

# UCL Louvain – Louvain - Belgium

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**Go  
Abroad!**



# Welcome to ESL

Factsheet 2025-2026

 **UCLouvain**  
Economics School of Louvain (**ESL**)

 **Economics**  
School of  
Louvain



# Welcome to Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium

## UCLouvain, Université catholique de Louvain, An international campus

Since its foundation in 1425, "openness to the world" has been at the core of UCLouvain teaching and research missions. Today, this has resulted in

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a high percentage of international students at UCLouvain: nearly one fifth of our students come from abroad, representing over 122 nationalities from five different continents;



many exchanges of students, teachers and researchers through European networks (Erasmus +) and International networks (Circle U., The Guild, ...): one fourth of UCLouvain graduates benefit from an experience abroad and UCLouvain welcomes as many students through its partnerships;



A highly-driven partnership policy with Higher Education Institutions all around the world.

# The Economics School of Louvain ESL

The Economics School of Louvain (ESL) is part of the Faculty of Economics, Social and Political Sciences and Communication (ESPO), and jointly organizes its master programs with the Economics School of Namur (ESN).

## The advantages of our collaboration:

- Strong international experience: ESL has developed a network of partner universities for exchange students and double degrees;
- Internationally renowned Professors;
- World-class research carried out in internationally renowned centres (CORE, ETES, IRES);
- Highly international study and work environment.



[uclouvain.be/en/faculties/espo/esl/incoming-student.html](https://uclouvain.be/en/faculties/espo/esl/incoming-student.html)

## Information for Exchange students



[uclouvain.be/fr/facultes/espo/etudiant-international.html](https://uclouvain.be/fr/facultes/espo/etudiant-international.html)

Auditoires Montesquieu



## International office contacts

### Exchange & Double Degrees

Mrs. Catherine Maréchal  
+32 10 47 39 82

✈ [catherine.marechal@uclouvain.be](mailto:catherine.marechal@uclouvain.be)

### Email for nominations

✈ [international-espo@uclouvain.be](mailto:international-espo@uclouvain.be)

### Postal Address

UCLouvain | Economics School of Louvain  
Bâtiment Dupriez - L2.06.01 – Office D010  
Place Montesquieu, 3  
1348 Louvain-la-Neuve



# Process

**Nominations and applications** should be sent through our Mobility Online Platform. An identification code will be sent to the partner university at the end of February each year.

	1 <sup>st</sup> term	2 <sup>nd</sup> term
Deadline for nominations	by April 30 <sup>th</sup>	by October 31 <sup>st</sup>
Deadline for applications	by May 31 <sup>st</sup>	by November 30 <sup>th</sup>



# Academic Calendar 2025-26

	1 <sup>st</sup> term	2 <sup>nd</sup> term
Welcome Incoming exchange students	Sept. 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2025	Jan. 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2026
Courses start	Sept. 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2025	Feb. 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2026
End of Term	Dec. 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2025	May 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2026
Exam session	Jan. 5 <sup>th</sup> to Jan. 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2025	June 1 <sup>st</sup> to June 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2026
Retake exam session	Aug. 17 <sup>th</sup> to Sept. 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2026	





## Living costs and practical information

Average monthly rent for UCLouvain accommodation (a room) is €295.

Average rent for privately owned accommodation is between €600 and €800 for a one-bedroom flat, and between €750 and €900 for a two-bedroom flat.



[uclouvain.be/en/study/practical-information.html](https://uclouvain.be/en/study/practical-information.html)



## Housing information

Finding **accommodation** is the student's responsibility. We recommend you start searching as soon as you are nominated.

**Student accommodation on campus is available for students. They can choose between :**

- University Housing (LOGE - UCLouvain Accommodation Office)
- Privately owned accommodation

**University Housing is limited. Students should apply as soon as possible.**

- Applications from Mar. until Jul. 31<sup>th</sup> for Fall term
- Applications from Jul. until Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> for Spring Term



[uclouvain.be/en/study/accomodation/about.html](https://uclouvain.be/en/study/accomodation/about.html)

Students considering private housing on campus in Louvain-la-Neuve should be cautious of potential scams.

It's essential not to transfer money to landlords before physically inspecting the property or obtaining verifiable proof of legitimacy.

Stay vigilant to avoid falling victim to fraudulent schemes.





# Courses

## Which courses?

**At ESL**, you will find Master level courses in Economics. A full track in English is possible.

**At the Faculty ESPO**, you will find Bachelor level courses in Economics, Social and Political Sciences and Communication and Master level courses in Social and Political Sciences and Communication.

**At the Bachelor level**, there is a limited number of courses taught in English.

Note: at UCLouvain, Economics and Management are two different degrees taught in two different schools.

We ask that you take at least 50% of your courses at the ESL and/or the ESPO Faculty.



[uclouvain.be/en/faculties/espo/esl/course-catalogue.html](https://uclouvain.be/en/faculties/espo/esl/course-catalogue.html)

## Workload

- A normal workload represents 30 ECTS per semester.
- 1 course of 5 ECTS represents on average 30 contact hours.
- We expect you to have a workload comparable to the one you would be required to have at your home institution.

## French courses

**French courses are organized by the Institut des Langues Vivantes (ILV) from beginner to advanced level.**

- If the language course is part of your learning agreement, you are allowed to attend courses without extra charge (max. 3 French courses).
- If it is not part of your learning agreement, you can attend courses for all the languages EXCEPT English, Dutch and Spanish. You will be considered a “free student” (standard fees will apply).



[uclouvain.be/en/study/ilv/french.html](https://uclouvain.be/en/study/ilv/french.html)

## Grading scale

Grade	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	< 10
% of students awarded the grade	0.5	1.8	5.1	8.6	14.9	16.0	16.4	12.4	9.9	7.3	7.1	-
ECTS grade	A			B		C		D		E	F	





UCLouvain,  
since 1425  
and tomorrow





# A diverse and open community

UCLouvain has every confidence in the men and women who work and study at the university to advance knowledge and provide answers to the questions facing society.

**38,000**

**students,**  
20% of whom  
are international

**6,000**

students  
in **continuing  
education**

**2,200**

**teachers,**  
16% of whom are  
international

**3,600**

**researchers,**  
30% of whom  
are international

**2,100**

administrative  
and technical  
**staff**

**10,300**

**people**  
employed in  
**university  
hospitals**

**8,400**

**science park  
employees**

**190,000**

**alumni,**  
123 nationalities

▼  
**1,600 students**  
get involved in a social,  
cultural or athletic  
project supported  
by the university.

▼  
Each year, roughly **one  
of every two university  
diplomas** in French-  
speaking Belgium is  
awarded by UCLouvain.

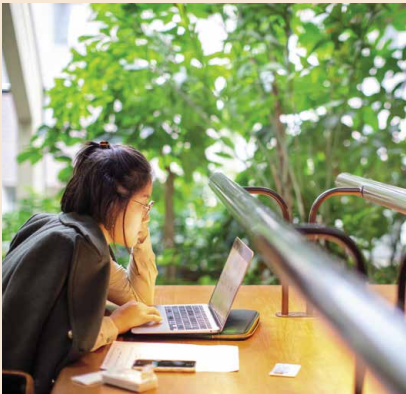
▼  
**Nearly 300 PhD  
students,** half of them  
international, defend  
their theses every year.





### A passion for research

The 3,600 UCLouvain researchers represent an impressive pool of knowledge and skills. Their quality can be measured by the number of European Research Council (ERC) grants, the European grants of excellence, that they win each year: in 2023, they numbered 56. UCLouvain scientists also benefit from the LouvainTRANSFER “turnkey” service for promoting their research results.



### Innovative and open teaching

At UCLouvain, teachers are encouraged to place innovation at the core of their teaching. To this end, they can count on the support of the Louvain Learning Lab (LLL), a leader in its field. In addition, since sharing knowledge with as many people as possible is one of its key missions, the university has placed open science and open education at the centre of an ambitious digital transformation project.

”

Above all, the university is a place where we prepare the young to assert themselves.

**Denis Mukwege,**  
gynaecologist in Kivu, DRC,  
Nobel Peace Prize winner,  
Sakharov Prize winner,  
2014 UCLouvain honorary  
doctorate recipient



# Understanding and taking action

Understanding the world, analysing the major challenges facing society and developing strategies to meet them: UCLouvain's ambition is to inspire and educate citizens capable of providing innovative solutions for building a sustainable future.



## Education in all areas of knowledge

UCLouvain offers a full range of bachelor's and master's degree courses in its three sectors: **social sciences and humanities, science and technology, and health sciences.**

Bachelor's students have the opportunity to enrich their course with an elective for the purpose of broadening their horizons and embracing a multidisciplinary approach.

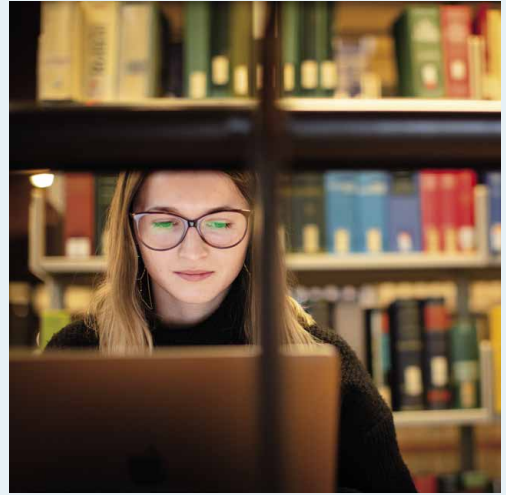
## An interdisciplinary approach to research

Aware of the need for a global and interdisciplinary approach to studying certain societal issues, UCLouvain launched "**Louvain4**". These consortia bring together researchers from all university sectors to focus on major contemporary issues such as energy, nutrition, space and migration.

20

faculties

UCLouvain is at the heart of Europe's largest science park.



207

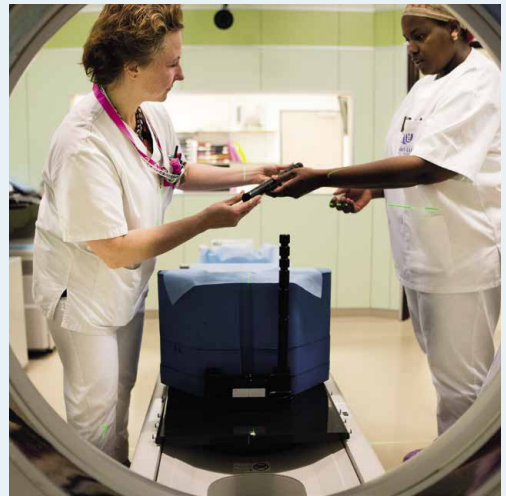
master's programmes, 73 bachelor's programmes, 50 doctoral schools

35 research chairs and 15 dedicated funds are financed by sponsorship via the Fondation Louvain.

213

continuing education programmes

UCLouvain is at the centre of a network of hospitals representing almost half the beds in French-speaking Belgium.



23

research institutes, 51 technology platforms

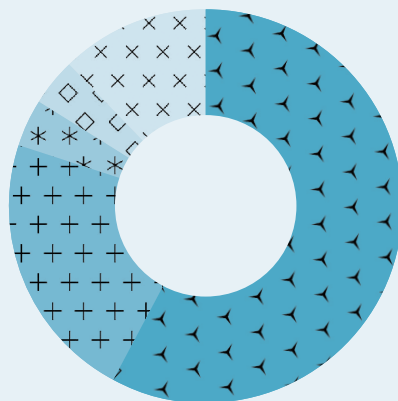
2,500

research projects per year

€316

million annual investment in research

University funding sources



2

science parks, 282 companies, 68 active spin-offs

2

university hospitals, 1,909 beds

Public funding	58 %
Research agreements	22 %
Tuition fees	4 %
Services for third parties	4 %
Assets and sponsorship	12 %

”

It is by cultivating our inner passion that we find the strength to choose, to act and to adapt.

Laurence Tubiana, French economist and diplomat, 2021 UCLouvain honorary doctorate recipient



# At the heart of the world

UCLouvain has been open to the world since its founding in 1425. This openness takes the form of numerous international partnerships, as well as a commitment to ecological, social and economic transition.

**548**

Erasmus+ partners

**56**

European Research Council (ERC) grants

**36**

master's programmes taught in English

**440**

projects financed by European framework programmes

**0**

carbon neutrality of our buildings by 2035

**200**

course offerings on sustainable development

**50**

percentage of soft mobility among staff

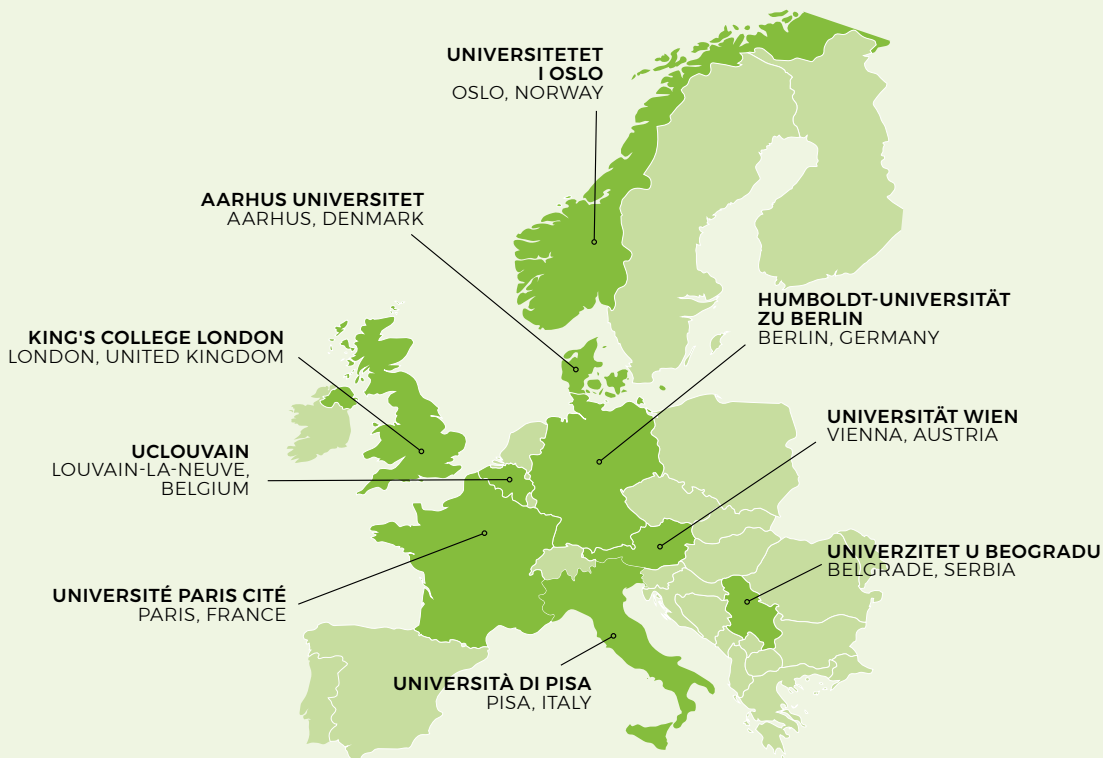
**80**

actions carried out as part of the first transition plan



▼ Nearly **a third of UCLouvain's graduates** completed part of their education abroad.

▼ The leading Belgian university in terms of sustainable development, UCLouvain is in the top 100 of the **THE's "Impact"** rankings.



**UCLouvain is part of the Circle U. alliance**

Nine European universities are committed to contributing to more sustainable, democratic and healthy societies.



”

To create is to resist. To resist is to create.

**Bernard Focroulle**,  
Belgian musician,  
composer and opera  
director, 2024 UCLouvain  
honorary doctorate  
recipient



### Culture: a window on the universal

An artist in residence, a cultural season, a minor in culture and creativity, cultural development funds... culture is everywhere at UCLouvain. Through their many initiatives, students make a major contribution to its development. In 2017,

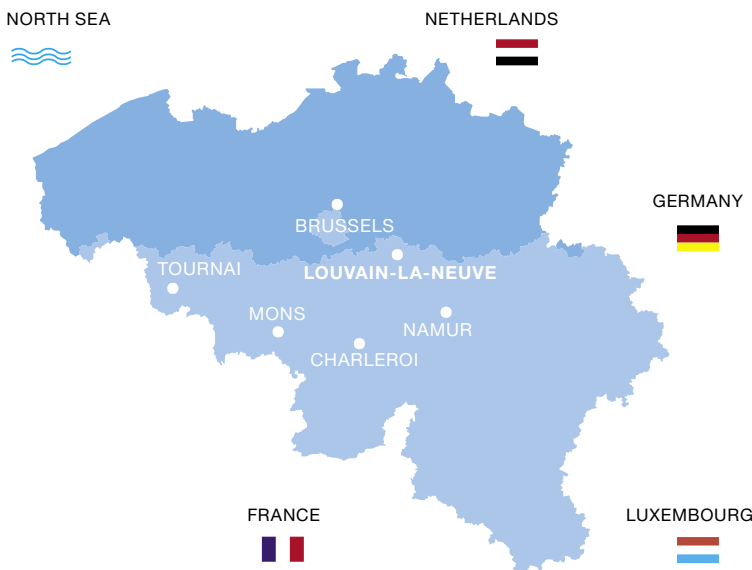
the university inaugurated a major art and science museum, “Musée L”. This is a powerful symbol of the university’s determination to place culture at the heart of the scientific process.

# A university on eight campuses

Located in Belgium, at the crossroads between the major European capitals, UCLouvain is based in Louvain-la-Neuve, some 30 kilometres south of Brussels. The town, created in 1971 by the university, offers a unique living environment in Belgium.



It boasts innovative architecture, a pedestrian-only centre and a wide range of social and cultural activities. The university has seven additional campuses in Brussels and Wallonia.



## Louvain-la-Neuve

Social sciences and humanities  
Science and technology  
Physical education, physiotherapy

## Brussels Woluwe

Medicine and dentistry  
Pharmacy and biomedical science  
Public health  
University hospital

## Saint-Louis Brussels

Philosophy, letters and humanities  
Law  
Economic, social and political sciences  
Communication  
Translation and interpreting

## Mons

Information and communication  
Economics and management  
Political and social sciences

## Brussels Saint-Gilles

Architecture

## Tournai

Architecture

## Charleroi

Management

## Namur

University hospital

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