

University of Luxembourg

Highlights 2024



UNIVERSITÉ DU
LUXEMBOURG

University of Luxembourg

2, place de l'Université
L-4365 Esch-sur-Alzette
www.uni.lu

Project coordination:

Communications Department
T+ 352 / 46 66 44 6162

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Cover photo: © Sophie Margue

TABLE OF CONTENTS

4	Rector's message
6	Key research moments
16	Facts & figures
18	. Students statistics
20	. Staff statistics
21	. Budget
22	Studying at the University
24	. Celebrating teaching excellence
26	. Student voices
28	. Outstanding doctoral graduates
30	. Building cultural bridges
32	. Energising campus life
34	University for life
36	. Fundraising for impact
38	. Alumni in the spotlight
40	. Alumni network grows
42	Governance bodies
44	Funding, grants & chairs
44	. European Research Council
45	. FNR Pearl
46	. FNR Attract
48	. Horizon Europe

The vast majority of our students remain loyal to Luxembourg even after graduation – young talents that bring fresh expertise and ideas to the workforce.

Prof. Jens Kreisel, Rector

Prof. Philippe Hilgsmann (Vice-Rector for Academic and Student Affairs), Prof. Marie-Hélène Jobin (Vice-Rector for Partnerships and International Relations), Prof. Jens Kreisel (Rector), Prof. Simone P. Niclou (Vice-Rector for Research), Marc Grabowski (Director of Administration and Finance).

Rector's message

The University of Luxembourg continues to grow, with 2,500 new students choosing uni.lu in 2024 – bright minds full of expectations and dreams. Our Welcome Day in September greeted first-year students from around the world, a highlight of campus life and a testament the trust in our University!

The vast majority of our students remain loyal to Luxembourg after graduation. Surveys show that 70 percent of our graduates choose their first job in Luxembourg – young talents bringing fresh expertise and ideas to the workforce. Whether it's nursing sciences, teacher training, or innovative Master's programmes in cybersecurity: our new courses effectively meet the needs of students, society, and the economy.

Our research activities continue to grow, with increasing recognition for quality. The University has launched two new interdisciplinary research centres: the Luxembourg Centre for European Law (LCEL) and the Luxembourg Centre for Socio-Environmental Systems (LCSES). With nine ongoing ERC grants, we have established ourselves as an internationally competitive research institution.

Jens Kreisel



The University of Luxembourg is a young, dynamic, and international research university with a distinctly multilingual and interdisciplinary character. Founded in 2003, it hosts over 8,400 students and 2,500 staff from around the world.

The University is structured around three faculties – the Faculty of Science, Technology and Medicine (FSTM), the Faculty of Law, Economics and Finance (FDEF), and the Faculty of Humanities, Education and Social Sciences (FHSE) – as well as five interdisciplinary centres: SnT (Security and Trust in ICT), LCSB (Systems Biomedicine),

C²DH (Contemporary and Digital History), LCEL (European Law), and LCSES (Socio-Environmental Systems).

This combined structure supports excellence in teaching, research, and societal impact. A multicultural academic environment, strong student-teacher relationships, and cutting-edge infrastructure make the University of Luxembourg an ideal place to study, research, and work. Its collaborative and forward-thinking spirit offers exceptional space for innovation and new ideas.

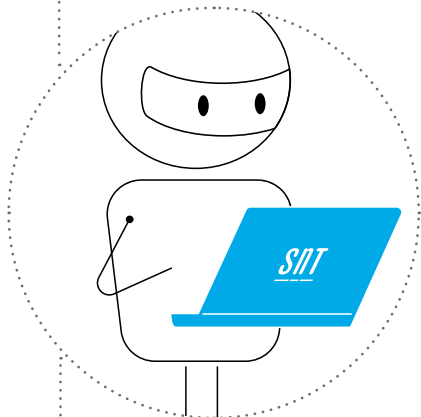
Key research moments

With its state-of-the-art infrastructure and the momentum of a young institution, the University of Luxembourg offers extensive research opportunities to realise one's own ideas. This has made it a centre of attraction for leading scientists from all over the world. In 2024, the University reaffirmed its commitment to scientific excellence and innovation, with researchers making significant contributions across disciplines. Below are some of the year's most defining research highlights.

Highlights 2024

January 2024

Interdisciplinary Centre for Security, Reliability and Trust – SnT



Scan code to
know more
about this
project.



New AI watchdog for financial systems

AI is everywhere, including in banking processes. Banks use this technology for risk management, payments, understanding and processing emails, as well as modernising credit management and processing regulatory obligations. But how can we have trust in such systems? How can we monitor them? SnT researchers are working on an AI metamodel tool.

This project, backed by government funding, focuses on making sure the smart systems that perform these critical financial tasks are working properly and following the rules. Just as your phone alerts you when something needs attention, this tool will alert banks when their smart systems need checking.

This project highlights how important these safety measures are becoming. For the customers, this means real improvements in their banking experience with shorter waiting times, more personalised service, and fewer administrative hurdles when managing their finances.

January 2024

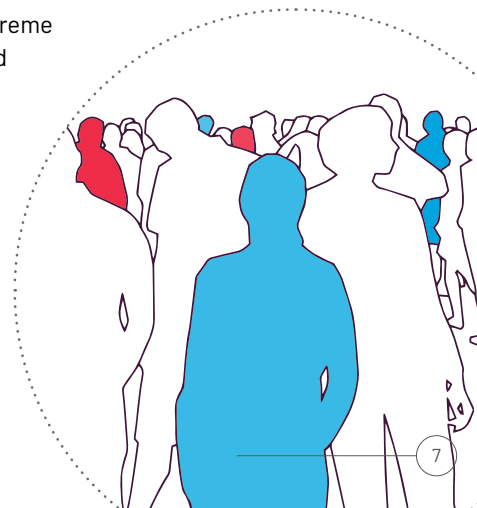
Faculty of Law, Economics and Finance – FDEF

Battling populism to protect the economy

The way politics affects your daily life could soon be better understood thanks to a new research project on populism, which has received a €868,000 FNR CORE grant to study how populist movements influence both markets and politics.

The project aims to find practical solutions that take people's worries seriously while avoiding the economic ups and downs that extreme political views can create. The goal is to help build more united communities and stable jobs and services that you rely on daily.

The team will track how money worries, social media bubbles, and political frustrations feed each other.



February 2024

Luxembourg Centre for Contemporary
and Digital History - C²DH

Launch of new Master in Digital and Public History to bridge past and present

This brand new Master's programme in Digital and Public History explores the shift in the field of history studies from analogue to digital research and the way we learn about the past using new technology.

Students get hands-on experience through projects with local and international museums, spend time studying in Italy, and gain work experience at places that share history with the public. It is all about learning by doing and helping students understand how to better connect with history in our daily lives.

Scan code
to know more
about this
project.



February 2024

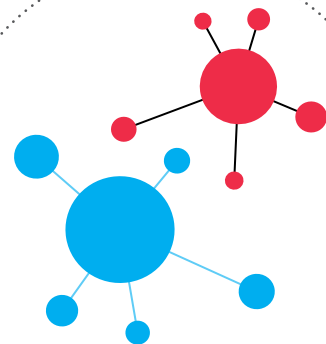
Luxembourg
Centre for Systems
Biomedicine - LCSB

Scientists find gut-brain connection in Alzheimer's research

Our researchers have found subtle changes in the fluid that surrounds the brain and spinal cord of people with Alzheimer's disease. This finding might make it easier to spot the disease earlier, complementing existing diagnostic tools.

The results also show that a substance produced by gut bacteria accumulates in the cerebrospinal fluid of patients, suggesting these microbes might play an important role in the disease.

Until recently, diagnosing Alzheimer's relied mainly on memory tests and clinical observations. The identification of new biomarkers could facilitate early detection and improve precision of the diagnosis.



April 2024

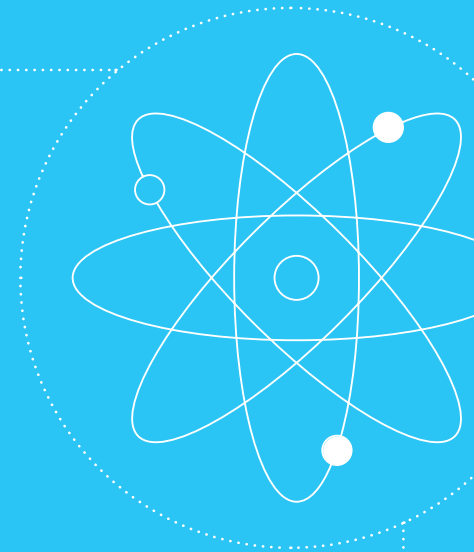
Faculty of Science, Technology and Medicine – FSTM

Breakthrough makes quantum computing more reliable

Your everyday technology could soon become more secure and reliable thanks to a quantum science breakthrough! Researchers have created a way to make tiny devices that process information using the special properties of light and quantum physics.

These advances offer real benefits for your daily life: your online banking could become safer from hackers. Hospital scanning equipment could produce clearer images to help doctors spot problems earlier. Computers might solve complex problems in minutes instead of years. These scientific advances bring these improved technologies closer to your home and workplace.

Scientists achieved this by discovering how light particles can interact with atoms in patterns that naturally prevent errors. This research connects different areas of science to build devices that work in real world conditions rather than just laboratories, making quantum technology practical for everyday use.



Scan code to know more about this project.



June 2024

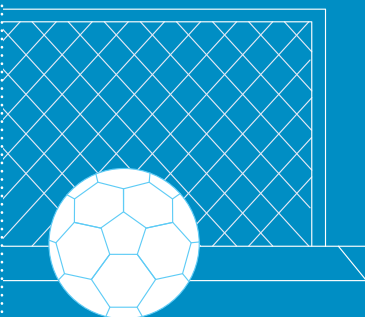
Faculty of Science, Technology and Medicine – FSTM

AI system predicting UEFA Euro 2024 winners

As excitement built for UEFA Euro 2024, data scientists used AI to predict the results. By analysing past matches, player stats, and socio-economic factors, the AI model identified the top teams.

The AI model combined different types of data to simulate the entire tournament. It looked at historical match data, player performances, and even the economic conditions of the countries involved to help estimate the chances of each team winning, drawing, or losing every game.

The predictions showed France, England, and Germany as the strongest contenders, but Spain eventually came out on top. This use of AI in sports forecasting shows how technology can help us understand and anticipate major events better.



Scan code to know more about this project.



August 2024

Interdisciplinary Centre for Security, Reliability and Trust - SnT

Unhackable communication tested successfully in Luxembourg

New security technology tested in Luxembourg could soon provide stronger protection for your online information.

The LUQCIA project has created a system that instantly detects if someone tries to intercept your private data. This works using quantum physics where tiny particles of light create security codes that change if someone tries to spy on them, like a letter showing evidence of being opened.

Researchers sent these special security codes through regular internet cables between two locations 33 kilometres apart. The importance lies in testing real-world conditions, understanding how traffic vibrations and weather affect the system. This practical knowledge helps build protection that works in everyday situations, not just in controlled laboratory settings.

The emerging technology will become essential in about ten years when powerful quantum computers will break through current security systems. The work happening now prepares to keep your banking, shopping, and private messages safe in the quantum computing era.

Scan code to know more about this project.



October 2024

Luxembourg Centre for European Law - LCEL

Luxembourg's new hub for European legal research

The Luxembourg Centre for European Law (LCEL) at the University of Luxembourg has officially commenced its activities under the founding directorship of Professor Takis Tridimas, an internationally renowned scholar in European Union law.

Building on the legacy of the former Max Planck Institute Luxembourg for Procedural Law, the LCEL continues to foster rigorous academic research at the intersection of European legal, institutional, and political developments. The Centre acts as a key academic platform for critical reflection and scholarly dialogue on the evolution of European integration.

With its strategic location at the heart of the EU's legal ecosystem and its growing community of scholars, the LCEL aims to contribute to shaping the future of European legal thought.

Scan code to know more about this project.



October 2024

Faculty of Law, Economics and Finance – FDEF

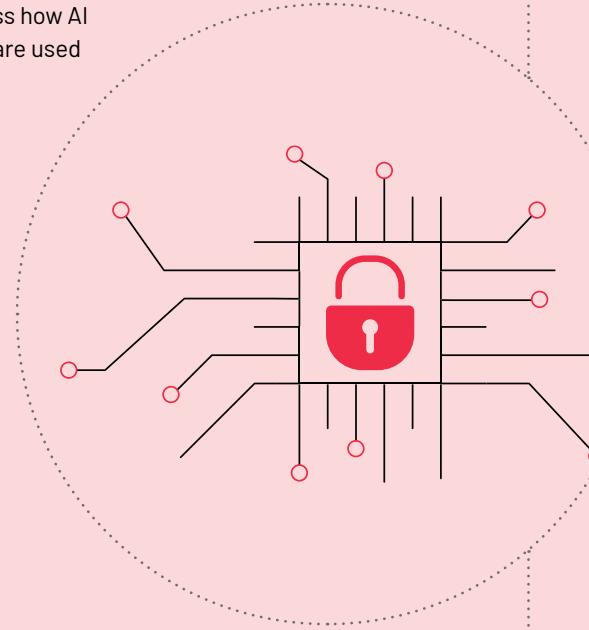
Experts map legal boundaries for AI

To learn how AI can make our lives easier, we first need to understand it. Experts gathered for the Doctoral Training Unit DILLIAN's main academic event to discuss how AI impacts laws and rules which in turn help ensure that AI technologies are used responsibly and fairly.

The workshop covered topics like how to protect your privacy, ensure fairness, and manage the rights to ideas created by AI. Doctoral students presented their research, with experienced professionals from courts, universities, and industry providing valuable feedback. Together, they explored ways to create laws that support the safe and fair use of AI technology.

This knowledge helps leaders, businesses, and individuals make better decisions about using AI.

Scan code to know more about this project.

**October 2024**

Faculty of Humanities, Education and Social Sciences – FHSE

Esch residents help design city's inclusive future

Imagine a city where diverse voices shape its future, and community needs are actively addressed. The Esch Clinics project is transforming Esch-sur-Alzette by dealing with key local issues such as mobility, infrastructure, migration, and identity.

The project dives deep into the heart of the community, listening to people's challenges and aspirations. Researchers engage directly with residents by gathering insights to create practical solutions. This hands-on approach ensures that the changes made are truly beneficial and relevant to everyone.



Scan codes to know more about this project.



October 2024

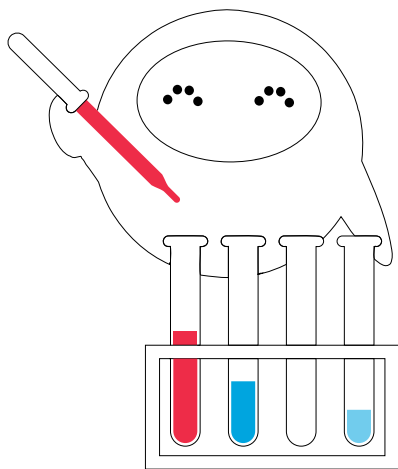
Luxembourg Centre for Systems Biomedicine - LCSB

Wearable tech and AI spot health problems

Wearable sensors and artificial intelligence (AI) are contributing to healthcare by helping to diagnose diseases or spot them early. This means that patients could get treatment sooner and avoid serious issues.

Researchers are working on predicting atrial fibrillation, a common form of cardiac arrhythmia. The model they developed can warn patients 30 minutes before the onset of the irregular heartbeat. Another project focuses on diagnosing sleep apnoea, a disorder that causes breathing interruptions during sleep. With the help of a computational tool, the severity of the symptoms can be assessed at home with comfortable sensors, avoiding an overnight stay at a clinic.

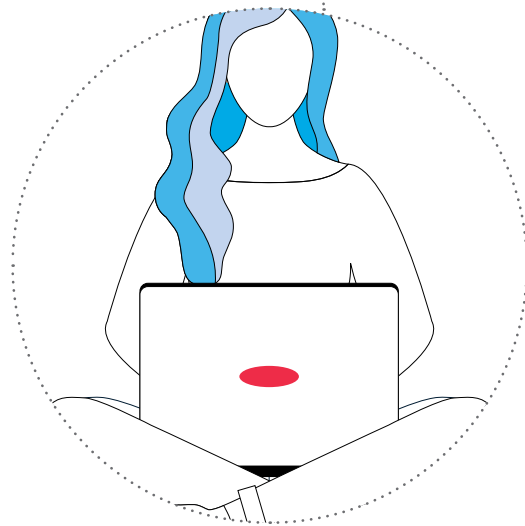
Wearable sensors associated with AI are a game-changer in biomedical research and could lead to new affordable healthcare solutions. As health technology continues to evolve, the future of medicine may lie in the hands – or on the wrists – of patients themselves.



Scan code to know more about this project.



November 2024



Academic and Research
Excellence - UNI

“We need to put the person at the centre of education”

Putting students at the heart of education means focussing on their overall development, not just academics. This approach makes learning more engaging and fulfilling, and helps the students grow both personally and socially.

Philippe Hiligsmann, the new Vice-Rector for Academic and Student Affairs, emphasises the importance of supporting students beyond the classroom. He plans to enhance academic programmes and student services by developing interdisciplinary courses, and continued education and trainings.

The aim is to further strengthen student engagement through the promotion of community-building, multilingualism, and multiculturalism.

Scan code to know more about this project.



December 2024

Luxembourg Centre for Contemporary and Digital History – C²DH

Interactive online exhibition brings WW II Luxembourg to life

Discover Luxembourg's untold stories from World War II through the online exhibition. WW2.lu offers a deep dive into the experiences of Luxembourgers during the Nazi occupation. By exploring their stories, you can gain a better understanding of the past and its impact on the present.

The exhibition features 33 video clips, including testimonies, historian interviews, archival footage, and animated narratives. These resources provide a vivid picture of life between 1940 and 1945. Additionally, a large catalogue of expert-written texts connects personal stories with broader historical events, making the history more relatable and engaging.



Scan codes
to know
more about
this project.



December 2024

Faculty of Humanities, Education and Social Sciences – FHSE

Report on education reveals challenges in making education fair for all

Understanding diversity and inclusion in education helps create a more supportive and fair environment for all students. This means better opportunities and resources for your children, ensuring they receive the best education possible.

The latest National Report on Education in Luxembourg highlights significant challenges like multilingualism and social inequalities. It also points out a lack of data on children with special needs, making it difficult to address their requirements effectively. By focusing on these areas, the report aims to spark important conversations about improving education for every student.

Researchers hope that current and future reforms will prioritise the students most affected by educational inequalities.



Scan codes
to know
more about
this project.



December 2024

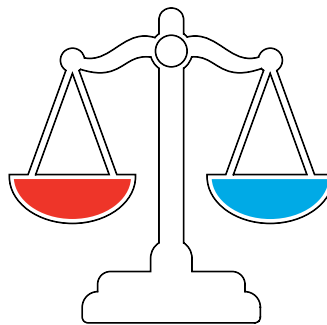
Luxembourg Centre for European Law – LCEL

Comprehensive law database makes court decisions accessible to all

The new database of EU and national competition law judgments makes it easier to access important legal judgments.

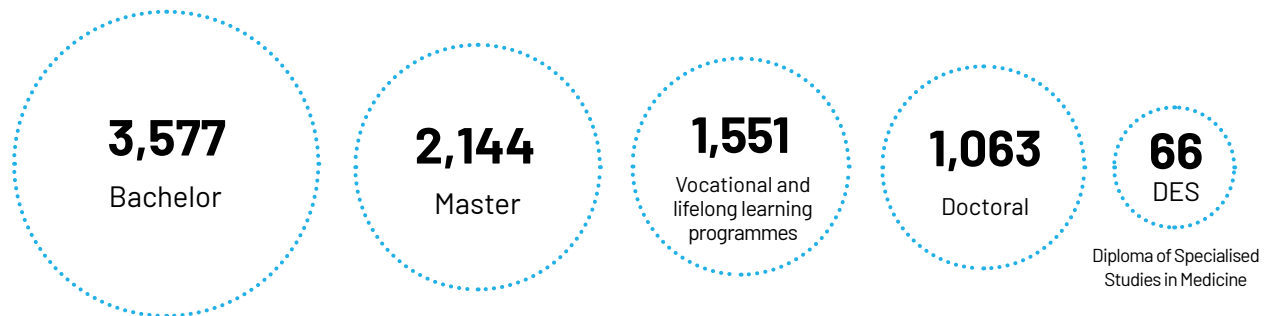
Created by the Association of European Competition Law Judges (AECLJ) in partnership with the Luxembourg Centre for European Law (LCEL), the database includes judgments from the Court of Justice of the EU and national courts across Europe. It's a useful tool for judges, lawyers, and the public.

The LCEL and AECLJ also host the Competition Law Circle, where experts discuss the latest developments in competition law. This collaboration strengthens Luxembourg's role in legal research, the most important area of EU law for legal practice.

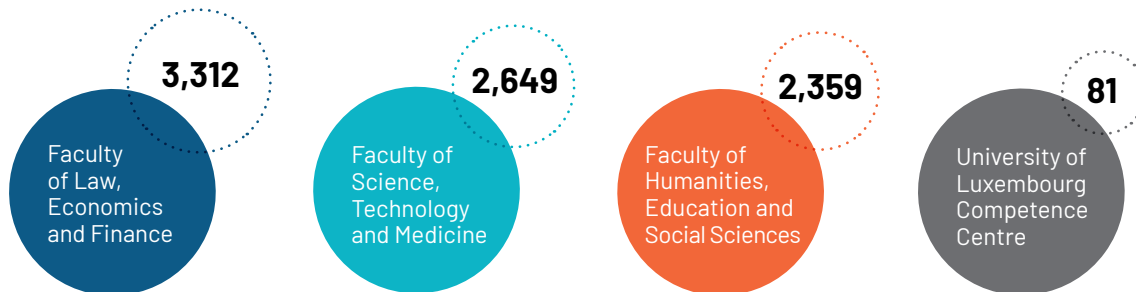


Facts & figures

Student registrations by degree

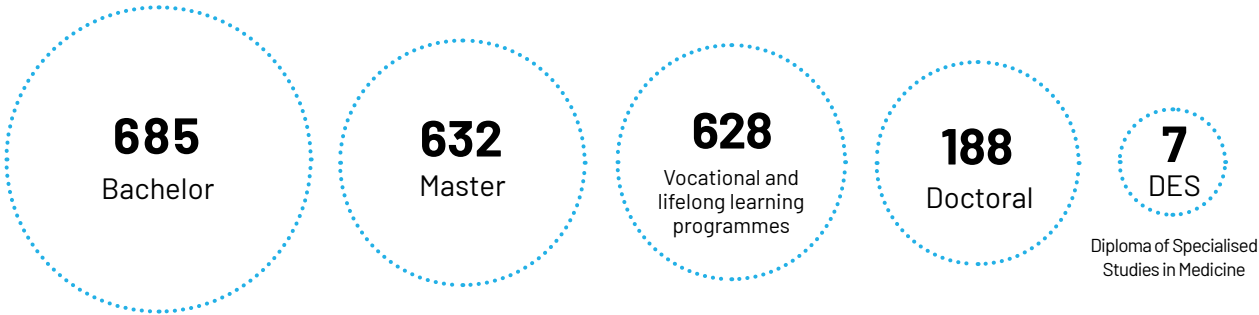


Student registrations by faculty

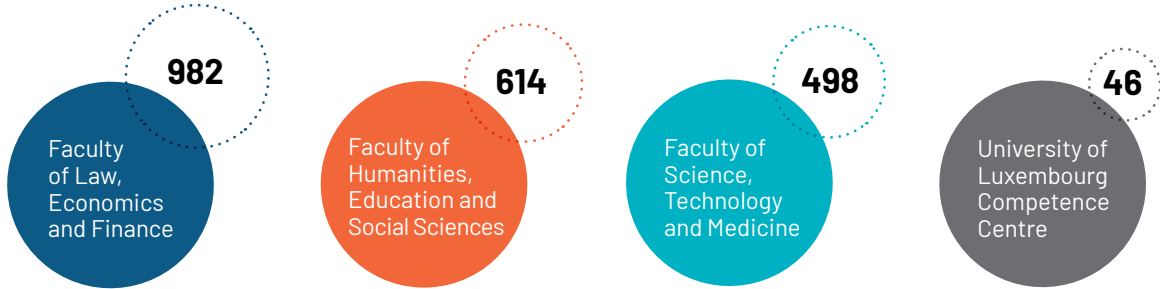


Total number of student registrations: **8,401**

Graduates by degree



Graduates by faculty



Total number of graduates: **2,140**

Total student nationalities: **151**

University staff

1,305

Academic staff
postdocs

643

Administrative
and financial
staff

337

Technical
staff

304

Academic staff
professors

Total staff: **2,589***

* Headcount as of 31 December 2024



Publications 2024

Total
publications:
2,590

1,728

Journal papers

349

Book
chapters

28

Authored
books

30

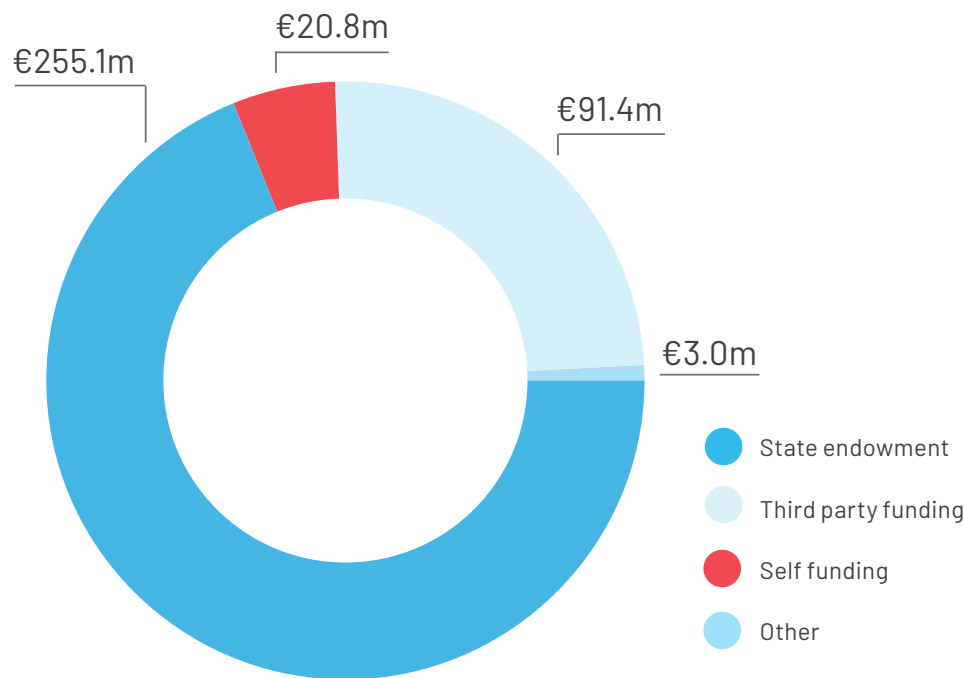
Edited
books

455

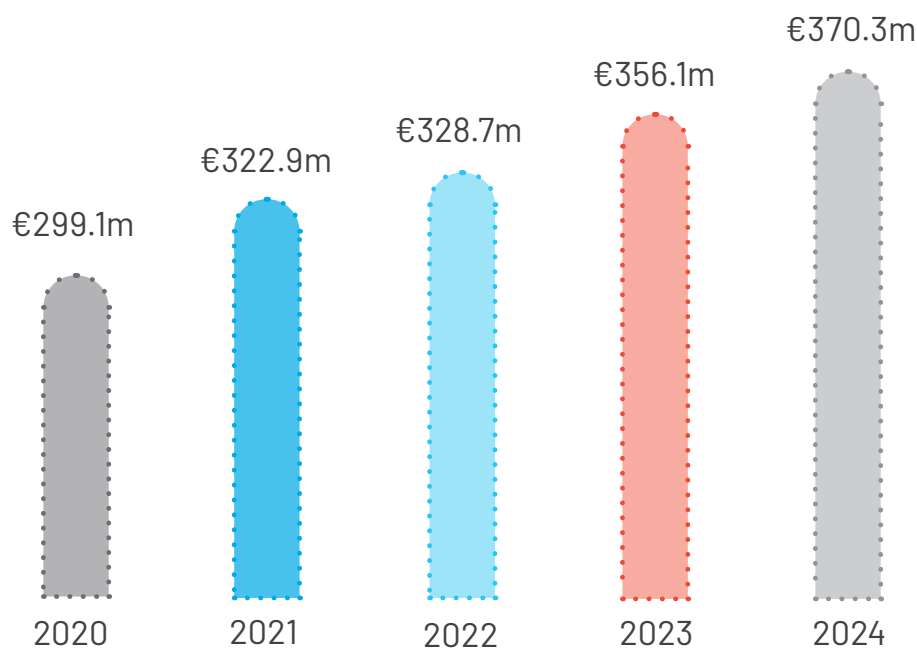
Conference
proceedings



University budget in 2024



Budget evolution 2020-2024



Studying at the University

Celebrating teaching excellence

Behind every successful student stands an exceptional teacher. The University of Luxembourg celebrates six remarkable educators whose passion lights up classrooms and changes student lives. These Teaching Award winners remind us why the right mentor at the right moment can shape not just what we learn, but who we become.

Dr Arthur Bianco

Doctoral Researcher, Department of Finance

"He always taught with humour and compassion, and no one was ever left behind." - Maximilien, Master in European and International Tax Law.

"Mr. Bianco is a truly passionate teacher. He is enthusiastic about his subject and likes to share his knowledge with his students." - Chloé, Master in European Economic and Financial Criminal Law.

Faculty
of Law,
Economics
and Finance

Faculty of
Humanities,
Education and
Social Sciences

Dr Natalie Bloc

Research Scientist, Department of Humanities

"My aim is to arouse interest, to spark curiosity, and perhaps to show that it is worth thinking, broadening our views, and adopting new perspectives".

"In her classes, I always feel that I and other students can express ourselves freely and that no opinion is ever considered unimportant or obsolete." - Sofia, Master in Theaterwissenschaften und Interkulturalität.

"I am convinced that some students, after attending her seminar, were inspired to buy theatre tickets that might have otherwise remained unsold." - Fábio, Bachelor en Cultures Européennes, Germanistik.

Prof. Catherine Jones

Assistant Professor,
Department of Geography and Spatial Planning
"I hope they feel that we cared both for their academic journey and their mental health and well-being."

"She isn't one of those lecturers who just stands in front of a class of 100 students and delivers a message. No, she knows people individually. She understands what they want from the courses and knows exactly how to help each person. She also knows when not to help, which is a real skill. She knows when to take off the training wheels." - Alexander, Doctoral Researcher, Department of Geography and Spatial Planning.

Prof. Sergio Vicente

Assistant Professor, Department of Finance
"I think our biggest and most direct impact at the university is to engage students."

"Prof. Vicente proves that academics and fun can go hand-in-hand, making him an invaluable teacher." - Azamat, Doctoral Researcher, Department of Finance.

Faculty
of Law,
Economics
and Finance

Faculty of
Science,
Technology
and Medicine

Dr Guendalina Palmirotta

Postdoctoral Researcher, Department of
Mathematics

"Guenda is, both on a personal and human level, a truly brilliant and exemplary teacher and person."
- Melissa, Master en Enseignement Secondaire –
Mathématiques

"Without needing to explain too much, she was able to immediately help us, guide us, and give us ideas." - Salma,
Master en Enseignement Secondaire
– Mathématiques

Prof. Christophe Ley

Associate Professor, Department of Mathematics


"It is really a pleasure to be back here at the University of Luxembourg, where I was a student in 2003 and 2004, the very first year of its existence. Now, to be back here and to receive this award means a lot to me."

"One memory I vividly have is him walking around the classroom and asking every single student how they were feeling and how they were getting on in the different courses." - Oliver, Master in Data Science.

"He always manages to engage his students, and despite his commitment to various activities and projects, he never fails to find time for us and help us even outside of class." - Aleksandra, Master in Data Science.

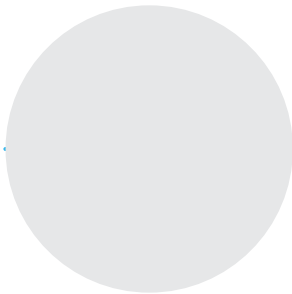
Student voices

The Student Delegation 2024 (from left to right): Mihajlo Miladinović, Guido Hoenig, Leonid Gnutov, Avery Joy Becker, Ulisse Saverio Bassi, Joana Pereira, Jinyuan Wang, Aswathy Kokkottil Sudevan



A university thrives when its students feel safe, heard, and protected. Justice is not just a principle - it is our commitment.

*Omar Rastoder,
current President of
the Student Delegation*



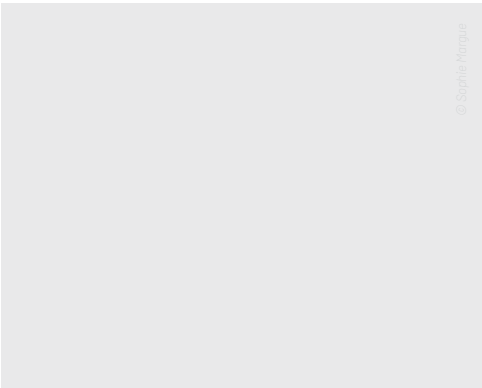
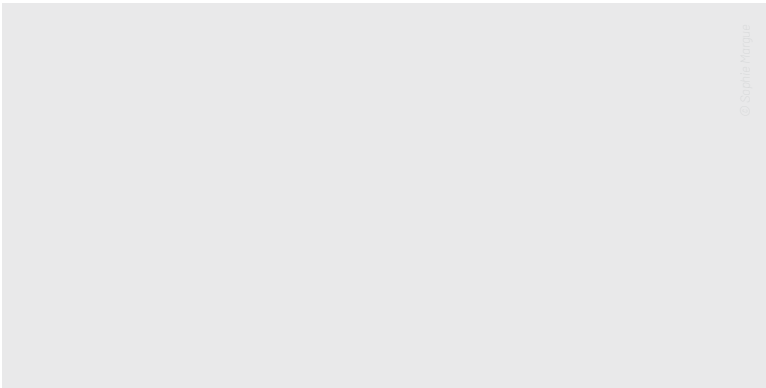
I am here to defend students' interests, improve our campus life, and push for sustainability. Together with the delegation, we can create a stronger, greener, and more supportive university experience for everyone.

*Stefan Vladimir Capitanescu,
current Vice-President of
the Student Delegation*

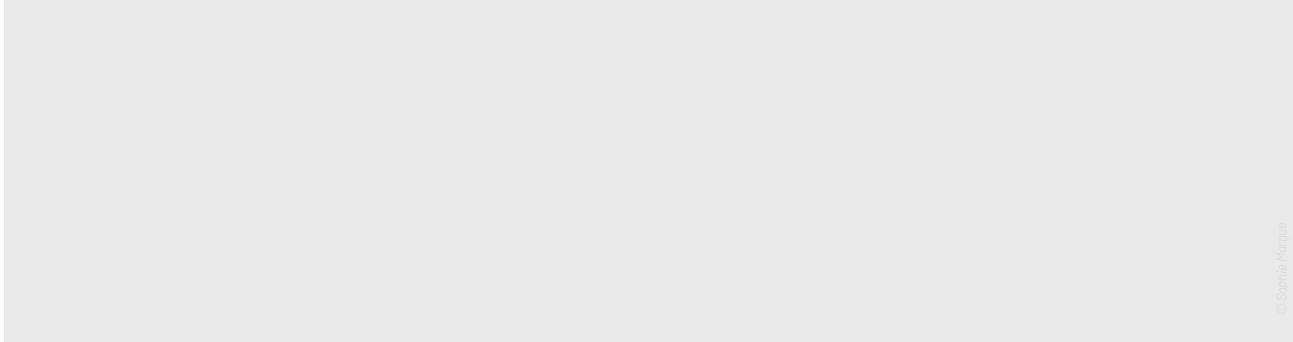
Outstanding doctoral graduates

The following doctoral graduates earned recognition for their impressive theses. In 2024, over 180 researchers have been awarded a doctorate.

NAME	THESIS TITLE	DOCTORAL PROGRAMME
Florian Felten	Multi-objective reinforcement learning	Doctoral Programme in Computer Science and Computer Engineering
Salijona Dyrmishi	Enhancing machine learning security: The significance of realistic adversarial examples	Doctoral Programme in Computer Science and Computer Engineering
Tamara Roth	Innovating with emerging it in highly structured environments – An organizing vision perspective on blockchain and digital identity wallets	Doctoral Programme in Computer Science and Computer Engineering
Shubhra Acharya	Long noncoding RNAs in tissue repair	Doctoral Programme in Systems and Molecular Biomedicine
Iria Carmen Fernandez Botana	Exploring T-cell heterogeneity in chronic lymphocytic leukemia to unravel immune-based therapeutic strategies	Doctoral Programme in Systems and Molecular Biomedicine
Begoña Talavera Andújar	Metabolomics and exposomics approaches to better understand neurodegenerative diseases using cheminformatics tools and high-resolution mass spectrometry	Doctoral Programme in Systems and Molecular Biomedicine
Thomas Deckert	Ultrafast exciton and free charge carrier dynamics in condensed matter studied by multidimensional spectroscopy	Doctoral Programme in Physics and Material Sciences
Daniil Nosov	Novel polymer electrolytes derived from coacervation of complementary poly(ionic liquids) and/or charged silica nanoparticles	Doctoral Programme in Physics and Material Sciences
Alfredo Romero Guzman	Demountable and reusable steel-timber composite (STC) beams	Doctoral Programme in Engineering Sciences
Johannes Laur	Mitigating radio blackout in hypersonic flights and atmospheric entries – Computational electromagnetics and experimental validation	Doctoral Programme in Complex Systems Science
Tara Trauthwein	Quantitative CLTs on the Poisson space via p-Poincaré inequalities	Doctoral Programme in Mathematics and Applications
Mina Tsenkova	Understanding the role of diet and microbiome in colorectal cancer	Doctoral Programme in Systems and Molecular Biomedicine



Stéphanie Obertin, Minister for Higher Education and Research, alongside Simone Niclou, Vice-rector for research and Jens Kreisel, Rector.



Leonardo Maini	On some asymptotic results on functionals of weakly stationary random fields	Doctoral Programme in Mathematics and Applications
Yannick Kohl	Rational Reflection: The Powers and Limits of Rational Metacognition	Doctoral Programme in Humanities
Blandine Landau	Looking for the spoliated Jews: Plundering and « aryanization » in Luxembourg during World War II	Doctoral Programme in Humanities
Irene Portas Vázquez	Underground Histories: Border Transgression and Subversion in the Minette (1919-1939)	Doctoral Programme in Humanities
Alena Podaneva	Public And Private Procurement of Services in Healthcare Sector	Doctoral Programme in Economics and Management
Alessio Belli	L'héritage oublié : la citoyenneté sociale à la recherche d'un nouvel imaginaire normatif	Doctoral Programme in Law
Arnaud Mertens	Decoding the Matrix: Unearthing Key Factors Shaping Well-Being	Doctoral Programme in Social Sciences
Valentin Emslander	An Exploration of Factors Driving School Success in Diverse Students Through Meta-Analytic and Value-Added Modeling	Doctoral Programme in Psychology

Building cultural bridges

We bridge the gap between the University and the world outside. Through culture, creativity, and research, we share the University's work with a broader audience.

*Anouk Wies,
Strategic Advisor
for Cultural Affairs*

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At the University of Luxembourg, Espace Cultures is much more than an organiser of events. It's a driving force for creativity, collaboration, and critical reflection that enriches both campus life and the University's broader mission.

At the University of Luxembourg, Espace Cultures is much more than an organiser of events. It's a driving force for creativity, collaboration, and critical reflection that enriches both campus life and the University's broader mission.

"Our work goes far beyond hosting workshops or fun activities", explains Anouk Wies, Strategic Advisor for Cultural Affairs. "We're deeply involved in interdisciplinary projects that bring together students, staff, and researchers."

The artist-in-residence programme brings creative professionals into the academic environment. "When creatives come to campus, they engage with researchers, professors, and students, sharing knowledge and expertise", says Wies. "There are many parallels between researchers and artists – both are searching, questioning, and tackling significant societal issues. These exchanges inspire innovation and deepen our understanding of humanity."

In a recent residency, Max Kreis collaborated with neuroscientists on visualising brain imaging data using AI.

"The project pushed boundaries of both science and art, leaving a lasting impact on everyone involved."

Espace Cultures also connects the University with the local community. A memorable example was the Awa Odori Japanese dance workshop, a collaboration with the Japanese Embassy.

Looking ahead, Espace Cultures plans to expand its interdisciplinary residencies and introduce new projects exploring sound, environment, and urban development.

Wies emphasises that cultural activities contribute to personal growth and well-being. "What we offer allows students to learn beyond academics. It's about providing alternative skills, building relationships and exploring what makes us human. When students graduate, they'll remember their student life in Luxembourg also for performing on stage, participating in a play, or connecting with others through cultural activities." ■

Office of Student Life

The Office of Student Life (OSL) makes student life exciting at the University of Luxembourg. Working from within the Student Department, they create a friendly space where all students can join in campus activities.

The OSL runs fun sports sessions, art workshops, and wellbeing classes that add value beyond studies. They help student clubs get official recognition and support them throughout the year.

Students who want to start a project or learn about what Luxembourg offers find help from the OSL team, who connect them with resources both on and off campus.

The OSL works hard to create a lively community feeling, turning university years into a rich experience that goes far beyond just getting a degree.

Energising campus life

Students are the real drivers behind campus life at the University of Luxembourg. With over 30 active clubs and associations covering everything from chess to theatre, sustainability to programming, these student-led groups bring energy and community to all three campuses. These student initiatives create places where people can connect, learn, and grow new friendships.

The 2024 Student Initiative Awards further applauded these efforts by awarding innovative and successful groups, like the Student Association for Sustainability and the Writing Café, both of which are perfect examples of how students identify needs and develop creative solutions. "We started with a very specific goal: to spread sustainability on campus", says Ulisse Bassi, whose association hosts popular SustainabiliTEA sessions where students discuss environmental issues over tea.

The LuxInDancers dance group on stage on Belval Campus.

We started with a very specific goal: to spread sustainability on campus.

Ulisse Bassi, SustainabiliTEA association

Learn more about the student associations and clubs.



Students performing during the Halloween edition of "The Stage is Yours".

These student initiatives address genuine needs in practical ways: The Writing Café, for instance, creates a distraction-free environment for participants to focus on their writing. "You will find that you are in a bit of a rut or a slump", says Desmond Bast, "and you will come into this Writing Café where they are quite strict: no phones, no tech". Fellow participant Olga Kryvets adds that while "turning off all communications isn't easy, the results exceed expectations, especially for women in science" who find the Café a safe and supportive space for their creativity.

The Office of Student Life offers crucial support, helping student associations and clubs gain official recognition and funding, while also organising Campus Sports and other community-building activities. This strong foundation allows student creativity to flourish. Espace Cultures contributes with fun events like "The Stage is Yours", where students and staff showcase their talents. "We take advantage of the interculturality and diverse community

to help students open themselves to other cultures", explains Anouk Wies from Espace Cultures, though she acknowledges the challenges of bringing together different cultural perspectives.

The University's international character with its diverse mix of nationalities and languages presents both challenges and opportunities. Student initiatives bridge these differences through shared interests, whether in the BelvalExpress theatre troupe, Uni.lu Choir, or UniJAM music sessions. Societies like the PULSE poetry club, Chess Club, and Roux Student Magazine provide creative outlets, while cultural associations help international students connect with their heritage while making new connections. As Vyara Noncheva from the Student Association for Sustainability explains, student associations and clubs create spaces "to bring students and staff from various backgrounds together" and transform this multinational campus into a connected community. ■

University for life

Fundraising for impact

Interview with Philippe Lamesch, Head of the Office of Fundraising


The University of Luxembourg's main focus is on conducting cutting-edge research and attracting talented students. These two priorities are also the driving force behind the work of the Fundraising Office.

For the University of Luxembourg, how important is fundraising?

Our role is to support research excellence and student recruitment, especially as research becomes more complex and competitive. Even projects that receive excellent reviews don't always secure funding anymore. That's where we step in – by helping identify and engage donors who can offer alternative sources of funding.

At the same time, a university is only as strong as its student body. At the Master's level, we are committed to attracting even more talented students, and expanding our scholarship offering is a key part of that ambition.

So that's another area where I see a lot of value in fundraising: by developing a solid scholarship programme, we can attract excellent students who otherwise wouldn't be able to afford to study here.



By developing a solid scholarship programme, we can attract excellent students who otherwise wouldn't be able to afford to study here.

*Philippe Lamesch,
Head of Office of Fundraising*

”

Can you share a story or example that illustrates this impact?

We have a broad mix of supporters: private individuals, families, large international foundations, and even people who include us in their legacies.

One example I can share involves an older gentleman who started small – donating just a few thousand euros per year to support student travel grants. These grants allowed students to attend conferences or visit research labs abroad.

Over time, we got to know him better and learned that he didn't have children or close family. Supporting students was his way of staying connected with young people. What we didn't know until after he passed away, was that he had set up a foundation and designated the University as the main beneficiary. It turns out the foundation is worth around 80 million euros – the largest foundation ever created by a private Luxembourgish citizen.

What's really moving is that when the University was first created, he was a sceptic. But over time, through his personal involvement as philanthropist and his exchanges with students, his perspective shifted completely. So much so that he entrusted his entire legacy to the institution.

So what are your aspirations or goals for the coming years?

Looking ahead, I hope to see fundraising grow into a much larger and more strategic operation. Of course the University also relies on donations. They allow us to develop areas that are underfunded by public sources, especially those aligned with our research priorities.

For me, the future of fundraising is not just about raising more money. It's about creating a strong, vibrant community of people who believe in the University's mission and want to support it – whether through funding, advocacy, or engagement. ■

Alumni in the spotlight

Dr Jordan Samhi

Dr Jordan Samhi (33), a French researcher specialised in Software Engineering and Software Security, was honoured with an Outstanding PhD Thesis Award of the Luxembourg National Research Fund (FNR) in 2024 and with an Excellent Thesis Award of the University in 2023. He works as a research scientist at the University's Interdisciplinary Centre SnT.

Why is your research important for society?

My research focuses on mobile security. With around six billion people worldwide now using smartphones, my work has the potential to directly benefit millions, even billions, of users. For example, during my doctoral studies, I collaborated with Google to help them identify and remove malware from the Google Play Store, which allowed to safeguard millions of users from harmful applications.

What experiences during your PhD at uni.lu helped you most?

The support and guidance from my supervisors greatly enhanced my learning and research quality. Additionally, interactions with colleagues and teaching activities encouraged me to explore new ideas, consider different perspectives, and think innovatively.

What is something at the University that you loved being a part of?

I appreciated being part of an institution committed to creating a positive impact in the world through research. The University of Luxembourg is not just a workplace; it's a vibrant community of intelligent and driven people who support each other. This collaborative and inspiring environment provided me with the resources and motivation necessary to excel in my research. ■

Learn more
about Jordan's
research here.



Dr Begoña Talavera Andújar

Dr Begoña Talavera Andújar (28), a pharmacist from Spain, is a postdoctoral researcher in the Environmental Cheminformatics group at the University's Interdisciplinary Centre LCSB. She was honoured with an Excellent Thesis Award of the University in 2024.

Why is your research important for society?

Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease are the most common neurodegenerative diseases. Genetic factors alone typically explain less than 10 per cent of cases, which indicates that other factors, including environmental chemicals, may play an important role.

My PhD focused on finding "chemical fingerprints" in different biological samples such as blood, for example, and environmental samples such as dust that could help us understand these complex and multifactorial diseases. This is paramount for advancing personalised medicine.

What experiences during your PhD at uni.lu helped you most?

During my PhD, the interactions with different colleagues from various disciplines at the Luxembourg Centre for Systems Biomedicine (LCSB) of the University have been instrumental in advancing my research.

What is something at the University that you loved being a part of?

I love the international and multicultural environment of the University of Luxembourg. This not only facilitated my integration in Luxembourg but also enriched both my professional and personal growth. ■

Learn more
about Begoña's
research here.



Dr Salijona Dyrnishi

Dr Salijona Dyrnishi (28), a computer scientist with Albanian nationality, received an Excellent Thesis Award of the University in 2024 and works as a postdoctoral researcher at the research group SerVal at the University's Interdisciplinary Centre SnT.

Why is your research important for society?

My research focuses on improving the security of Artificial Intelligence (AI) by addressing adversarial attacks. This is important because AI is used everywhere now, from healthcare to finance to cybersecurity. If we can build AI systems that are more reliable and harder to fool, we make sure they can be trusted in real-world situations where mistakes can have serious consequences.

What experiences during your PhD at uni.lu helped you most?

One of the biggest advantages was having close contact with my supervisor and more senior PhD students in our group. Another big learning moment was participating in the FNR JUMP programme on research/tech commercialisation funding, because it pushed me to think with more of a business mindset and explain the value of my work to people outside academia.

What is something at the University that you loved being a part of?

I loved the diversity at uni.lu, as it brought together researchers from all over the world. It was inspiring to work alongside great minds who approached problems in unique ways. Also, there are plenty of resources and funding opportunities, which help you focus on your work without constantly worrying about finances. ■

Learn more
about Salijona's
research here.



Dr Nicole Citeroni

Dr Nicole Citeroni (32), a postdoctoral researcher in International Law at Lund University in Sweden, is of Italian origin. She received an Excellent Thesis Award of the University of Luxembourg in 2023 and is about to start working as an associate legal officer at the International Criminal Court.

Why is your research important for society?

My doctoral and postdoctoral research offers a critical perspective on the gravity of the most serious economic and environmental crimes, respectively, as well as on the need to address their impunity and provide victims with the means to obtain fair justice.

I hope that the main impact of my research can be to raise awareness of these crucial issues not only among political, academic and legal actors, but also among the public opinion.

What experiences during your PhD at uni.lu helped you most?

The difficulties I encountered while writing my doctoral dissertation were the moments when I challenged myself and learned the most. I also learned a lot from the lectures I taught and the Moot courts I coached. These experiences allowed me to constructively engage with students and improve my teaching skills.

What is something at the University that you loved being a part of?

As a PhD researcher at uni.lu, I absolutely loved being part of a group of young researchers coming from different countries with whom I established lasting professional and friendly relationships. ■

Alumni network grows

2024, the first full year since the launch of the dedicated alumni platform, was a year of growth and diversification of activities for the "Uni.lu Alumni Network". More than 115 nationalities are represented in the "Alumni Network", and they are currently working in over 50 countries.

Alumni participated in the life of the University, from speaking to prospective students and their parents during an alumni panel discussion on Open Day to helping welcome new students to the University at the alumni stand on Welcome Day. For the first time, alumni also ran alongside students and staff for the Uni.lu team at the Escher Kulturlaf.

Other alumni-only events during 2024 included the first-ever Alumni Summer Party, with performances by staff/ alumni Eurovision candidates, a private guided tour of the Chambre des Députés with several deputies who are alumni themselves, and a networking event in November with partner organisations of the "Alumni Network".

Dedicated alumni groups for the Bachelor en Cultures Européennes and Master in Wealth Management programmes, as well as a History alumni group bringing together alumni of the various history programmes at the University, were also launched during the year.

The alumni continued to be integrated into the fabric of the University community alongside the students and the staff in 2024, and this will continue to be a strategic objective of the Alumni Network in the years to come. ■

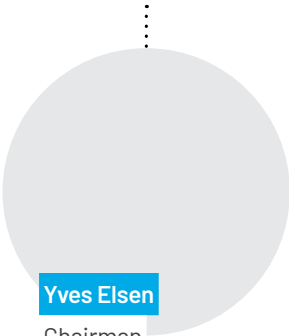
Learn more
about Alumni.



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The University Council assists the Rectorate in the development of the multi-year development plan and deliberates on the pedagogical and scientific affairs of the University.

Prof. Georg Mein

President, Head of ULIDE –
Institute for Digital Ethics

**Find the complete
list of members.**



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Centre for European Law

Prof. Ralf Seppelt

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Systems

European Research Council (ERC) grants

The ERC, one of the most prestigious grants set up by the European Union in 2007, is the premier European funding body for frontier research. It provides funding for creative researchers of any nationality and age to run projects based across Europe with the aim of encouraging the highest quality research in Europe through competitive funding and

supporting investigator-driven frontier research across all fields, based on scientific excellence. The ERC offers five main grant schemes: Starting Grants, Consolidator Grants, Advanced Grants, Synergy Grants and Proof of Concept Grants. Since 2014, the University of Luxembourg has been awarded 20 ERC grants, including five under Horizon Europe.

Current grant holders and chairs

Assoc. Prof. Tegawendé Bisseyande

SnT | Associate professor,
Chief scientist

Prof. Daniele Brida

FSTM | Head of DPHYMS,
Full professor in Experimental
Condensed Matter

Prof. Jean-Sébastien Coron

FSTM | Full professor in
Informatics

Prof. Paul Wilmes

LCSB | Full professor
in Systems Ecology

Prof. Jan Lagerwall

FSTM | Full professor in
Experimental polymer physics

Prof. Anja Leist

FHSE | Full professor

Prof. Mark Podolskij

FSTM | Full professor in
Mathematics

Prof. Alexander Tkatchenko

FSTM | Full professor in Theoretical
Condensed Matter Physics

FNR PEARL chairs

With the PEARL programme, the Luxembourg National Research Fund (Fonds National de la Recherche – FNR) offers Luxembourg research institutions attractive funding packages so that they can draw established and internationally recognised researchers to Luxembourg.

Current PEARL chair holders at the University of Luxembourg

Prof. Gilbert Fridgen

PayPal-FNR PEARL Chair in Digital Financial Services (FinTech)

Prof. Michael Heneka

Chair in Alzheimer's Disease Research (MiniAlz)

Prof. Jochen Klucken

Chair in Digital Medicine (DigiHealthPD)

Prof. Sean Takats

Chair in Digital History Advanced Research Projects Accelerator (DHARPA)

FNR ATTRACT fellows

The FNR ATTRACT programme is designed for researchers not yet established in Luxembourg, who have the potential to become leaders in their field of research. The scheme offers promising junior researchers the opportunity to set up their own research team within one of the country's research institutions.

Current ATTRACT fellows at the University of Luxembourg

ATTRACT Starting Grants

Prof. Anne Grünewald

Modelling idiopathic Parkinson's disease-associated somatic variation in dopaminergic neurons (Model IPD)

Assoc. Prof. Anupam Sengupta

Microbial Biophysics of Rapid Adaptation in Changing Environments (MBRACE)

Assist. Prof. Etienne Fodor

Statistical Mechanics of Active Matter (SMAC)

ATTRACT Consolidator Grant

Assoc. Prof. Pedro Cardoso Leite

Scientifically validated digital learning environments (DIGILEARN)

Prof. Alex Redinger

Surface and interface science on photovoltaic materials (SUNSPOT)

Prof. Emma Schymanski

Environmental Cheminformatics to Identify Unknown Chemicals and their Effects (ECHIDNA)

Assoc. Prof. Thomas Cauvin

Public history as a new participatory model for interpreting the past

Assoc. Prof. Lindsay Flynn

PRO-Active Policymaking for Equal Lives (PROPEL)

Assoc. Prof. Aurélia Chenu

Quantum Dynamics and Control

Horizon Europe (2021-2027) projects

The University of Luxembourg has been actively involved in several large-scale projects. These projects span a wide range of research areas, exemplified by:



Health

"Accelerating drug repurposing for rare neurological, neurometabolic and neuromuscular disorders by exploiting SIMilarities in clinical and molecular PATHology".

[Horizon Europe](#)

Dr Ibrahim Boussaad

Workgroup leader "Drug screening"



Research training and career development

"Young International Academics for interdisciplinary postdoctoral fellows".

[Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions grant](#)

Prof. Claus Vögele

Head of the Institute for Advanced Studies
Programme Coordinator



Material science and engineering

"Atypical Liquid Crystal Elastomers: from Materials Innovation to Scalable processing and Transformative applications".

[ERC Synergy grant](#)

Prof. Jan Lagerwall
Project Coordinator



High-performance computing

EUMaster4HPC is a consortium which implements the first pan European HPC Master programme.

[EuroHPC Joint Undertaking](#)

Dr Katerine Saleme Ruiz

Project manager



Digital technologies and space exploration

"Autonomous and Self organized Artificial Intelligent Orchestrator for a Greener Industry 4.0".

[Horizon Europe](#)

Prof. Symeon Chatzinotas

Principal Investigator



Research data infrastructure ELIXIR-CONVERGE

ELIXIR-CONVERGE project funded by the European Commission to help standardise life science data management across Europe.

[Horizon Europe](#)

Prof. Reinhard Schneider
Head of ELIXIR Luxembourg Node



Climate action, sustainable energy, and mobility solutions

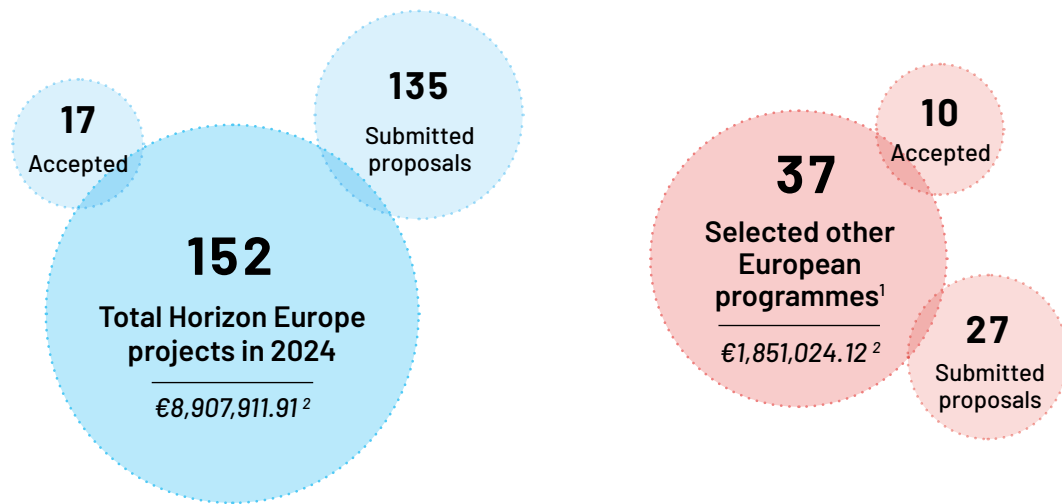
LuxHyVal launches a flagship hydrogen valley in Luxembourg to boost the penetration of hydrogen by deploying green hydrogen initiatives.

[Horizon Europe](#)

Prof. Bradley Paul Ladewig

Project Coordinator

Programmes in 2024



Total budget: €10,758,936.03²

¹ CERV, DIGITAL, ED, EDF, ERASMUS2027, ESF, EU4H, EUAF, INNOVFUND, JUST2027.

² EU contribution to UL budget.

