the promotion of international law to resolve conflicts between nations

**Dr Denis Mukwege** - 2018
Committed to ending the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war
Development cooperation with universities

ARES-CCD
- ULB is actively involved in development cooperation, mainly in Africa but also in South-East Asia and Latin America. Our aim is to contribute to the fight against poverty through university partnerships in research and education.

Our NGO: ULB Cooperation
- Development projects in 3 countries in the South (Democratic Republic of Congo, Burkina Faso & Senegal).
- Actions to raise student awareness of cooperation (in the North).

FOSFOM fund in collaboration with 13 medical faculties in the south.
- Highly selective scholarships enabling young MDs to be trained in our hospital network.
- Over 100 scholarships per year.
A very international university

32% of students were international students
Origin:
- EU (excluding Belgium): 23%
- Non EU: 9%

29% of academic and research staff came from abroad
Origin:
- UE (excluding Belgium): 20.67%
- Non EU: 9.95%

Top 5 countries of origin of EU students in 2017/2018:
1. France
2. Italy
3. Luxembourg
4. Spain
5. Portugal

Top 5 countries of origin of academic and research staff in 2017/2018:
1. France
2. Italy
3. Spain
4. Germany
5. India

Figures 2019/2020
A multicultural university, open to diversity of languages and cultures

32% of our students are international students

- Students from Europe: 73%
- Students from Africa: 17%
- Students from the Americas: 3%
- Students from Asia and Oceania: 6%
- Refugee and stateless students: 0.1%

Figures 2019/2020
International collaborations at the heart of our teaching

- 450+ Bilateral institutional cooperation agreements
- 4 Ongoing Erasmus Mundus programmes
- 1600 Students on mobility programmes (in & out)
Special partnerships
G3: a french-speaking network of excellence since 2012

→ Creation of a joint fund
→ 20 projects launched followings calls for proposals
→ A collaborative platform
→ Development of joint thesis supervision agreements
An alliance of 8 universities

400,000 students
55,000 members of staff
172 ERC Grants
34 Nobel Prizes
UNICA, a European network

53 universities in 37 European capitals
A special relationship with VUB

Close collaboration with VUB (Vrije Universiteit Brussels) within the Brussels University Alliance:

- Development of joint Master’s programmes and Master’s in English
- ULB-VUB Joint Research Groups
- weKONEKT.brussels
- Joint events (Difference Day, Belgian Pride, Saint-Verhaegen)
- Usquare & Learning Innovation Centre projects
The ULB LOOKS TO THE FUTURE

Learning and Innovation Centre

Usquare: a new university quarter

E building (Plaine campus)

New Erasme

UCharleroi campus