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ESPRIT LIBRE

ULB

12 months of **Key Events** 2016

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Didier Viviers,
Rector

2015-2016

Achievements and perspectives

The academic year 2015/2016 will be remembered in the French Community of Belgium's higher education community as the year when the first steps of an increase in funding (however modest) were negotiated. The negotiations were conducted between institutions and the government, and were only made possible by the spirit of solidarity that exists between the six universities in the Wallonia-Brussels Federation; the 'landscape' decree, enacted in November, 2013, had stabilised their evolution in an attempt to reach a state of equilibrium, which remains a fundamental requirement for the healthy development of French-speaking Belgium's academic community. An increasing number of observers of this community point out that the future of universities, small or large, will hinge upon partnership agreements and a sense of solidarity, as this will enable them to define specificities or 'niches', based on fair relationships, for the benefit of all. In order to achieve this goal, our higher education system must find the appropriate balance points that prevent inter-university competition, as this would go against the best interest of our students as well as the overall quality of our universities.

Sadly, 2015/2016 was also a year where Europe was struck by a surge in radical terrorism that spared no one: a metro in a large city, a religious community in a small town, and places of leisure that were targeted for the large amount of media coverage such attacks generate. Each new attack proves that no area is safe from this murderous onslaught, and that the perpetrators' network is especially loose. Under these circumstances, all available resources must be used, including in our university. One aspect of our response focuses on understanding the phenomenon, and research in social sciences plays an increasingly fundamental part in this context as it can benefit our society, which is not exclusively 'technological', despite what too many people claim. Another aspect is focused on resisting and rebuilding, which will involve stressing the importance of tolerance, hospitality, empathy, and interest in other people and their culture, as well as protecting our physical integrity – which is one of the pillars of humanist values. In this area, our university has been unwavering in its commitment. This is also a vital element for the future development of universities, which are no longer the only purveyors of knowledge and which are taking on, now more than ever, a 'moral' or 'ethical' dimension that is a major criteria in defining their quality and renown.



The year of languages

By inviting Michaëlle Jean, the Secretary-General of the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie, to give a speech at the beginning of the 2015/2016 academic year, ULB wished to underline its active participation in the large French-speaking academic community. However, this participation does take place in a wider multicultural and multilingual perspective, and this is why this academic year placed emphasis on language teaching. ULB now has a new translation and interpretation department, offering a broad range of language courses: English, Chinese, German, French, Dutch, Italian, Spanish, Russian, Arabic, Turkish, Portuguese, Romanian, Greek, Polish, Czech and Slovenian. Soon, Japanese will be added to the list! This consolidates ULB's position as the largest language learning hub in French-speaking Belgium.

Two new faculties

With a hundred new colleagues and a thousand new students, ULB had to overhaul the organisation of its faculties. By creating a new Faculty of Letters, Translation and Communication, we wanted to demonstrate our willingness not only to unite all language courses, but also to associate them with one of our strongest disciplines, namely communication.

We have also decided to bring together other disciplines within a second newly created faculty: the Faculty of Philosophy and Social Sciences, which will now be in charge of a variety of courses in the field of social sciences, including philosophy, political science, history, history of art and archaeology, musicology, religious studies, anthropology, sociology, ethics, and labour studies. These evolutions reflect our university's desire to maintain a highly active faculty structure, while also adjusting it based on the integration of new areas of study and on the overall developments of each discipline.

Constantly updating courses

However, we are not revamping just ULB's faculty structure, but also the contents and methods of its teaching activities. After its first major successes with MOOCs, ULB is staying the course by not only offering two new exciting courses – one on critical thinking (Guy Haarscher) and the other on survey and inquiry methods (Catherine Vermandele) –, but also engaging in reflection on how it teaches using these new tools that are increasing its visibility in this area.

The content of our 'traditional' Masters is also evolving: the Master in Speech and Language Therapy has been entirely redesigned, and we will offer two new Masters starting in 2016: a Master in Cybersecurity and a Master in Agroecology. Beyond just the content of our study



programmes, our actual teaching methods are constantly being revisited, with role-playing games (e.g. the Student Tribunal for International Dispute Settlement, which examined the legality of Greece's debt in March) or cross-disciplinary projects that involve students from a variety of backgrounds, often in partnership with public organisations (such as daily newspaper *Le Soir*). The variety of courses offered at ULB is such that half of our courses are given to classes of 28 students or less: this should break certain stereotypes!

Let us hope that all this will improve the already stellar feedback that students have given our courses this year (84 % positive reviews), with a survey participation rate that puts ULB among the best international universities.

Freedom of research

In addition to offering study programmes that take into account our students' needs in terms of major scientific disciplines and society's current evolution, we must also stress that research – which is ULB's second mission – must be based on a high quality of scientific output, on original approaches, and on solid networks. This requires a strong sense of academic freedom. As a result, in addition to chairs that are associated with regular courses and respond to a need in a specific field of study, ULB has reinforced its policy of offering chairs that are not tied to a specific field, with researchers hired on the sole basis of their profile. Six such positions are filled each year, ensuring our university is highly active in research and raising its national and international profile: out of the five quinquennial awards given by FNRS in 2015, four were given to ULB researchers, and our results with the ERC are also the best of all French-speaking Belgian universities (which are experiencing the same issues as we are in terms of funding and attractiveness).

Towards a convergence of scientific approaches

It is also our responsibility to organise the research environment in which our researchers work. This is why we are maintaining our policy of creating interdisciplinary (and inter-faculty) centres, allowing many researchers to share their results on a specific topic that requires different skills and sometimes access to shared equipment. This approach had previously been followed for brain studies and neuroscience; this year, cancer studies (U-CRC) and social sciences (MSH) were able to take advantage of a platform dedicated to convergence in research.



International collaboration

Whether for teaching our students or developing our research activities, international collaborations play a key role in your university's strategy. This strategy includes consolidating our position within the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie, especially through G3, an enhanced partnership – centred on French, but with a multilingual approach – between ULB, the University of Geneva, and the Université de Montréal.

We have also maintained our 'Asian policy', which is necessarily a long-term strategy, with a number of new valuable relationships: the establishment of a Confucius Institute within ULB and the creation at ULB of a liaison office with Tokyo's Waseda University, in return for which ULB researchers are hosted in Tokyo during their missions.

International collaboration can also be more socially engaged, especially with our colleagues who are experiencing politically trying times. By creating ten renewable one-year chairs for researchers from the Middle East who were driven to exile by the catastrophic situation in their countries, ULB is pursuing its policy of welcoming academic emigrants. Another initiative, dubbed 'Emergency Greece', has called upon ULB's network of hospitals, the city of Brussels, and ULB itself, in order to raise awareness within the Belgian population about the dismantling of Greece's healthcare system. The initiative involved raising funds for three projects supporting healthcare in Greece, thus demonstrating ULB's commitment towards a solidary approach of Europe and its investment in public health.

A more structured hospital network

Another highlight of our investment in the health sector this year was the signature of an enhanced partnership agreement between Hôpital Erasme – ULB's university hospital, whose management structure is also undergoing a major overhaul – and the public hospitals of Brussels. By creating the Brussels university hospital hub (Pôle Hospitalier Universitaire de Bruxelles or PHUB), ULB and the city of Brussels wished to consolidate a common strategy for hospital care, education, and research. The five hospitals should eventually make up one of the largest hospital/faculty hubs in Europe, with positive effects on quality of care and patient service.





Living and evolving campuses

Lastly, the life of a university follows the rhythm set by its campuses. In the following pages, readers will find a presentation of selected major events that were held on ULB's various campuses. In addition to events, significant investments were made and ambitious projects were launched on ULB's campuses: the Anderlecht campus will soon have a new lecture hall complex and the La Plaine campus has completed the final planning of a large property development project that will gather, in a single place, several departments of the Brussels School of Engineering and the Faculty of Sciences, but also the computer science and industrial engineering branches of the newly merged Haute École de Bruxelles (H2B). This will result in the creation of a major hub for computer and engineering science, which will be created from the ground up at the same time as the Learning and Innovation Center, a short distance away on the same campus, a symbol of our active collaboration with VUB for research and education in the field of science and technology.

In the following pages, readers will also find a selection of activities carried out by our university during the academic year 2015/2016. This was also the last year of my second term of office as a rector. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have lent me their support, both within ULB and outside, in fulfilling my mission. My deepest gratitude goes to all members of the successive administrative teams that ran the Rector's office, as well as to the chairmen of the Board of Governors (Alain Delchambre, Eric De Keuleneer, and Pierre Gurdjian) with whom I have had the pleasure of working. I am also very sincerely thankful to our director general, Michel Loeb, and, through him, to ULB's entire administrative staff. Lastly, I would like to thank my colleagues for the trust they have placed in me, and I hope I did not disappoint them too often. With its exceptional talent pool, efficient structures, and solid financial situation, ULB can only continue to develop harmoniously at the service of science and society. I hope that my successor, Professor Yvon Englert, will feel the same pride in heading this university as I have felt, and I wish him every success in all his endeavours.

Didier Viviers



Yvon Englert was elected as ULB's 66th rector on May 11, 2016.

A major language
hub

Continuing
education

A year of TEACHING at the ULB

FabLab

New Masters

The Student Tribunal for International Dispute Settlement
(STIDS) takes up the case of Greece's debt

Socrates award for teaching

Project-based teaching

Assayas revisits his film career

...

« Game of
Drones »

Tram 33

MOOCs

Course evaluations

A year of **T**EACHING at the ULB



A language hub at ULB!

With the integration of a translation and interpretation department in 2015, ULB has become the largest hub in Brussels for language education and research. This new department extends ULB's reach in the field of languages and letters, and brings the number of languages taught at the University to 16: English, Chinese, German, French, Dutch, Italian, Spanish, Russian, Arabic, Turkish, Portuguese, Romanian, Greek, Polish, Czech and Slovenian.



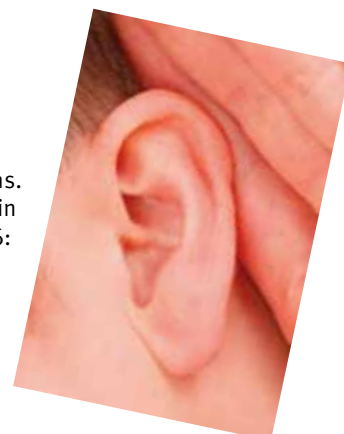
MOOCs

ULB is continuing its venture into the world of MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) this year, with the addition of two new online courses open to all. One is dedicated to critical thought (taught by Guy Haarscher, with assistance from Salomé Fremineur), and the other to survey and inquiry methods (taught by Catherine Vermandele).



New Masters

As it does each year, ULB has adapted its course content to society's evolutions. The Faculty of Psychology and Education offers an entirely redesigned Master in Speech and Language Therapy, while two new Masters will be offered in 2016: a joint Master in Cybersecurity and an inter-university Master in Agroecology.



Christophe Leys, Socrates award

This year's awards were given to the Brussels School of Engineering's multidisciplinary project (see below) and to Christophe Leys (Faculty of Psychology and Education). Students agree that the quality of Professor Leys' teaching is impeccable, outstanding, and stimulating. *'His lectures are clear, accurate, and rich, and they always include a hint of his personal style of humour. With Professor Leys, statistics are not just an abstract subject,'* explain his students. They also highlight the quality of his course notes, which are extremely clear and comprehensive, as well as his availability and attentiveness.

'Game of Drones'

Project-based learning has been implemented starting in 2004, and covers the entire curriculum of the Brussels School of Engineering (BSE). For the Socrates award for teaching initiatives, students this year have chosen the BSE's multidisciplinary Bachelor/Master project. According to them, this project *'promotes the development of soft skills that are useful in the corporate world'* which they will enter after graduation. With this year's project, 1st-year Bachelor students – coached by 4th-year students – worked on designing and building drones that can make a vertical ascent, hover for 15 seconds, and land, using only electric propulsion.



ULB courses (well) reviewed by students

For over 50 years, the Université Libre de Bruxelles has been asking students to give feedback on their courses. However, starting in 2014-2015, the twice-yearly review has been carried out as an online survey for all courses taught at ULB. The results so far are extremely promising, as 84% of courses have received generally positive reviews from students in terms of organisation, provision, and evaluation. The survey also dispels a common misconception related to the size of ULB lecture halls, as half the courses are given to groups of 28 students or fewer!



A ULB FabLab

FabLabs (short for Fabrication Laboratories) are organised into a global network of local 'open source' workshops, which are part of a new industrial revolution. ULB's FabLab follows this approach, and was inaugurated in February, 2016, in the Faculty of Architecture (Flagey campus). The purpose of a FabLab is to give as many people as possible access to the digital production equipment necessary to create a project: 3D printers, laser cutters, CNC machines, etc.

For more information: www.fablab-ulb.be



Assayas revisits his film career

French director Olivier Assayas was the guest speaker at the Emile Bernheim foundation's fourth Master Class. He discussed his career and work as a critic, screenwriter, and director, with a group of students enrolled in the Master in Performing Arts with a focus on film writing and analysis.



The Student Tribunal for International Dispute Settlement (STIDS) takes up the case of Greece's debt

The Student Tribunal for International Dispute Settlement (STIDS), a teaching initiative launched by ULB's Centre of International Law, examined the legality of Greece's debt in March, 2016.



'Tram 33', a transmedia project

Students from ULB (in journalism, romance languages, performing arts, information and communication sciences and technologies) and from the Académie Royale des Beaux-Arts, coached by some twenty teachers and assistants, collaborated with daily newspaper *Le Soir* on a transmedia production. The project was entitled 'Tram 33', and explored the topic of mobility in Brussels through a long documentary series consisting in an online reports and a week of daily full-page articles in *Le Soir*, along with broadcasts on BXI and Radio Campus. <http://tram33.lesoir.be>



Continuing education

A new inter-university certificate in physical activity and health prevention was created this year, with a view to training professionals who can work on the ground by offering appropriate physical activities in order to prevent harmful effects of a sedentary lifestyle, aging, and chronic conditions. Another initiative worth highlighting is the new partnership between ULB Continuing Education Health and Bruxelles Formation. Stemming from a need expressed by actual users, this pilot project will provide training to administrators in order to let nurses focus on their core technical tasks.



Campus life: l'ULB engagée

ULB, a socially engaged university



ULB extends its solidarity to refugees

In the hectic early days of the wave of refugees in September, 2015, ULB rallied to collect goods before dispatching them to various refugee reception centres. At the same time, many volunteers in the university community rose to the occasion, such as the health care teams at ULB's Hôpital Erasme, who worked alongside Médecins du Monde, and ULB students, who provided support to the refugee aid platform by organising receptions at volunteer's homes and by receiving over 300 refugees in October at the Centre d'action laïque with assistance from ULB.

ULB invites ten refugee students to the Odysseus Summer School on EU Immigration and Asylum Law and Policy

The European Commission highlights and supports ULB's '**Scholarships for refugees**' initiative, whereby it will invite ten refugee students to the **Odysseus Summer School** on EU Immigration and Asylum Law and Policy. A crowdfunding and fundraising campaign has raised funds for internships, free meals will be offered in dining halls, the Josefa foundation has accepted to host four refugee students, and ULB students and staff have also been asked if they could provide accommodation. The **King Baudouin Foundation** has provided generous support to this project. *From July 4 to 15, 2016, the Odysseus network will hold a Summer School on EU Immigration and Asylum Law and Policy. This summer school includes a doctoral seminar where participants will have the opportunity to present their PhD project. Students are invited from Syria, Afghanistan, Egypt, Rwanda, Haiti, and Ethiopia.*

Fighting refugee stigma

The arrival of large numbers of asylum seekers in Belgium over the past few months has been met with a variety of responses, from curiosity and hospitality to rejection and fear. Fear for one's identity, for one's safety, or for one's wealth. These concerns are quite often based on an incomplete view of reality, which creates prejudice.

This is why ULB has partnered with CIRÉ (an association offering coordination and initiatives for refugees and foreigners) to launch a campaign aiming at breaking down stereotypes on refugees and foreigners.

Learn about the tools used for this campaign on www.cire.be

A migrant crisis? Field investigations

As a part of their course on field investigation techniques, professors Oriane Calligaro and Julien Danero Iglesias from ULB's department of political science have sent this year's students on the ground in order to **investigate the 'migrant crisis'**.

Students were tasked with deciphering, analysing and gaining insight into the issues involved in this crisis. Their mission was to go out 'on the ground' and talk with people who are in direct contact with the migrant phenomenon: staff and leaders of institutions and associations that work with migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers; host families and reception centres; squats that accommodate migrants; schools that receive newly-arrived refugee pupils, etc. With each interaction, students were able to exchange, listen, and share, in order to analyse and perhaps understand this crisis and its challenges.

The fruit of their colossal labour can be seen on <http://migscpo.ulb.be>; this website presents the results of their field surveys, demonstrating how their research can impact the public debate.

ON NE PEUT PAS ACCUEILLIR
TOUS LES PRÉJUGÉS
C'EST DES PRÉJUGÉS QU'IL FAUT AVOIR PEUR,
PAS DES RÉFUGIÉS NI DES ÉTRANGERS.

Chairs for refugee researchers

These initiatives are in line with the university's defence of humanist values and its long tradition of social commitments and actions. In order to be active in its areas of competence – research and education –, and in hopes that these refugees will one day return to their home country with new intellectual baggage, ULB wishes to enhance its support and will open 10 chairs for refugee researchers. These renewable one-year chairs will be named after Khaled al-Asaad, an 81-year-old archaeologist who was beheaded by Daesh.

Out of the 35 people who contacted us, 17 were eligible for this initiative. Among those, 11 had a background in humanities and social sciences, 4 in science and technology, and 2 in life sciences. Three of the applicants were women, and 15 were from Syria.

Here are the 10 research topics :

- Intussusception in children: best treatment.
- The Syrian Novel During the Revolution (2011-2015).
- The Syrian Feminist Movement During the Syrian Revolution.
- Structural and functional study of the enzyme Trm10 in hyperthermophilic organism *Thermococcus kodakaraensis*, involved in modifying transfer RNA.
- Recycling the starchy by-products of potato processing for use in the fermentation industry or as animal feed.
- Electrochemical formation and photo-electrochemical characterization of inorganic thin films for photovoltaic applications.
- Computational aeroacoustics.
- Show Me Your Teeth: Dental Anthropology as Evidence for Biological Affinities and Cultural Practices in Urkesh (Syria) During the Middle Bronze Age.
- Analytical study of the Belgian and French Councils of State, with a view to developing a Syrian Council of State.
- The Destruction of Cultural Heritage in Syria (2011- 2015): Revolution, Repression and Destructive Ideologies.



Stéphane Hessel scholarship for social and civic projects

The Stéphane Hessel scholarship for social and civic projects was created at the initiative of ULB's vice-rectorate for student affairs; it encourages students to unite around the creation of social projects, which receive a subsidy up to 5,000 euros. Projects for the 2015-2016 academic year may be submitted by any full-time ULB student, and must meet the following criteria, among others: have a social and/or civic purpose; promote free thought and self-examination; be innovative and original; involve students from different faculties; not be for-profit; be durable (projects must last at least two academic years); etc. Here are the projects selected in 2014-2015: AEAD (development aid in a village in Senegal), Quid Asbl (free legal advice for students), and the ULB jazz and musical improvisation club.



For more information: www.ulb.ac.be/dscu/affairesetudiantes/bourse.html

Emergency Greece

With Europe being the object of increasing concern, it should be reminded that in Greece, 2.5 million citizens no longer have access to healthcare and child mortality has doubled in three years, creating a catastrophic situation in our modern Europe, one pillar of which is social security and universal healthcare.

This is why Médecins du Monde and a number of hospitals linked to ULB* have launched the Emergency Greece campaign, led by ULB's Faculty of Medicine, for the right to healthcare in Greece. With support from ULB and the mayor of Brussels, Yvan Mayeur, several hospitals have decided to inform the public on the health situation in Greece, raise awareness within the Belgian population about the collapse of Greece's healthcare system, raise funds for actions on the ground, and create a solidarity network with Greek physicians.

This campaign includes three concrete projects: in Piraeus, in Euboea, and in Thessaloniki. Learn about them and support the project by visiting www.emergencygreece.eu, where you can also sign an online petition.

* *Saint-Pierre university hospital, Hôpital Erasme, Jules Bordet institute, Brugmann university hospital, HUDERF, Hôpitaux Iris-Sud, CHIREC, Ambroise Paré university hospital, Haute Senne regional hospital centre, and Tivoli university hospital.*

Exhibition: The exhibition concluded with over 22,000 euros worth of artwork sold, over 1,000 visitors, and a total of nearly 110,000 euros raised!

Until June 25, ULB held an exhibition and sale during which around a hundred artists put their work up for sale, with proceeds going to charity project Emergency Greece.



ULB supports Turkish teachers and researchers

ULB extends its support to Turkish teachers and researchers who have signed the January 10 petition. Freedom of research and expression are an essential part of academic activities. Any university worthy of the name must respect these principles! Over 1,100 lecturer-researchers from 89 Turkish universities have signed a petition, published on January 10, 2016, asking the Turkish government to put an end to the massacres in the Kurdish regions of south-eastern Turkey. The petitioners invoked the international treaties to which Turkey is a party, calling among other things for negotiations, an end to violence, respect for fundamental rights, and the launch of an independent investigation.

Although these demands were entirely peaceful, the Turkish council for higher education has announced retaliation measures, sending a memo to universities ordering them to open inquiries into the petitioners. Nine universities have complied, resulting in the expulsion of 29 lecturer-researchers so far.

Our colleagues who have signed the petition now live in fear of being arrested, and this climate of fear is reinforced by media campaigns and speeches by ultra-nationalists as well as by President Erdogan himself.

On April 22, 2016, a ULB representative was present at the trial of four Turkish researchers accused of engaging in terrorist propaganda for having signed a petition calling for peace and later confirming their support for the petition: Muzaffer Kaya, assistant professor at Nisantasi University, Esra Mungan Gürsoy, assistant professor at Bogaziçi University, Meral Camcı, assistant professor at Yeni Yüzyıl University, and Kivanç Ersoy, associate professor at Mimar Sinan University. Three of them had been in jail since March 15, and Meral Camcı since March 30.

During the hearing, the four accused were able to give a substantiated and structured response to their charges... which were suddenly changed: the prosecutor announced that the trial would continue for violations of article 301, which punishes those who insult the Turkish nation. After the hearing, a wave of relief swept the audience that had gathered in a show of solidarity: it was announced that the four accused would be freed that very night.

The trial would however continue, with a different charge. Meanwhile, the dozens of researchers who have signed the petition and have either been dismissed by their universities or targeted by administrative procedures are still in the same situation. None of the researchers who have refused to withdraw their signature have been accepted back into their universities.

The state of religions and secularism in Belgium

ULB's observatory on religions and secularism (ORELA) has published its fourth report on the state of religions and secularism in Belgium in the year 2015. It offers commentary and analyses on the past year's events in religion and secularism.

The report deals with the relationship between religion and society as well as the relationship between the State and organised religions, in a context where religion is making headlines, where Islam is constantly mentioned in the media and in public debates, where citizens are afraid of Islam, and where anti-Semitism is on the rise, with public debates on ethical issues, between the secularisation of society and the return of religion in the public sphere.



Protecting the right to abortion

'YES to providing support to women after a miscarriage. NO to foetal personhood.' This is what platform Abortion Right! is demanding through a petition. Abortion Right! is calling attention to a bill, currently being prepared by the Chamber of Representatives' justice committee, which would allow foetuses to be registered with the authorities as stillborn children. *Abortion Right!, the platform defending the right to abortion for all women in the world, was created at the initiative of the 'Centre d'action laïque' (CAL) with its long-standing partners, the 'Fédération laïque de centres de planning familial' and the 'Centres de planning familial' at the federal level. ULB has been a member since 2012.*

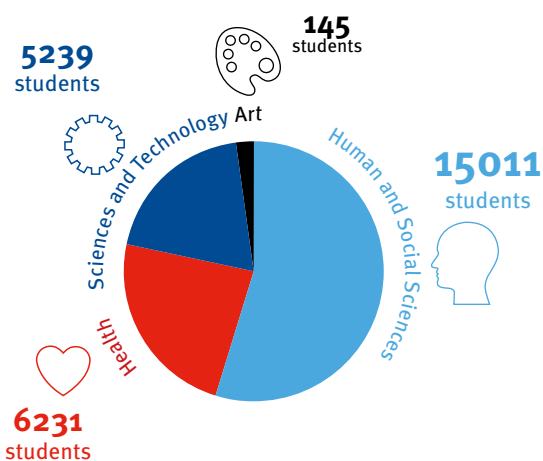
Information: www.abortionright.eu



Teaching

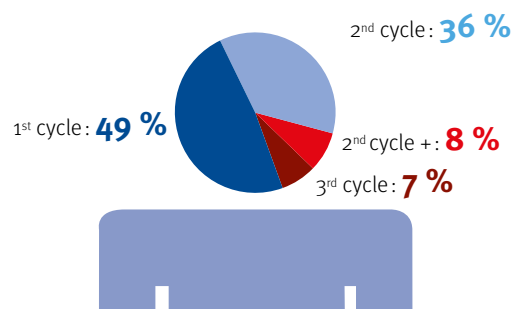
A year of key statistics

26626 students, number per study domain in 2015-2016



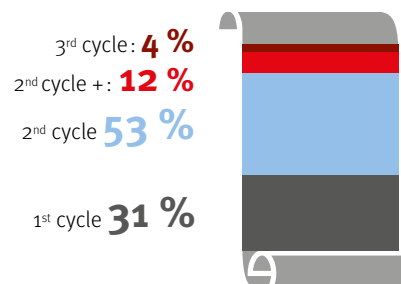
SOURCES: BEP-STEP-MAY 2016

Percentage of students per study cycle in 2015-2016



SOURCES: BEP-STEP-MAY 2016

Distribution of graduates by study cycle in 2014-2015

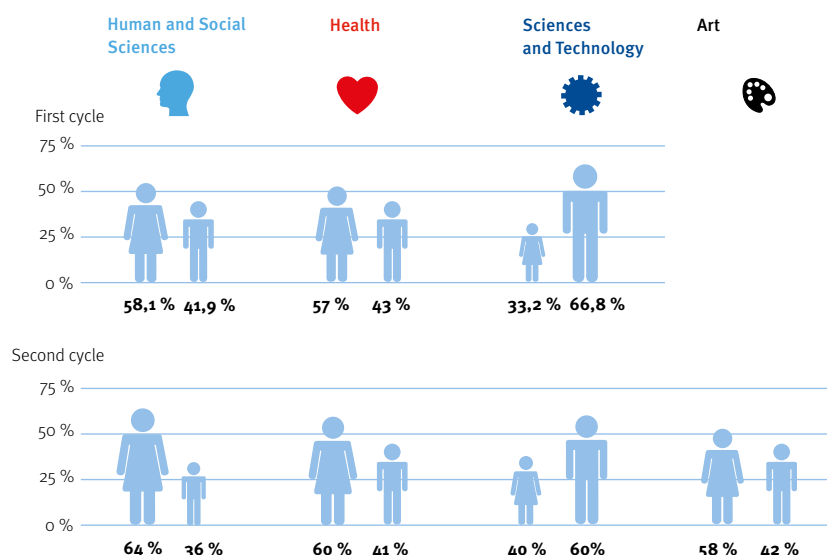


SOURCES: BEP-STEP-MAY 2016

- **1st cycle**: Bachelor's (BA)
- **2nd cycle**: Master's (MA)
- **2nd cycle +**: Advanced master's (MC), Upper Education teacher training certificate (AEES) and Higher education Teaching certificate (CAPAES)
- **3rd cycle**: Doctoral training (FD) and Doctorate (DOC)

Distribution by gender: by study domain and by study cycle

in 2015-2016



Total for all study cycles combined: **54,6 %** female students and **45,4 %** male students

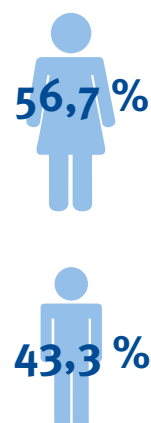
As we can see, there is a majority of female students in social sciences and health, especially in veterinary sciences (**78%**), psychology and education (**77%**), language, letters and translation (**74%**), and criminology (**71%**).

However, women are outnumbered by men in scientific and technical programmes, especially in engineering (**22%**), philosophy (**33%**), science (**35%**), and economics and management (**38%**).

SOURCES: BEP-STEP-MAY 2016

Distribution of graduates by gender

in 2014-2015



SOURCES: BEP-STEP-JUNE 2016

Continuing education programmes and social role



ULB programmes are not exclusively dedicated to initial training, as the University puts its best workers and teachers in charge of responding to the needs of society as a whole. We offer a wide range of continuing education programmes for adults who wish to complete or refresh their skills, or to learn new ones.

Most learners are seeking new

qualifications in order to face new professional challenges, e.g. advancing their careers or simply finding a job.

Key figures about ULB's current continuing education programmes:

- **5000 adults** from a variety of professional and cultural backgrounds (*researchers, professionals from the industrial sector, managers, teachers from secondary and post-secondary institutions, school headmasters, job seekers, etc.*) who attend classes each year
- a course catalogue featuring over **100** academic certificates and over **150** short specialised courses
- over **30** collaborators, distributed among **6** structures (*faculties/hubs/campuses*) and covering all the areas of study that a comprehensive university offers
- funding programmes at the EU (ERDF and ESF) and regional (BXL Formation, Forem, Marshall plan) levels,

ULB CONTINUING EDUCATION

supporting our innovative ecosystems through specific training programmes tailored for certain target audiences (for instance, **13.5 million euros** were granted since 2009 in the field of health and biotechnologies alone)

- a high placement rate (**80-100%**) for job seekers
- a self-funding activity, with a turnover in excess of **8.1 million euros**
- a spirit of collaboration within a tight and diverse network of institutional partners who share our values and are engaged in the lifelong training of citizens.

Players involved in continuing education at ULB:

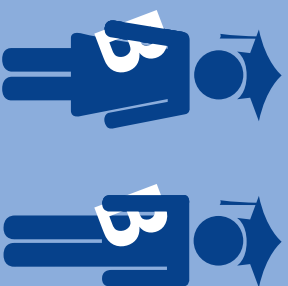
- All health, psychology and teaching, and social sciences programmes: <http://formcont.ulb.ac.be>
- School of public health: www.ulb.ac.be/facs/esp/frmcontinue.html
- Executive Education (Exed) Solvay: www.solvay.edu/exed
- Biopark training programmes: www.ulb.ac.be/biopark/formations

And last, but not least...

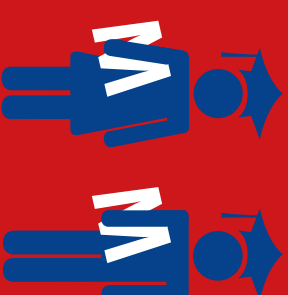
- ULB's programmes for all ages (CEPULB): www.ulb.ac.be/cepulb/
- ULB's 'Extension' association: www.ulb.ac.be/extension/

Key figures about ULB in 2015-2016

ULB



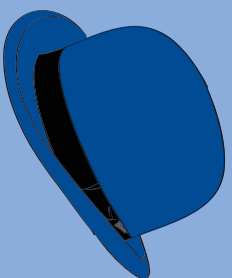
40 BACHELOR'S



151 MASTER'S
+ 3 ERAMUS MUNDUS
PROGRAMMES

1,9 M€

MILLION EUROS IN GRANTS
FOR TEACHING PROGRAMMES
AND INNOVATION



19

MASTER'S IN ENGLISH



161000

GRADUATES SINCE ULB'S
CREATION



4

NOBEL PRIZES IN SCIENCE OUT OF
THE 6 AWARDED TO BELGIANS
IN TOTAL



25 Francqui prizes

i.e. 1/3 of all Francqui prizes awarded in
Belgium (the highest honour awarded in
Belgium for science)



34

ACTIVE SPIN-OFFS



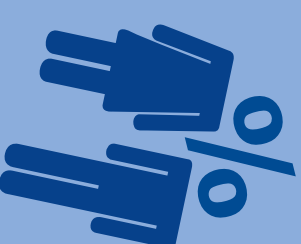
November 20,
1834

DATE OF FOUNDATION



35 %

OF INTERNATIONAL ACADEMICS
AND SCIENTISTS



54,6 % 45,4 %

WOMEN

MEN

www.ULB.be/solidaire



OUR
UNIVERSITY
STANDS WITH
THE REFUGEES





Calling for donations
to support the **10 chairs for
refugee researchers**

.... Account : **BE79 2100 4294 0033**

Please send donations with the following
memo:

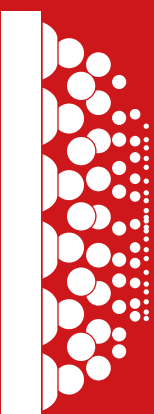
'5Doo.Y.000011 – Don Solidarité universitaire
réfugiés'





49 %

OF INTERNATIONAL PHD STUDENTS



26626

STUDENTS



TEACHING

1 TEACHER

FOR 10 STUDENTS



+/- 70,000 E-BOOKS

+/- 30,000 E-JOURNALS

+/- 30,000 WORKS PRODUCED
BY THE UNIVERSITY



78000

LEARNERS ENROLLED IN ULB'S
MOOCS



33 %

OF INTERNATIONAL
STUDENTS

DOC

1963

PHD STUDENTS



8221

ULB AND HÔPITAL
ERASME STAFF MEMBERS



344

PARTNERS THROUGHOUT
THE WORLD



7600

DIGITISED PHD THESES
COVERING 175 YEARS OF
DOCTORAL RESEARCH



89

NATIONALITIES REPRESENTED
AMONG STAFF MEMBERS



132

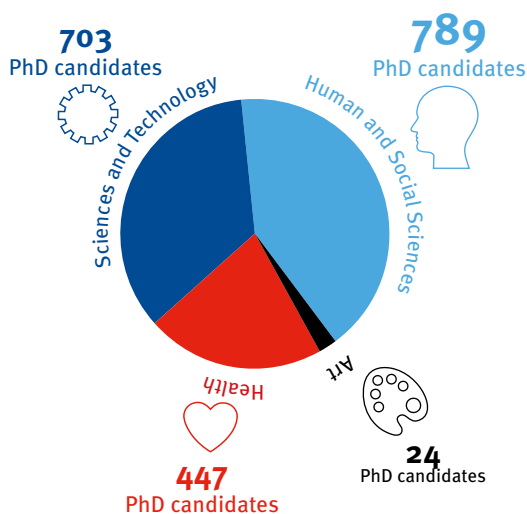
NATIONALITIES REPRESENTED
AMONG STUDENTS

Funding of research contracts in 2015 by funding body (in euros)

Category	Number of contracts	Total amount
International public funding	45	5.341.662
European public funding	76	15.657.897
Belgian Federal public funding	86	7.609.777
Wallonia-Brussels Federation	95	6.453.661
National Fund Scientific Research (F.R.S.-FNRS)	739	15.521.935
Wallonia Region	67	11.560.358
Brussels-Capital Region	91	8.545.858
Belgian public funding	58	512.208
Private	156	11.364.825
Overall TOTAL	1453	82.568.180

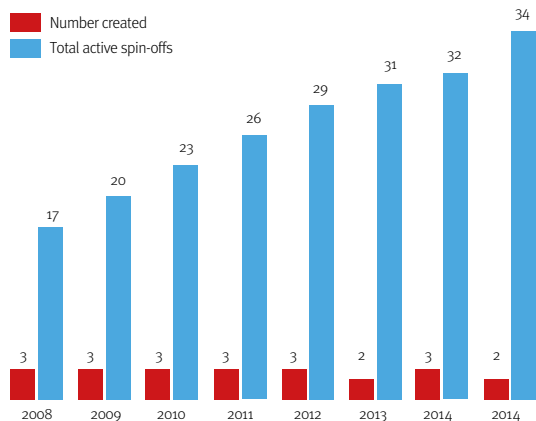
SOURCES: RESEARCH COUNCIL REPORT 2014

1963 PhD candidates: distribution by study domain in 2015/2016



SOURCES: BEP-STEP-JUNE 2015

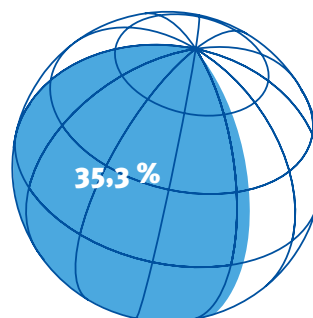
Spin-offs



Since 1992, the ULB has launched **45 spin-offs**, of which 34 were still active at the end of 2015.

SOURCES: RESEARCH COUNCIL REPORT 2015

35,3 % of academic and scientific staff are international (full-time equivalents*) in 2015/2016



SOURCES: STATISTICS AND PROSPECTIVE STUDIES DEPARTMENT (STEP) - AMC - JUNE 2015

ULB staff 2015-16: distribution by department, in full-time equivalents* and number of persons (pers.)

Department	ETP	pers
Academic staff	730,6	1220
Scientific staff	1576	2308
PATGS**	1304,2	1352
Total	3610,9	4880

EXCEPT ERASME HOSPITAL

SOURCES: BEP-STEP-JUNE 2016

SOURCE: DB PERSO ULB (SITUATION AS OF 1ST FEBRUARY 2016).

* ETP = Full-time equivalent

** PATGS = Administrative, technical, management and specialised staff

ULB staff 2014-15: National Fund for Scientific Research (FNRS*) mandates

Department and function	pers
Research Associate	45
Research Director	39
Senior Research Associate	31
Academic staff	115
Research Fellow	180
Fellowship holder (FRIA, FRESH)	159
Postdoctoral researcher	89
MD. Postdoctoral fellow	2,5
Scientific Research Worker	9
Grant	4
Scientific staff	443,5
Total	558,5

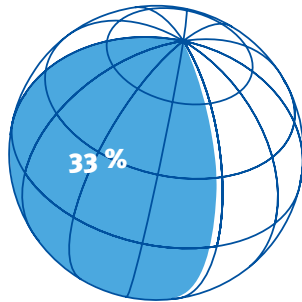
*EXCEPT ADMINISTRATIVE, TECHNICAL, MANAGEMENT AND SPECIALISED STAFF MANDATES (PATGS)

SOURCES: BEP-STEP-JUNE 2016

SOURCE: DB PERSO ULB (SITUATION AS OF 1ST FEBRUARY 2016).

International

33 % international students
in 2015-2016

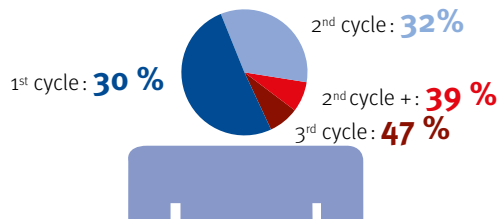


SOURCES: BEP-STEP-JUNE 2015

International students represent...

over a quarter of students registered in the Human and Social Sciences sector,
over a third of students registered in the Sciences and Technology sector,
and almost half of students registered in the Health sector.

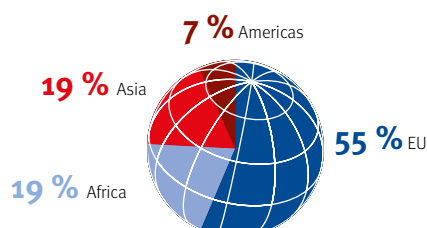
Distribution of international students by study cycle
in 2015-2016



- 1st cycle: Bachelor's (BA) and preparatory year for master's (EPMA)
- 2nd cycle: Master's (MA)
- 2nd cycle +: Advanced master's (MC), Upper Education teacher training certificate (AESS) and Higher education Teaching certificate (CAPAES)
- 3rd cycle: Doctoral training (FD) and Doctorate (DOC)

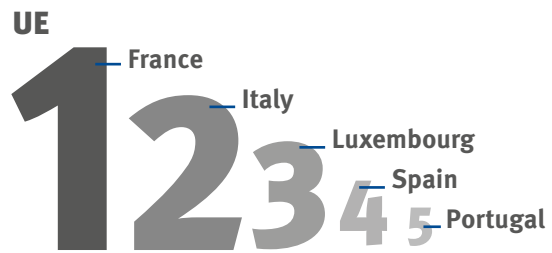
SOURCES: BEP-STEP-JUNE 2015

961 International PhD candidates come from:

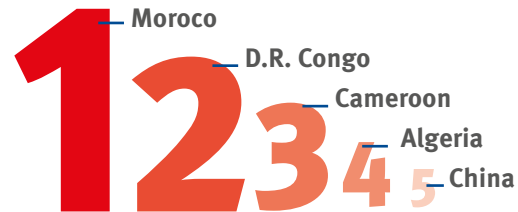


SOURCES: BEP-STEP-JUNE 2015

Top 5 of the 132 nationalities
of international students in 2015-2016

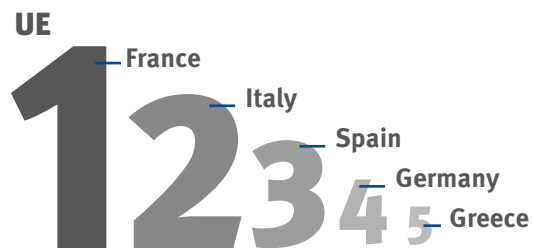


non-EU countries

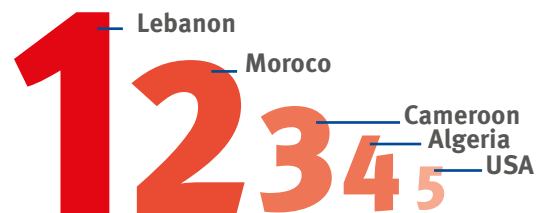


SOURCES: BEP-STEP-MAY 2016

Top 5 of the 89 nationalities represented
among the academic and scientific staff
in 2015-2016

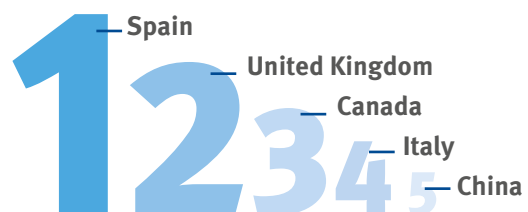


hors UE



SOURCES: BEP-STEP-MAY 2016

Top 5 destinations for ULB students
going abroad in 2015-2016



The ULB Cancer Research Center
is born

Follow the leader!
Robots in the Venetian Lagoon

A year
of **RESEARCH**
at the ULB

Archaeology in
South America

The chameleon, a fearsome
predator

Inauguration of the Maison des Sciences
Humaines

Neuroscience: the 'cocktail
party' effect

...

EU project
GEM-STONES

A hydrogen car at ULB

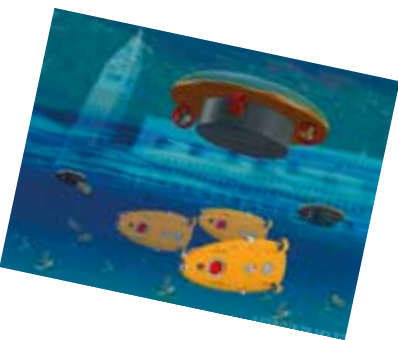
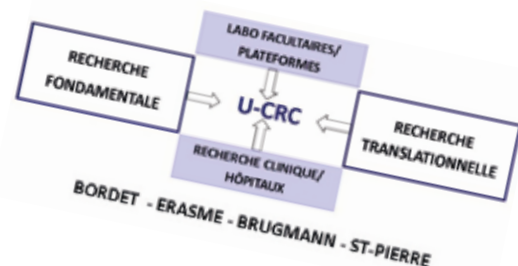
The first handbook for digital
journalists

A year of **R**ESearch at ULB

The ULB Cancer Research Center is born

The ULB Cancer Research Center, U-CRC, is born. This new research institute brings together teams from the Faculty of Medicine, Hôpital Erasme, and the Bordet Institute, all working for the same purpose: to better understand cancer, which is the main cause of death in our industrialised nations. The teams carry out patient-oriented fundamental and translational research, in close cooperation with clinical research. As a multidisciplinary and multi-faculty centre, U-CRC aims to increase collaboration between teams, share technological platforms, promote multidisciplinary research, etc. Its researchers have experience with publishing their work in the best scientific journals. Two articles published this year in *Nature* are worth mentioning: the first presents the work of a team led by U-CRC deputy director Cédric Blanpain, which identified cells that cause breast cancers; a few months later, the same laboratory published the first description of the changes in stem cell functions that lead to tumour initiation. This list of articles is far from comprehensive, but let us mention an article published in *Science* presenting the work of a team of U-CRC researchers, led by U-CRC director François Fuks, which has shed light on the key role of one of the letters in RNA, hmC or hydroxymethylation, yielding deeper insight into cancer in particular.

See the video: <https://youtu.be/zAwZEbwCny4>



Robots in the Venetian Lagoon

European researchers are developing autonomous underwater robot swarms that will monitor the evolution of the environment in the Venetian Lagoon. The department of social ecology, which is part of ULB's Faculty of Sciences, is the only Belgian partner of this 4-year European project with a 4 million euro budget. An interdisciplinary team of European scientists is working on creating the largest swarm-based underwater monitoring system (with 120 robots!); this smart network will be able to coordinate, communicate and autonomously gather data. At ULB, Alexandre Campo and Jean-Louis Deneubourg are in charge of designing self-organising behaviours (i.e. with no single leader) for groups of underwater robots.

Inauguration of the Maison des Sciences Humaines

An interdisciplinary institution, the Maison des Sciences Humaines gathers over a hundred researchers around a single object of study: people and society. This large research centre was created with three initial unifying projects: the observatory of Arab and Muslim worlds (OMAM), the interdisciplinary laboratory on urban studies (LIEU), and the interdisciplinary research centre on gender, equality and sexuality (STRIGES) – as well as a number of affiliated research teams. The goal of the Maison des Sciences Humaines is to improve how social sciences are used in managing social issues; this means it aims to deal with issues brought up by political, socio-economic, and other players. <http://msh.ulb.ac.be/> See a video presentation:

<https://youtu.be/KymyKloAgel?list=PLtWiu4yEvvjaRsuQIKtWJZa4gzBIBZZkr>

Follow the leader!

'I was only following orders!' is an argument that is often put forward to justify actions that are seen as reprehensible. With support from the European Research Council (ERC), researchers from the ULB Neuroscience Institute, UNI - Center for Research in Cognition and Neurosciences, a part of the Faculty of Psychology and Education, and from University College London have investigated the processes involved in coercion as well as how people feel when given orders. Published in *Current Biology*, the study carried out in particular by Emilie Caspar suggests that individuals who follow orders may feel less responsible for the consequences of their actions; they even appear to experience detachment from the consequences of their actions when they receive orders.



A hydrogen car at ULB

Although they are seen as the future of road transport in Europe, hydrogen vehicles are not yet widely available on the market. The EU's SWARM project was launched in order to test these new vehicles in real-life conditions, by driving hydrogen vehicles in three regions of Europe including Brussels and Wallonia. A partner of the project, the aero-thermo-mechanics

department of the Brussels School of Engineering is mainly tasked with testing the fuel cell's endurance. To this end, the department has received this year a hydrogen-powered car, which it will outfit with instruments and whose energy consumption they will monitor. These tests are conducted before the vehicles are driven in Brussels traffic. See the video: <https://youtu.be/zWTId2GcsB4>

EU project GEM-STONES

The EU's GEM-STONES project is coordinated by ULB's institute for European studies, and will recruit 15 doctoral candidates who will study how the European Union (EU) deals with the global increase in institutional complexity. Backed by the highly selective Marie Skłodowska Curie programme, GEM-STONES has a 3.89 million euro budget distributed to a network of 15 partners.



Archaeology in South America

Led by Peter Eeckhout – from CreA-Patrimoine, a research centre of the Faculty of Philosophy and Social Sciences –, the archaeological excavations in Pachacamac, on the Pacific coast of Peru, have uncovered mysterious parchments from the 16th century as well as the remains of a campsite, a horseshoe, and metal decorations that may be traces of the early conquest of Peru. In addition, CreA-Patrimoine is once again present in Bolivia as part of a cooperation project. Led by Christophe Delaere, an international team of archaeologist divers is collaborating on a programme involving study, protection, and promotion of Lake Titicaca's underwater heritage. These two missions illustrate the dynamism of ULB's research into ancient America; this field of research was very present during the October conference, organised in Brussels by Peter Eeckhout, which gathered a number of international experts in American studies.



The chameleon, a fearsome predator

Despite their harmless looks, chameleons are able to suddenly project their tongue forward with amazing accuracy, giving their prey little chance to get away: a chameleon's tongue can reach a speed of 1,500 m/s, extend to twice the chameleon's length, and capture insects weighing up to 30% of the chameleon's own weight. Fabian Brau – from the non-linear physical chemistry unit of the Faculty of Sciences – and colleagues from the University of Mons and the Paris museum of natural history have demonstrated that the mucus secreted at the end of a chameleon's tongue is 400 times more viscous than human saliva. The tongue's deformation as it is launched forward creates a large contact area with the prey, which combines with the high-viscosity fluid to make an especially efficient trap! The study was published in *Nature Physics*. See the video: <https://youtu.be/G9QZupjPUtg>



The first handbook for digital journalists

No fewer than 52 authors, 4 editors, 37 chapters, over 600 pages, and 3 years of hard work: this is what it took to create the Handbook of Digital Journalism, published by Éditions SAGE. This ambitious project was launched by four researchers, one of whom is David Domingo, from the ReSIC research centre on information and communication, part of the Faculty of Letters, Translation and Communication. The creation of this handbook involved researches from various backgrounds – young and veteran, European, American, and Australian – with a common interest in journalism and its evolution, united by a common goal: contribute to a critical and nuanced perspective that dissects journalism in its contemporary diversity. With co-author Victor Wiard, also from ReSIC, David Domingo wrote a chapter on the actor-network theory as applied to news reporting; he also coordinated part II of the handbook, dedicated to new practices in journalism and especially to the emergence, with the Internet, of a new generation of 'potential journalists' – citizens, semi-professional amateurs, activists, etc. –, with a number of consequences.



Neuroscience: the 'cocktail party' effect

When we are talking with someone at a party, we can isolate their voice from the surrounding noise, which enables us to hear and understand what they are saying. The mechanisms within the brain that let us do this are the main focus of a study published by the magnetoencephalography (MEG) unit of the functional brain cartography laboratory, which is part of the ULB Neuroscience Institute (UNI). The researchers, under the leadership of Marc Vander Ghinst and Xavier De Tiège, have demonstrated that the activity of the brain's auditory system give preferential treatment to the fluctuations of a specific voice. This phenomenon in the left hemisphere's auditory system gets stronger as the background noise level increases. The results of the study were published in the *Journal of Neuroscience* and will help better understand the central auditory processing disorders that affect 2 to 10% of children and young adults, resulting in impaired perception of language against a noisy background.



Our researchers stand out

The NFSR awards four of its five quinquennial awards to the ULB

For the first time in the history of the NFSR's prestigious quinquennial awards, ULB has won four of the five awards given. The four ULB winners are Marc Henneaux (theoretical and mathematical physics department, Faculty of Sciences), Axel Cleeremans (ULB Neuroscience Institute, UNI - Center for Research in Cognition and Neurosciences, Faculty of Psychology and Education), Cédric Blanpain (IRIBHM, ULB Cancer Research Center, Faculty of Medicine), and Christos Sotiriou (JC Heuson laboratory for translational research in breast oncology, U-CRC, Faculty of Medicine).

Two new ERC grants

Two ULB researchers, Marc Henneaux and Mauro Birattari, have won a highly competitive grant from the European Research Council this year. Marc Henneaux (theoretical and mathematical physics department, Faculty of Sciences) was awarded an ERC Advanced Grant to study extensions of Einstein's theory of relativity that contain new 'high spin' fields. These fields appear in string theory, and could be the key to uniting the two pillars of modern physics: quantum mechanics and relativity. Marc Henneaux had already been awarded a first ERC Advanced Grant in 2010. Mauro Birattari, a researcher at the Brussels School of Engineering's IRIDIA laboratory, was awarded an ERC Consolidator Grant for his research on swarm robotics, and more specifically to create a process to automatically develop smart robots. This is the laboratory's 2nd ERC grant; the first one had been awarded to Marco Dorigo.

ULB researchers communicate!

Far from staying in an ivory tower, many researchers communicate on their achievements – in the media, on social networks, etc. – and speak as experts during public debates and in the news. Among these scientific communication initiatives, this year we are focusing on a web documentary entitled 'Clichés ! Instantanés de la recherche à l'ULB'. It features brief video interviews of ULB researchers Julie Allard, Cédric Blanpain, Estelle Cantillon, Emilie Caspar, Barbara Clerbaux, Christophe Delaere, David Domingo, Marco Dorigo, Michael Ghyyoot, Mathieu Parenti, Célia Sapart, Pierre Smeesters, Alex Tremblay-Lamarche, and Sophie Van Eck, who break down some of the stereotypes that surround their work and discuss key issues such as women in research, international mobility, scientific creativity, etc.

<http://cliches.ulb.ac.be/>

Another initiative is entitled '12 mois, 12 experts', where 12 researchers – Florence Le Cam, Aude Merlin, Didier Viviers, Alain Bernard, Nathalie Brack, Judith le Maire, André Sapir, Philippe De Bruycker, Axel Cleeremans, Arnaud Marchant, Dirk Jacobs, and Frank Pattyn – comment and share their perspective on some of the year 2015's highlights, including the terrorist attacks, Brexit, COP21, etc.

<http://www.ulb.be/ulb12mois12experts/>

Another good example of scientific communication is the experience of Célia Sapart, a post-doctoral researcher at the glaciology laboratory (Faculty of Sciences) who crossed the Arctic Ocean aboard icebreaker ODEN. The purpose of her 45-day journey was to understand the origin of the higher levels of methane measured in shallow areas of the Arctic Ocean; it was made into a documentary by Swiss television station RTS, also broadcast on TV5 Monde/Europe. Célia Sapart explains: 'I had to give it careful thought, because making this documentary meant that I would be sharing some of my personality with the viewers, that I would have to simplify some of my research, that I would need to take the time to film and explain, and so on. In the end, I am glad I accepted: against a beautiful backdrop of ice landscapes and polar bears, the reporters have managed to make our research accessible and raise awareness of current climate-related issues. This is also part of our role as researchers.'

Over 175 years of doctoral research available in digital formats

ULB has set about digitising the digital heritage stored in its libraries and making it available to all online. The digitisation project covers all PhD theses that have successfully been defended at ULB since the university's foundation, as well as reprints of articles that researchers and teachers have selected to be kept in the libraries for browsing and archiving purposes, at a time when periodicals were not yet available in digital format. In early January, 2016, the files produced by the digitisation of 3,500 theses had been published online through DI-fusion, the open repository of ULB's scientific output. Most theses are freely available online. Eventually, all PhD theses that have ever been defended at ULB will be digitised and run through OCR, then made available on DI-fusion.

Technology transfers between University of California
Berkeley and ULB-TTO
Cooperation with the University of Antananarivo
G3 meeting in Geneva

2015-2016, the year of France at ULB
New collaborations opportunities with Brazil

ULB sets foot
in Tokyo

A joint degree
between
BSE and 'X'
The Confucius
Institute
The University of Lausanne, a key partner of ULB

A successful mission by the Rector in Asia

The Wiener-Anspach Foundation
celebrates its 50th anniversary
...

An
INTERNATIONAL
year at the ULB

An **INTERNATIONAL** year at the ULB



Technology transfers between University of California Berkeley and ULB-TTO

This new agreement with ULB's close partner aims to create an exchange and cooperation programme between ULB-TTO's technology transfer office and IPIRA (UC Berkeley's Office of Intellectual Property and Industry Research Alliances). This is a highly promising partnership with one of the world's best public universities, with an amazing track record in industrial funding and where over 150 start-up companies were created.

2015-2016, the year of France at ULB

After the year of Germany, ULB has worked in collaboration with the French embassy to plan a year's worth of activities dedicated to France. This eventful year will feature 34 talks hosted by academic staff with high-profile guests, a ULB debate, 4 climate talks, a closing talk on COP21, a meeting on research with UAE France (the French branch of ULB's alumni association), 12 film club screenings, 3 exhibitions, and 4 large meetings on education, research, and mobility.



G3 meeting in Geneva

Building on the success of the network's first three years, this meeting resulted in the drafting of guidelines for the next action plan on existing scientific collaborations, the development of institutional projects, the promotion of teaching initiatives, the mapping of scientific resources in areas related to migration, and the consolidation of the network's French-speaking status within a multi-lingual approach. A privileged partnership agreement was signed between ULB and UNIGE and between UNIGE and the Université de Montréal, confirming the network's transition towards a 'triangular' relationship.



ULB in Kinshasa

Representatives from ULB, ULB-Coopération, Erasme Coopération, and the Permanent Secretary of the Royal Academy of Belgium have travelled to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where they stressed the importance of development cooperation activities. The mission's purpose was to develop new relationships and consolidate existing relationships with the University of Kinshasa, Kongo University, the higher institute of architecture and urban planning, and the Kanaga higher institute of teaching, in the areas of medicine (supporting victims of sexual violence in Eastern Congo), architecture, and religious studies.

New collaborations opportunities with Brazil

ULB has carried out a mission in Brazil, during which Princess Alix de Ligne, who graduated from Solvay in 20XX, was named 'ULB's ambassador to Brazil'. She will take part in creating a joint chair between Belgium and Brazil, allowing for professor exchanges and the organisation of an annual scientific meeting. .



A successful mission by the Rector in Asia

ULB Rector Didier Viviers led an important official mission in China, Vietnam, Japan, and South Korea, during which he visited over twenty universities and academic institutions and signed fifteen agreements.

ULB sets foot in Tokyo

ULB now has an office in Waseda University in Tokyo, which was officially inaugurated by ULB's Rector. Waseda University is one of ULB's privileged partners, and has its own liaison office at ULB. The inaugural academic session was held in the presence of Princess Astrid. This European office will play an important part both in Waseda University's international development strategy and in ULB's internationalisation policy, especially in Asia.



A joint degree between BSE and 'X'

A joint degree agreement was recently signed between the Brussels School of Engineering (BSE) and École polytechnique de Paris-Saclay, known as 'X', one of France's most prestigious engineering schools. The purpose of the agreement is to support academic cooperation and promote student mobility: BSE students in engineering will be able to sit X's international entrance exam, study at X for two years, then complete their training at BSE. Thus, students will have both a Master's degree in civil engineering from BSE and an engineering degree from X.

Cooperation with the University of Antananarivo

Mondher El Jaziri, a full-time professor in the Faculty of Sciences and an advisor to the Rector for cooperation, coordinates and takes part in several projects of the University of Antananarivo (UA), in Madagascar. The projects' main focus is how plant biotechnologies contribute to the field of sustainable conservation and management of local genetic resources, chiefly medicinal plants. He also coordinates an institutional programme covering all universities in French-speaking Belgium, through which ARES-CCD provides support to UA. In recognition of the entirety of his 15-year commitment, UA has just awarded professor Mondher El Jaziri the title of Doctor honoris causa.



The Confucius Institute

This institute will reinforce ULB's position as a centre of expertise and reference on Chinese language and culture. In addition to increasing academic exchanges between China and Europe, the new institute attached to ULB will facilitate the translation and publication for European readers of major Chinese works. Another difference from its 'alter egos' across Europe is its close relationship with European studies, through collaborations with ULB's Institute for European Studies. The Confucius Institute will hold conferences, lectures, and seminars on China, but also exhibitions, film screenings, language, calligraphy, and cooking classes, etc., in order to share knowledge of Chinese culture with the university community and the public.



The University of Lausanne, a key partner of ULB

ULB has a long-standing relationship with UNIL (University of Lausanne), for teaching as well as research (dating back to 1991). Still today, UNIL is a significant partner in terms of student mobility, both in hard sciences and in social sciences. The two institutions also have many scientific collaborations. In addition, in the field of management, SBS-EM and HEC Lausanne are both members of the prestigious QTEM network. It therefore made sense for ULB and the University of Lausanne to sign a declaration of enhanced partnership.

The Wiener-Anspach Foundation celebrates its 50th anniversary

The purpose of the Wiener-Anspach Foundation is to promote relations between ULB and the universities of Cambridge and Oxford. Since 1965, it has been active in encouraging exchanges between the three universities by awarding scholarships, organising conferences, and supporting joint research projects. Over its 50-year history, the Foundation has launched the careers of over 500 alumni in academia as well as in the public and private sectors.



Moroco : 1st centre for medically assisted reproduction

The first centre for medically assisted reproduction (MAR) in Morocco was inaugurated as a part of a project involving a scientific collaboration between the Université libre de Bruxelles, the university of Rabat and the university of Liège (ULg), with support from ARES and the Belgian Development Agency.

Hospitals

The Brussels university hospital hub is taking shape

An important step was taken in June 2016 towards the official formation of the Brussels university hospital hub (Pôle Hospitalier Universitaire de Bruxelles or PHUB), as ULB's Board of Governors and the Brussels City Council have adopted the founding text for this association between ULB and the public hospitals of Brussels. Starting in 2014, and building on the framework convention signed in 2005 by ULB hospitals, the city of Brussels, and the city's Public Centre for Social Welfare, the University and the city's authorities have decided to collaborate on defining a common strategy for hospital care, education, and research. Their goal is to create one of Europe's largest university hospital complexes, by creating a coordinated institution bringing together the Brussels university hospital (Jules Bordet institute, Queen Fabiola Children's University Hospital, Brugmann university hospital, and Saint-Pierre university hospital) and the Cliniques Universitaires de Bruxelles - Hôpital Erasme as an academic pillar. This project has both scientific and clinical ambitions, which will be easier to achieve due to the increased scope and improved team coordination. The project's main goal is to put emphasis on quality of care and patient service. In each speciality (oncology, advanced cardiology, geriatrics, urology, paediatrics), the physicians themselves have worked or are working on guaranteeing the best possible care trajectory for patients. The university hospital hub includes 8,500 FTE staff members, 2,700 beds, 1.2 million consultations, 80,000 admissions, and 8,500 births. Its creation has already produced concrete results, including the beginning of the construction of New Bordet – which will be at the centre of Brussels' future university hub for cancer studies – as well as the creation of the ULB Cancer Research Center (see below).



Towards a hub for cancer studies

In October 2015, another step was taken towards the future hub for cancer studies by creating one of its 'star' institutions, the ULB Cancer Research Center (U-CRC), which includes all researchers active in the field of cancer studies from the ULB Faculty of Medicine, Hôpital Erasme, and the Bordet institute.

The Children's Hospital celebrates its 30th anniversary!

For its 30th anniversary, the Queen Fabiola Children's University Hospital (QFCUH) is offering activities throughout the year, both scientific and for leisure, putting the spotlight on physicians, caregivers, patients, and their families. This will give the hospital an opportunity to showcase its advanced technologies as well as the innovative therapies that it is developing in an effort to constantly improve the quality of care provided to children. The events include an innovation day and a children's day.

For more information on QFCUH's 30-year anniversary: www.huderf30.be/en/



Inaugurating the new Lothier polyclinic

In September 2015, the Lothier polyclinic transferred its activities to a new building 300 yards from its former site on Brussels' inner ring, on Boulevard Baudouin.

This polyclinic offers a wide range of medical services and high-quality care at the heart of Brussels. It works in close collaboration with the services of Hôpital Erasme, of which it and the Nivelles polyclinic are both branches, which enables it to ensure patients enjoy the highest level of care, with specialised technical examinations and, if appropriate, a hospitalisation.



The art of healing in the Renaissance

Until November 30, the museum of medicine is hosting an exhibition on the art of healing in the Renaissance. With over 80 items and works of art, it presents the ideological and methodological changes that announce early medicine in the 16th century, when some physicians decided to review traditional knowledge by observing nature.

www.museemedecine.be



ERASME

A new director general

As a part of the implementation of Hôpital Erasme's governance reform, a new position was created for a director general, in order to replace the board of directors.

Pulmonologist Johan Kips, 57, a graduate from the University of Ghent, has been serving as director general since March, 2016.

He was director general of UZ Leuven from 2007 to 2013 and director of medicine at AZ Sint Jan Brugge-Oostende AV, and worked more recently as the coordinator of healthcare network Zorgnet-ICURO.

Inaugurating the new magnetoencephalography (MEG) equipment

Hôpital Erasme has inaugurated its new magnetoencephalography (MEG) machine, a piece of high-technology neuroimaging equipment that can be used for the non-invasive study of the human brain's activity. This is a valuable tool for researchers, especially from UNI (ULB Neurosciences Institute), which will also enable Hôpital Erasme to consolidate its position as a major player in the field of clinical neuroscience in Belgium, develop new research activities, and provide optimal clinical care to patients.



Outpatient medical imaging

Hôpital Erasme's radiology department has expanded the scope of its care, with the Centre Imédia Erasme. This brand new infrastructure located on the Erasmus campus is entirely dedicated to outpatients, and offers a full range of radiology examination resources (MRI, CT scanner, radiography, ultrasound, and mammography). Patients will especially appreciate the additional flexibility (including in terms of opening hours, with evenings and soon Saturdays) and the amenities, with a car park right in front of the building. All this, of course, while maintaining the exceptional standard of quality that has earned the hospital its reputation. Especial attention was given to the choice of next-generation equipment that exposes patients to smaller amounts of radiation while producing high-quality images.

For more information: www.imedia-erasme.be

Tel: +32 2 318 18 31 (7.30 am to 7.30 pm)



Campus life: debates, culture and environment



A fair for first jobs

On October 6, 2015, ULB's Infor-emploi service held its 4th fair for first jobs, the only Brussels job fair for students and young graduates of higher education programmes. Companies, major institutions, and organisations promoting professional integration will be present, and the event will also feature large conferences on selected topics, workshops on good practices (resume, cover letter, job coaching, etc.), and opportunities for many recent graduates to go on mini job interviews with certain employers. Attendance for the event's 4th edition was quite impressive!

The Student Green Office

A newly-created structure, the Student Green Office (SGO) is headed by students and supported by ULB authorities through the University's Environment and Mobility Service. The SGO takes care to promote good environmental practices, to raise awareness of the university community, to encourage its involvement in environmental issues, etc. Staff members are ULB students.



'You slut!' – an exhibition on a sexist slur

ULB has hosted an unusual exhibition in Brussels from November 13 to December 19, 2015, entitled 'Salope !' (a French slur meaning 'slut'): a smart and striking title for an exhibition with multiple meanings. Why dedicate an entire exhibition to a word? Because this word is a symbol, loaded with contradictory meanings, which can refer to people from a number of perspectives: beauty, desire, sex, intelligence, stupidity, naivety, and so on. It carries a history of social and cultural practices, and of images, representations, and fantasies, centred on sexist verbal abuse.

Religion in the city

On January 29 and 30, 2016, the first edition of 'La Religion dans la cité' ('Religion in the city') was held in Brussels, offering two days of debates, lectures, screenings, stand-up comedy, readings, art installations, and concerts. These two days featured well-known thinkers and intellectuals, as well as artists, offering highly-accessible content in order for citizens to take ownership of these questions, reflect upon them, and give them meaning.



2016 book fair

In February, 2016, ULB collaborated with the Éditions de l'Université de Bruxelles and the Presses universitaires de Bruxelles to take part in the Brussels book fair. The goal of this initiative is to raise awareness of our excellence in research, by setting up a single booth presenting a wide selection of books published by our professors, assistants, researchers and PhD students. This year's topic was happiness.



Organic farmers' market: now on the Erasmus campus

After the Solbosch campus, the Erasmus campus has its own farmers' market! Stalls were set up at the Erasmus campus on every Tuesday, from March to July, 2016. This gave ULB students and staff the opportunity to fill up on organic, local and seasonal produce.

Coding and decoding

Held in April, 2016, the event entitled 'Coder/Décoder les frontières' ('Coding/Decoding borders') was at the intersection of art, research, and practice. Centred on an international conference and an exhibition (presented at the ULB-Flagey campus), it provided an opportunity for many artists and experts to debate the increasing use of technologies to monitor people, goods, and capitals that move across borders. The event was organised by the Faculty of Philosophy and Social Sciences, the Antiatlas of borders, and the World Customs Organisation.

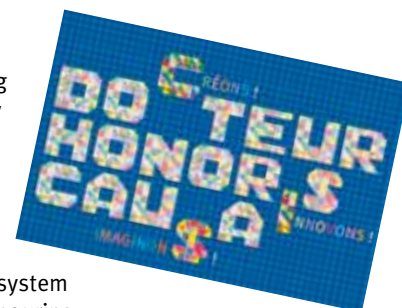


The courage to try peace

Though their exhibition entitled 'Et si on osait la paix ? Le pacifisme en Belgique d'hier à aujourd'hui' ('What if we dared to try peace? Pacifism in Belgium, from the past to the present'), the Institut d'histoire ouvrière, économique et sociale (IHOES) and the Mundaneum have shed light on the history, which too few know, of peace movements in Belgium from the 19th century to the present. Installed in April, 2016, in the Allende room (Solbosch campus), the exhibition was structured around three main topics: 'Building peace', 'Non-violent action', and 'Denouncing war'.

2016 DHCs

On May 19, 2016, ULB and its faculties awarded the title of Doctor Honoris Causa to six outstanding figures during a ceremony dedicated to creation, innovation and imagination. The DHCs selected by ULB were fashion designer Ann Demeulemeester (Belgium) and film and stage director Jaco Van Dormael (Belgium). The DHCs selected by the faculties were professor of economics Marianne Bertrand, from the University of Chicago's Booth Business School (USA); emergency physician and columnist Patrick Pelloux, chairman of the French association of emergency physicians (France); professor of French culture and literature, translator, and poet Dong Qiang (China); and computer scientist and cryptographer Philip Zimmermann, creator of the Pretty Good Privacy system (USA). By awarding Doctor Honoris Causa titles, the University is following an old tradition of honouring people whose thoughts, achievements, or actions have left a mark on their era, whether in sciences, art or politics.



'Eco-dynamic' campuses

After the Solbosch campus in 2014, Brussels Environment has once again rewarded ULB's efforts for the environment, giving the Erasmus and La Plaine campuses a '2-star' label.



ULB debates

Europe's future, the migrant crisis, Jihadism, the situation in Turkey, the plurality of languages, the boson: a wide range of subjects was tackled at ULB, especially as a part of the University's series of events on European cultures, where various points of view gather and are encouraged to debate. It should also be noted that in December, 2015, at the initiative of the City of Brussels, the debates included a delegation from the Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet, a 2015 Nobel Peace Prize-winning group of four democratic associations.



ULB forums

Europe facing crises; are we alone in the universe?; terrorist attacks; the contribution of social sciences; questions about the euro; nationalism or historical regression; a compared history of ruins; outlaw refugees; can we afford not to take in all the world's poor? These were some of the topics of this year's ULB forums. These generally involve a speaker, who is a specialist on a topical issue related to politics, culture, science, or society, and who presents their point of view followed by a question and answer session.







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