

Welcome to Université Libre de Bruxelles

Welcome to Chinese PhD students

a. About ULB

ULB was founded in 1834, just four years after Belgium itself was created. Today, the university's 12 faculties cover all areas and levels of academic studies, from undergraduate to post-doctoral studies, with teaching and research activities tightly interwoven.

Initially based solely in Brussels, ULB has extended its activities to Wallonia and now has a network of research centers, hospitals, and libraries, all with cutting-edge equipment.

The "L" in ULB's name stands for "libre". It refers to an attitude of free thinking, as adopted by free individuals, who reject all dogma and totalitarian ideas. It represents our moral commitment to always keep our freedom of conscience.

b. ULB and China

China plays a very important part in ULB's internationalization strategy. Starting in 2010, ULB has tried to bolster its partnerships with Chinese universities. So far, ULB has already received nearly 90 Chinese PhD students and signed partnership agreements with over 40 Chinese universities and institutions.

c. Research at ULB

Across the entire university, over 4,000 professors, scientists, PhD students, and lab technicians are at work in every field, from science and technology to life sciences and from humanities and social sciences to healthcare.

Research provides the foundation upon which teaching at ULB is built: the knowledge imparted to students comes from the latest research, and our students are trained in critical thinking and research starting in the first year of their undergraduate degree, all the way through to their PhD.

ULB's annual research budget stands at €160m, approximately 75% of which comes from international, national, and regional research agreements, as well from as the patronage of a number of Foundations.

The university distinguishes itself by its humanist approach to knowledge, expressed through free, impartial research, and, in the words of Marie Curie, through its participation in fundamental research programmes. ULB is proud to have won an wide range of awards that stand testament to its excellence, in particular four Nobel Prizes for science, 24 Francqui Prizes (out of the 82 awarded in total), the highest honour in the sciences in Belgium, and 26 European Research Council (ERC) grants.

ULB also plays a major role in economic, social, and cultural development: at ULB, research forms a continuum covering fundamental research, applied research, and research directed by industrial and social necessity.

The university takes part in EU cooperative programmes and is a key player in the regional development of Brussels and Wallonia. It is also extremely active in identifying business applications for its research results, with a specialist Technology Transfer Office (TTO) within its Research Department. The TTO manages a portfolio of 86 patent families, 35 active spin-offs, three incubators, an investment fund, and a biotechnology business park: Biopark Charleroi Brussels South.

The excellence of the research carried out at ULB finds its roots in the freedom the university offers its scientists, as well as in its involvement in international networks. ULB places very

high value on freedom, and has faith in the initiative of its scientists, preferring a "bottom-up" approach rather than giving orders regarding which strategy to adopt or which fields of research should be avoided.

Located at the heart of Europe, ULB has always been an outward looking university, both in terms of recruiting its professors and scientists (33% of scientists, 63% of post-doctoral scientists, and 46% of PhD students are from outside Belgium), and its involvement in international research networks.

d. Laboratories at ULB

Finding a laboratory in your field is the first step to starting your PhD at ULB. Here are links to various labs and research units in different faculties.

[Faculty of Medicine](#)

[Faculty of Pharmacy](#)

[Faculty of Motor Skills Sciences](#)

[Solvay Brussels School Economics and Management](#)

[Faculty of Sciences](#)

[Faculty of Applied Science](#)

You can also find specific research topics [here](#)

e. Complete your PhD at ULB

i. General Introduction to PhD at ULB:

Please refer to [the following link](#) to get a general idea of what doing a PhD at ULB is like.

ii. What is a double degree PhD?

It should be noted that a "Double Degree", also called "cotutelle" at ULB, is different from a "Joint PhD" in China. Joint PhD in China means a Chinese candidate who is already enrolled in a PhD programme at a Chinese university studies at ULB for a maximum of two years, without the earning a PhD from ULB.

In a "Double Degree" programme the candidate is enrolled both at ULB and their home university in China, and spends at least one year in each university. The supervisors from both universities oversee the candidate's research. The final dissertation and the public defense (final examination) is in English or French. Upon completion, the candidate is awarded one PhD degree, but through 2 diplomas (one from ULB and the other from their home university in China). A specific Double Degree agreement must be signed by the official representatives of the two universities.

1. General Introduction to the Double Degree PhD programme:

Academic mobility can offer you exciting experiences. If you are already enrolled in a Chinese university as a PhD student, you can consider doing a Double Degree PhD at ULB. Please refer to the [following link](#) to have more information about Double Degree PhD program.

2. Template for a Double Degree PhD Programme agreement with a Chinese University (link to download the document)

Here you can download the template for a double degree PhD Program agreement to get an idea of what it involves. Please be aware that you must already be enrolled as a PhD student in a Chinese university to be eligible. Please communicate with your supervisor in China to make sure they approve of your participation in this program.

iii. About ULB-CSC Scholarship

ULB has signed a specific agreement with the China Scholarship Council, giving you the opportunity to get funding for your research at ULB. Please read the following information carefully in order to facilitate your application.

1. General Introduction to ULB-CSC Scholarship

ULB has signed a collaboration agreement with the China Scholarship Council in 2014, by which ULB and the CSC agree to jointly support up to 30 PhD or joint PhD students each year. The funding for each joint PhD student will cover 6 to 24 months, and up to 48 months for each full-time PhD student.

This agreement covers many areas of cooperation including toxicology, pharmacology, computer science, mathematics, engineering, chemistry, materials science, physics, health, biology and environmental science, business and management, economy, sociology, political science, law, archeology, journalism, and communication.

2. How to Apply?

- a. *First, Please check the information about the ULB-CSC scholarship on the [CSC's Official Website](#).*
 - b. *Second, find the appropriate research topic and your supervisor through our [subject research engine](#).*
 - c. *Follow the ULB-CSC Scholarship application procedure*
3. *Application document checklist (document to download)*
 4. *Other scholarship opportunities*

Besides the CSC scholarship, you have other scholarship opportunities, such as FNRS scholarships. You can find the relevant information here (FNRS document)

f. Benefits for CSC scholarship holders enrolled in PhD programmes

i. [Free French and English courses](#)

Free French and English courses are offered to all students enrolled at ULB. Don't hesitate to make the most out of them!

ii. ULB accommodation

Brussels is a dynamic city. It might be an overwhelming task for new students to find an apartment. The [ULB Accommodation Office](#) will help you find housing that is suited to your needs and budget. Most of our students stay at Residence Irena.

iii. Visa applications and resident card application

Getting a Belgian student visa is your first step towards studying at ULB. In this section you will find helpful information about getting your student visa. The International Welcome Desk is there to help you.

1. About APS

An APS certificate is normally required to apply for a Belgian student visa. However, exemptions can be obtained. You can find all the information on APS on [this page](#).

Please note that PhD candidates with a CSC scholarship are entitled to an APS exemption. The International Office can provide you the exemption letter. Please contact yuan.feng@ulb.ac.be.

2. About the Belgian student visa

You need to apply for a Belgian student visa to come to Belgium. Please check the student visa information page on the [website of Belgian Embassy in China](#). The International Welcome Desk is also there to help if needed.

Important Contacts

Call CSC : Dr. Yuan Feng (yuan.feng@ulb.ac.be)

Admissions / enrolment : Ms Carine Faniel (carine.faniel@ulb.ac.be)

Double Degree: Ms Helene Kitsopoulos (helene.kitsopoulos@ulb.ac.be phdulb@ulb.ac.be)

PhD (general information) Helene Kitsopoulos and Dr. Bibiane Fréché (doctorat@ulb.ac.be)