Brussels’ largest University, at the heart of Europe

→ A strategic location at the heart of Brussels, capital of the European Union

→ A cosmopolitan city: 1 million inhabitants, 33% of which coming from abroad (104 languages spoken)

→ Headquarters of international decision-making institutions (European Union, NATO, …)

→ 2h from London and Amsterdam, 1h20 from Paris
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
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.
Our research

3600 Researchers and teachers
+ 2000 PhD candidates
+ 220 PhD theses defended each year

€186 Million Annual research budget

200 + research units and 10 high-quality interdisciplinary research institutes

- IEE, Institute for European Studies
- UNI, ULB Neuroscience Institute
- IB2, Interuniversity Institute of Bioinformatics
- U-CRC, ULB Cancer Research
- U-IRIS, ULB Interdisciplinary Research Institute for Sports
- MSH, Institute for Human Sciences
- i³h, Institute for Interdisciplinary Innovation in Healthcare
- EB²l, ULB’s network of Studies on Brussels
- U-CRI, 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

25 Francqui Prizes

43 European Research Council Grants

21 FNRS Quinquennial prizes (out of 42)
The ecosystems associated with research at ULB

But also:
- Health Valley
- CapInnove
- EEBIC Incubators
- Theodorus fund
- 40 active spin-offs

2,966 Jobs
86 Companies
A few figures

**BUDGET**

- **€268 Million**
  - Global ULB Budget

- **€210 Million**
  - Governmental Endowment

- **€186 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

37 000 Enrolled Students
12 Faculties
40 Bachelor's programmes
150 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 (the HUB) 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
Cooperation with universities

ARES-CCD
- University cooperation is one of ULB’s priorities: it enables us to enrich our institution and our partners, in a mutually beneficial approach, whether academic, scientific or administrative. Our cooperation activities are mainly developed in Africa, but also in South-East Asia and Latin America.

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

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 comes from abroad
Origin:
EU (excluding Belgium) 20.67 %
Non-EU: 9.95 %

Top 5 countries of origin of EU students
1. FRANCE
2. ITALY
3. LUXEMBOURG
4. SPAIN
5. PORTUGAL

Top 5 countries of origin of academic and research staff
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

6 Ongoing Erasmus Mundus programmes

1600 Students on mobility programmes (in & out)
Strategic partnerships
G3: a french-speaking network of excellence since 2012

- A common fund of € 75,000 per year to finance joint activities.
- Six calls for educational, scientific or administrative collaboration projects since 2012.
- About forty projects selected for a total of more than €700,000.
- Development of cotutelles, internships and "triangular" student mobilities.
European Civic University

An alliance of 11 universities

500,000 students
70,000 members of staff
267 ERC Grants
35 Nobel Prizes
UNICA, a European network

54 universities in 38 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
ULB looks to the future

New Bordet

Learning and Innovation Centre

Usquare: a new university quarter

E building (Plaine campus)

UCharleroi campus