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Presentation of the Belgian Academic Delegation

Presentation of the Belgian academic delegation

Brussels: WB Campus, 2026

Responsible Publisher: Pascale Delcomminette

Wallonie-Bruxelles Campus

Place Sainctelette 2, 1080 Brussels, Belgium (postal address)

Rue Royale 180, 1000 Brussels, Belgium (office address)

Edition & coordination: WB Campus

Layout & printing: WB Campus

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Academic Delegation of French-Speaking Belgium

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HE Elisabeth DEGRYSE

Minister-President of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation

Elisabeth Degryse was born in Uccle on September 22, 1980. With a master's in political science, she was elected to the House of Representatives in the June 2024 federal elections as a member of civil society, before being appointed by her party as Minister-President of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation/French speaking community Government in July 2024.

For 12 years, she worked for the Mutualité Chrétienne in various positions. She was the first woman to become Vice-President. Prior to this, she worked in a Parliament (Brussels regional) and a ministerial cabinet (Employment and Equal Opportunities).

Experience:

Since July 2024: Minister-President of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation/French speaking community Government and Minister responsible for the Budget, Higher Education, School Buildings, Culture, Lifelong Learning, International Relations and the Francophonie.

June - July 2024: Member of the Belgian House of Representatives.

October 2023 - June 2024: Political Secretary of the « Les Engagés » movement.

July 2011 - October 2023: Alliance Nationale des Mutualités Chrétiennes (Vice-President, National Secretary, Director...).

December 2008 - June 2011: Deputy Chief of Staff - Office of the Federal Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Employment and Equal Opportunities.

May 2006 - November 2008: Parliamentary assistant - Brussels regional Parliament.

December 2004 - April 2006: Advisor to an Alderman - City of Brussels.

Education:

Master's in political science, majoring in International Relations (Université Catholique de Louvain)

University of Bergen, Norway (Erasmus)

Bachelor in History (Université Catholique de Louvain)



Mrs. Hélène JACQMIN
Chief of Staff to the Minister-President
of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation

Hélène Jacqmin is Chief of Staff to the Minister-President of the Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles, responsible for Culture, Lifelong Education, International Relations and the Francophonie, as well as Secretary of the Government, since July 2024.

Professional experience:

Chief of Staff to the Minister-President, Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles, since July 2024.

Director of the Civil Service Directorate, Public Service of Wallonia, since April 2014;
seconded to ministerial cabinets.

Director of Public Education, Municipality of Ixelles, from November 2019 to July 2024.

Member of the Management Committee, FAMIFED, from May 2016 to July 2018.

Government Commissioner, AViQ, from May 2016 to July 2018.

Deputy Chief of Staff, Cabinet of the Walloon Minister for Social Affairs, from January 2016 to January 2018.

Adviser, Cabinet of the Walloon Minister for Health, Equal Opportunities and Social Affairs, from January 2015 to May 2016.

Education:

Bachelor's degree in Law, Université Saint-Louis, 2001.

Master's degree in Law, Université catholique de Louvain, 2004.

Advanced Studies Diploma (D.E.S.) in Public and Administrative Law, Université libre de Bruxelles, 2006.

Interuniversity Certificate in Public Management, École d'Administration Publique, 2023.



HE Adrien DOLIMONT

Minister-President of the Government of Wallonia

Professional Experience:

2024 – Minister-President of Wallonia

Responsible for Budget, Finance, Research, and Animal Welfare.

Minister of Scientific Research for the Wallonia- Brussels Federation.

2022 – 2024 Minister of Budget, Finance, Airports and Sports Infrastructure.

2019 - 2022 Dolimont Consult LLC.

Engineer Consultant (Manager of Dolimont Consult LLC).

2021 – 2022 ESI SRL - Intelligent Solar Energy.

Administrator – Manager.

2019 – 2022 Ham-sur-Heure-Nalines Municipality.

President of Public Social Welfare Center in charge of Finance, Budget, Public Procurement and Folklore.

2011 – 2019 Dolimont Consult LLC.

Engineer Consultant (Manager of Dolimont Consult LLC).

2012 – 2018 Ham-sur-Heure-Nalines Municipality.

First Alderman, responsible for Finance, Public Procurement, Communication, Folklore, Sports, Playgrounds and Sports Camps.

2006 – 2012 Ham-sur-Heure-Nalines Municipality.

Fifth Alderman, responsible for Youth, Folklore, Tourism, Website and Fishing.

Education:

2018 Doctorate in Engineering Sciences and Technology, Polytechnic Faculty, University of Mons.

2009 – 2011 Master's in Engineering Sciences, Specialization : Civil Mechanical.

Engineering with a focus on Energy Engineering.

2006 – 2009 Bachelor's in Engineering Sciences, Specialization : Civil Engineering with a Mechanical focus.

PART 1: UNIVERSITIES



Université catholique de Louvain

Founded in 1425, the University of Louvain (UCLouvain) is one of Europe's oldest universities. It has 40,000 students, 20% of whom are international, spread over 7 campuses, the main one located in a unique environment a few kilometres south of Brussels and 3 others in the heart of the capital. UCLouvain is the country's leading French-speaking university and is ranked as Belgium's top university for sustainable development in the Times Higher Education (THE) rankings.

UCLouvain offers high-quality teaching in all disciplines, thanks to its 20 faculties and research activities focused on current societal issues such as climate change, democracy, global health, sustainable development and innovation. With 60 ERC (European Research Council) grants and numerous other international awards, teaching at UCLouvain is based on solid research and innovation, with many practical applications for society, as illustrated by the 72 spin-offs and over 270 companies in the university's two science parks. UCLouvain also has two university hospitals, one located in Brussels (Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc) and the other at the heart of Wallonia (CHU UCL Namur).

UCLouvain is part of the Circle U. European University alliance together with Aarhus University, King's College London, Humboldt University in Berlin, Université Paris-Cité, University of Belgrade, University of Pisa, University of Oslo and University of Vienna.

Since September 2023, the Université Saint-Louis - Bruxelles has merged with UCLouvain to become one of its campuses. Saint-Louis - Brussels is a campus on a human scale, with a strong emphasis on welcoming students and providing them with personalised support and guidance. It is also recognised for the quality of its bilingual and trilingual programmes, which it has been organising for over thirty years, and for its innovative facilities for intensive foreign language learning.



Prof. Dr. Françoise SMETS
Rector
Université catholique de Louvain

Professor Smets, a Doctor of Medicine and of health sciences, is a full clinical professor at the University of Louvain and was dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry. She was elected rector since 1st September 2024 for a 5-year term.

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Prof. Martin BUYSSE
Vice-rector Education
Université catholique de Louvain

Professor at the Faculty of Architecture, Architectural Engineering, and Urban Planning, and member of the Louvain Research Institute for Landscape, Architecture, Built Environment, Martin Buysse has held several key positions throughout his career. Since 2024, he has been Vice Rector for Education.

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Prof. Claude BRAGARD

Professor

Earth&Life institute

Université catholique de Louvain

Claude Bragard is a professor at the Catholic University of Louvain, specializing in plant health. He is an expert in risk assessment and biocontrol.

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EU Proposal Developer & Project Manager
Université catholique de Louvain

PhD and Civil Engineer in Physics, specialised in European collaborative innovation. I develop EU research proposals and manage funded projects across energy systems, advanced materials, AI, robotics, sustainable transport, and the circular economy.

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Dr. Véronique DIAS
Research coordinator
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PhD/HDR in science, specializing in combustion chemistry, kinetics, biofuels, energy and environment. I coordinate research projects and support the development of European collaborative initiatives dedicated to the energy transition and space.

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Mrs. Aline FERAIN
Project Manager “FoodWal”
Université catholique de Louvain

I am the project manager officer of "FoodWal", a portfolio of collaborative research projects aiming at developing disruptive approaches and innovative products with industrial potential to boost the quality and sustainability of food systems.

FoodWal is a portfolio of collaborative research projects aiming at developing disruptive approaches and innovative products with industrial potential to boost the quality and sustainability of food systems. General coordination of the portfolio is led by UCLouvain, a multi-site French-speaking Belgian university comprising 19 faculties across six Belgian cities.

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Mr. Samuel JUDE
Manager
Université catholique de Louvain

I am the current manager of a cybersecurity research and innovation consortium in French-speaking Belgium

The ICTEAM institute (Information and Communication Technologies, Electronics, and Applied Mathematics) is a leading research center committed to advancing knowledge and fostering innovation at the crossroads of information and communication technologies, electronics, and applied mathematics at UCLouvain

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Mrs. Dilara KASIKCI
EU Research Funding officer
Université catholique de Louvain

With a Master's degree in International Relations, I work within UCLouvain's Research Administration where I support our academics in the development and management of their research projects in the fields of emerging technologies, telecommunications, and space technologies.

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Mr. Sébastien NAHON
Director of the Media Innovation & Intelligibility
Université catholique de Louvain

Director of the Media Innovation & Intelligibility Lab at UCLouvain

The MiiL (Media Innovation and Intelligibility Lab) is UCLouvain's media innovation platform, dedicated to immersive experiences and the intelligibility of multimodal data. It brings together researchers, engineers and creators to develop innovative solutions at the intersection of media, technology and society.

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Project liaison officer of "FoodWal"
Université catholique de Louvain

I am the project liaison officer of "FoodWal", a portfolio of collaborative research projects aiming at developing disruptive approaches and innovative products with industrial potential to boost the quality and sustainability of food systems.

FoodWal is a portfolio of collaborative research projects aiming at developing disruptive approaches and innovative products with industrial potential to boost the quality and sustainability of food systems. General coordination of the portfolio is led by UCLouvain, a multi-site French-speaking Belgian university comprising 19 faculties across six Belgian cities.

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Mrs. Christel VACELET
Director, International Office
Université catholique de Louvain

Christel Vacelet is Director of the International Office at UCLouvain. She leads the university's internationalisation strategy, partnerships, mobility programmes and scholarship schemes. With deep expertise in European higher education networks, she combines strategic vision, political acumen and strong operational leadership to advance an open, globally engaged university.

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Dr. Annabelle GOUZE
Senior researcher / international Liaison
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Annabelle Gouze is a researcher at UCLouvain contributing to the international development of the XR Wallonia HITT initiative in immersive technologies (XR).

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Université de Liège

University of Liège is one of Belgium's leading universities, founded in 1817. ULiège welcomes 28,000 students, 23% of whom are of international origin (123 nationalities). ULiège is the public university of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation. It includes 11 Faculties representing the Humanities, Health Sciences, Sciences and Technology. With 39 bachelor's degrees and 194 master's degrees, its range of undergraduate and postgraduate courses is among the most diversified in Belgium. ULiège is located in 3 cities in Wallonia: Liège, Gembloux and Arlon. Its courses have several international quality labels (EQUIS, AACSB, AEEV, Conférence des Grandes Ecoles). ULiège collaborates with more than 1,000 teaching and research institutions throughout the world. It boosts its research centres in fields such as biotechnologies, life and medical sciences (human and veterinary), agronomy, space and engineering sciences, environment, etc., by developing partnerships with public authorities and companies. More than 100 spin-off companies created by ULiège are in activity. ULiège is a major employer in Wallonia: more than 5,700 employees, including 640 academic staff and 2,900 people involved in teaching and research activities. Together with the University Hospital (CHU) of Liège, this represents 12,000 direct jobs spread over the provinces of Liège, Namur and Luxembourg.

Thanks to its location close to the German border, ULiège has strong, long-standing relationships with German academic and industrial partners and offers joint degrees with German HEIs. The University of Liège is member of the University of the Greater Region network with German partners. The UniGR celebrated its 15th anniversary in 2023.

In research, the University of Liège is an active partner of the Einstein Telescope project with German research partners, sharing its expertise in aerospace and space sciences.

Last but not least, in our European alliance UNIC, ULiège collaborate closely with Ruhr Universität Bochum, sharing a post-industrial city context and the challenges associated with it.



Prof. Dr. Anne-Sophie NYSSSEN

Rector

Université de Liège

Anne-Sophie Nyssen has been Rector of the University of Liège since 1 October 2022, becoming the first woman to hold this position at a public university of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation. She also chairs the University's Board of Directors. At national level, she serves as President of the CReF (Council of Rectors) of the French Community of Belgium. She is a member of the Academy of Research and Higher Education (ARES), where she chaired the University Commission in 2022. She has also been President of the Léon Fredericq University Medical Foundation since 2022.

Anne-Sophie Nyssen is Full Professor of Work Psychology at the Faculty of Psychology, Speech Therapy and Education Sciences of the University of Liège. Prior to her appointment as Rector, she served as Vice-Rector for Teaching and Student Well-being. Her academic career is characterised by an interdisciplinary approach to human and organisational factors. After completing a PhD at ULiège and a postdoctoral stay at Stanford University, her research focused on work dynamics in sectors such as industry, aviation and healthcare. Her areas of expertise include human error, safety and accident analysis, well-being at work, cognitive ergonomics, decision-making, expertise development, technology design and evaluation, as well as the analysis and reliability of complex systems.

Alongside this, she has developed a strong interest in therapeutic communication and holds a certificate in Ericksonian hypnosis awarded by the Erickson Institute of Liège. She introduced innovative teaching on hypnotic processes and communication into university programmes and collaborated with Professor Marie-Elisabeth Faymonville (Liège University Hospital) on training related to the use of hypnosis in pain management. Deeply committed to institutional values, Anne-Sophie Nyssen launched the #RESPECT initiative during her term as Vice-Rector, aimed at combating all forms of discrimination within the University. She is also actively involved in the fight against sexual violence against women and girls, notably through the Mukwege International Chair at ULiège.

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Prof. Dr. Pierre DUYSINX
Vice-Rector for International Affairs
Université de Liège

Pierre DUYSINX is Professor of Automotive Engineering at University of Liege. He has a master's in aerospace engineering and a PhD in Structural Optimization from University of Liege. Pierre Duysinx has been assistant professor at Danish Technical University (1996-1997) before joining Uliege as Associate Professor (2003) and then full Professor (2009). He is the head of Automotive Engineering division of the Aerospace and Engineering Department. His research topics focus on Advanced Computer Aided Design for the computer simulation and numerical optimization of complex mechanical design systems, including lightweight design of aerospace and automotive structures, electric and hybrid powertrains, hydrogen and fuel cell applications in transportation. Pierre Duysinx has developed strong academic and industrial relationships in his field of expertise for 30 years.

Pierre Duysinx has been member and Vice-President of the Executive Committee of the International Society of Structural and Multidisciplinary Optimization (ISSMO) from 2016 to 2023.

Since October 2022, he is the Vice Rector in charge of International Affairs and Mobility at University of Liege.

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Prof. Marie-Laure FAUCONNIER
Dean, Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech
Full Professor
Head of the Laboratory of Chemistry of Natural Molecules
Université de Liège

Marie-Laure Fauconnier is Dean of Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech (University of Liège, Belgium) and Full Professor in chemistry of natural molecules. She leads the Laboratory of Chemistry of Natural Molecules, where her research focuses on plant secondary metabolites, including their extraction, characterization, biosynthesis, and valorization for applications in agronomy and the food sector.

Her work particularly addresses volatile organic compounds (VOCs), oxylipins, and essential oils, with an emphasis on their role in plant interactions, stress responses, and sustainable crop protection. She also studies flavor formation and modification during food processing.

She has an extensive experience in academic leadership, having held several institutional responsibilities, including Vice-President of the Research Council of the University of Liège and President of academic departments and doctoral programs.

She has authored over 360 peer-reviewed publications, with an h-index of 52 and more than 9,200 citations (Scopus). She has supervised more than 40 PhD theses and numerous research projects at national and international levels, including European and development cooperation programs.

Her work contributes to the development of sustainable agroecosystems and bio-based innovations, with strong collaborations in Europe and in several African countries.

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Prof. Dr. Oriane BODSON
Associate Professor and Research Assistant
Faculty of Medicine
Université de Liège

Oriane Bodson, Associate Professor and Research Assistant at the University of Liège, is affiliated with the Department of Public Health Sciences within the Faculty of Medicine. Her work focuses on public health and global health, with particular interest in health system financing, equity issues, and the analysis of policies and reforms, especially in low- and middle-income countries.

Holding master's degrees in public health and population sciences, a certificate in gender and development, and a PhD in political and social sciences, she has developed interdisciplinary expertise at the crossroads of health policies, social dynamics, and development.

She has extensive international experience, gained notably through research in West Africa, monitoring and evaluation work for Belgian development cooperation in Benin, and three years at the World Health Organization in Geneva, where she contributed to the development of national health strategies. In 2019, she was recognized among the leading French-speaking women in global health.

Her research focuses on governance, national strategies, health system reforms, and program evaluation. She collaborates with the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies and is actively involved in teaching and international research projects.

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Véronique Delcenserie obtained her degree in Veterinary Medicine at the University of Liège, Belgium, where she also defended a doctoral thesis in Veterinary Sciences, in food microbiology. She completed two post-doctoral fellowships in Canada between 2006 and 2009. A first at INAF (Institute of Nutraceuticals and Functional Foods), Laval University, and a second at CRIFS (Canadian Food Safety Research Institute), University of Guelph. Then, she held the position of research manager at CRIFS. Since December 2011, Véronique Delcenserie has been a professor at the University of Liège at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, within the FARAH research center (Fundamental and Applied Research for Animal and Health). She is the author of more than 60 publications and holds 4 international patents. The research themes of Prof. V. Delcenserie focus on food microbiology and microbial ecosystems of the digestive tract. Current research projects in her laboratory focus on the potential effect of food additives on the development of inflammatory disease. Other projects aim to identify food ingredients capable of inducing the production of metabolites improving gut health or mental health.

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Prof. Eric HAUBRUGE

Professor

Advisor to the Rector for Innovation and Regional Development

Gembloux Agro-Biotech Faculty

Université de Liège

Eric Haubruge is a professor at the University of Liège and an advisor to the Rector on innovation and regional development. He holds a Ph.D. in agricultural sciences and biological engineering, has authored or co-authored more than 300 scientific publications, and has supervised numerous theses and dissertations. His career combines academic excellence, high-level research, and a commitment to innovation. As a former Vice-Rector and First Vice-Rector of ULiège, he played a major role in the strategic development of Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech, notably through the creation of the TERRA Research Center (www.terra.uliege.be). Deeply committed to promoting research and regional development, he is also a co-founder of several spin-offs (www.purver.com, www.drinksowood.com) and of the Smart Gastronomy Lab (www.smartgastronomy.be), Wallonia's first living lab.

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Prof. Philippe JACQUES

Professor

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Philippe Jacques is a professor of Microbiology and Industrial Microbiology. He is also the lead of the Digibiocontrol Strategic Innovation Initiative.

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Prof. Gaëtan KERSCHEN
Professor of Aerospace Engineering
Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering Department
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The Department of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering at the University of Liège has a long-standing tradition in computational mechanics. Under the impetus of Prof. Fraeijns De Veubeke, it was among the pioneers in the development of the finite element method. Today, the department covers the full spectrum of aerospace engineering, including propulsion, aerodynamics, fluid dynamics, materials, control, computational mechanics, turbomachinery, and aerospace structures. The department has particularly strong expertise in structural dynamics with five faculty members actively working in this field: Profs. Thomas Adrienne (aeroelasticity), Olivier Brûls (mechatronics), Christophe Collette (active control), Gaëtan Kerschén (nonlinear vibrations), and Loïc Salles (turbomachinery).

Prof. Gaëtan Kerschén is the founder and director of the Space Structures and Systems Laboratory. His research focuses on vibration and orbital mechanics, and he teaches courses in satellite engineering, nonlinear vibrations and astrodynamics. Over the years, his team has developed innovative methods for the modeling, simulation, and experimental testing of aerospace structures, with a particular emphasis on nonlinear vibrations arising from contact, friction, material and geometrical nonlinearities. He is also the founder of NOLISYS, a startup developing advanced software and engineering solutions for nonlinear vibrating systems. His research has led to collaborations with major aerospace organizations, including Safran, Pratt & Whitney Canada, Airbus, ArianeGroup, and the European Space Agency. He was the principal investigator of OUF1-1, a nanosatellite launched aboard a Soyuz rocket on April 25, 2016.

He is the recipient of several prestigious international awards, including three European Research Council (ERC) grants. He was awarded the 2017 Doak Prize from the Journal of Sound and Vibration, the 2017 SAGE Publishing Young Engineer Award and the 2023 SEM D.J. DeMichele Award.

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Dr. Cécile NOUET
Senior Researcher
Translational Plant Biology
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Dr. Cécile Nouet holds a Master's degree in Microbiology from Grenoble Alpes University (France), McGill University (Canada) and Institut Pasteur (France), as well as a Master's degree in Didactics from the University of Namur (Belgium). She earned her PhD at the CNRS Centre de Génétique Moléculaire (Versailles–Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines), where she investigated mitochondrial gene regulation and myopathies. She then completed postdoctoral research at The Ohio State University, focusing on the bioenergetics of algae.

Since joining the University of Liège in 2009, she has specialized in plant biology, working on genetics, metal tolerance and plant adaptation to contaminated soils, with a strong commitment to soil health and Nature-based strategies (phytomanagement) for restoring degraded and derelict lands. She taught first- and third-year students for six years and supervised numerous trainees. She also coordinated the ECOSOL (ERDF) project, which aimed to cultivate pollution-tolerant species on brownfields for temporary land reuse, production of bioactive compounds and soil rehabilitation.

As coordinator of the Waste2Bio Strategic Innovation Initiative, Cécile now leads a regional ecosystem of 135 partners working to rehabilitate wastelands through plant–microbe interactions, ecological engineering and the development of biobased value chains within the EU Smart Specialisation Strategy.

Cécile is strongly involved in international cooperation. She sits on the boards of NICOLE, Europe's leading forum for sustainable land management, and the Brownfield Academy at the Walloon scale. She is co-founder of LacYme, which promotes citizen participation in urban ecology, and is active in communities such as the Société Québécoise de Phytotechnologies, Valbiom, SoilCareNetwork, UNIC and the Global Soil Biodiversity Initiative.

She also contributes to art–science collaborations, notably the *Tellus Project* with artist Caroline Le Méhauté, exploring polluted soils, phytoremediation and human–nature relationships through creative scientific dialogue.

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Prof. Michaël SCHYNS

Full Professor – Head of the HEC XR Lab

Digital Business

HEC-Management School of the University of Liège

Michaël Schyns holds degrees in Computer Science and in Management Sciences. He is a full professor of Digital Business at HEC Liège-Management School of the University of Liège. His main fields of interest are Business Analytics, Machine Learning, Operations Research, and new digital technologies for business. He is the head of a research and development lab in eXtended Reality (XR). Michaël Schyns' current research focuses on the application of XR within business and society. Since founding his XR laboratory ten years ago, he has developed extensive expertise in applied research, fostering numerous national and international partnerships with corporations and educational institutions.

He is notably one of three Belgian representatives on the European Commission's "Virtual Worlds and Web 4.0" steering committee. His lab develops comprehensive XR solutions, including within the context of Interreg projects such as the "Digital Twin Academy", which created a synchronized digital replica of Liege Airport, and "4VIR-HEALTH," dedicated to healthcare promotion and training. Additionally, his lab develops XR tools to support the University's educational strategy, including a flagship application for mastering public speaking. As a Professor, Michaël places a strong emphasis on education and training. He teaches Digital Business at HEC Liège, covering subjects ranging from IT fundamentals to Machine Learning. He leads the Digital Business specialization, a unique dual-degree program allowing students to earn two Master's degrees in Management and Computer Science. He currently serves as the President of the Business Engineering Master's program and was previously the Director of Studies at HEC Liège.

Michaël is deeply involved in institutional governance. In addition to his academic and European roles, he is a member of the Administration board of HEC Liège ("Conseil de l'Ecole") and its Executive School. He previously served an eight-year term on the Board of Directors of the University of Liège and is a past President of the Belgian Operational Research Society.

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Mrs. Oriana BERTUCCI
Director, International Relations
Université de Liège

Oriana Bertucci is Director of International Relations at the University of Liège. She oversees the university's international partnerships and initiatives, and supports the international strategy, including the development of global collaborations in education, research, and institutional cooperation.

Her work focuses on strengthening international engagement, increasing the University of Liège's visibility on the global stage, and fostering strategic relationships with partner universities and organizations worldwide.

With a strong background in higher education and international cooperation, she has developed extensive experience in stakeholder engagement, programme development, and the internationalisation of academic environments. She has worked in international contexts, including in Canada and the United States, and brings a global perspective to her work.

She is particularly committed to fostering sustainable partnerships, supporting student and researcher mobility, and enhancing dialogue between institutions, with a focus on shared academic values, innovation, and societal impact.

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Mrs. Catherine DASSIS
International Partnership Officer
International Office
Université de Liège

Catherine is an International Partnership Officer in the International Relations Office at the University of Liège.

She is responsible for the development and coordination of international partnerships, joint degrees and joint PhD agreements. She also manages several Erasmus+ programmes such as Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters and Cooperation partnerships.

In this role, she actively contributes to the implementation of the University of Liège's internationalisation strategy by supporting faculties in the development of internationally oriented programmes and initiatives.

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Ir. Didier MATTIVI

Director

RISE

Didier Mattivi holds a diploma of Civil Engineering with a major in physics from Liege University as well as a degree in management from Solvay Business School (Université Libre de Bruxelles). Mr. Mattivi started his career in IT in the banking sector before moving into sales at Cisco. In 2005 he started IP Trade a start up building telephony solution for trading floors; the company reached a position of number 2 on the worldwide and was purchased by British Telecom in 2017. Didier left BT in 2019 and started different ventures. In 2021 Didier joined Liege University as Director of RISE – the research and innovation administration in charge of internal management of research, research financing and knowledge transfer.

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Université de Mons

The University of Mons (UMONS) is located near the Belgian-French border, in the cities of Mons, European Capital of Culture in 2015, and Charleroi. UMONS includes 7 Faculties, 3 Schools and 10 Research Institutes among which the Engineering Faculty, founded in 1837, is the oldest Engineering Faculty in Belgium. UMONS offers bachelors, masters, and PhD degrees, some of them taught in English. UMONS has around 150 different degree programs on offer to its 11.000 students at Bachelor, Master and PhD level in fields as diverse as Law, Psychology, Social Sciences, Biomedical Science, Economics, Electrical Engineering, Management, Material Science, Mechanical Engineering, Urban Planning, Information Technology, Architecture, Interpretation, Speech Therapy, Mathematics, Chemistry, Pharmacy, Translation Education, Biology, Geology, Medicine. All faculties offer PhD theses supervised in English. Double degrees can also be awarded, for example within the TIME network.

With 1000 researchers (550 PhD students), the research objectives of UMONS are settled both at the regional and international levels. Through its quality research and excellence, UMONS is a nationally and internationally recognized institution. The growing number of publications in referenced scientific journals and of citations in international scientific publications, has led to the university being ranked among the best universities in international rankings, such as EU U-Multirank (Top 100 for the internationalization of its publications) and QS (top 400 mondial for citations), for the productivity of its scientific research.

UMONS is one of the ten European Universities integrated in the European University Alliance EUNICE. Its Rector was the first President of EUNICE University from 2022 to 2024.



Prof. Dr. Philippe DUBOIS

Rector

Université de Mons

Philippe Dubois, Ph.D. in sciences, is rector-president of University of Mons (Belgium) and 1st President of the European University EUNICE (+170.000 students/researchers over 10 countries in Europe). He is full professor at Faculty of Sciences where he set up the Center of Innovation and Research in Materials & Polymers CIRMAP. His expertise covers organic chemistry; macromolecular chemistry; catalysis in polymer materials; and (reactive) processing of (nano)composites and nanohybrid materials, including biosourced polymers. He is personally ranked (18th) in “Top 100 materials scientists of the 2000-2010 decade” by Thomson Reuters and published in *Times*.

Currently he is president and scientific director of Materia Nova Research Center, Mons. He is adjunct professor at the Chemical Engineering Faculty, Michigan State University, MSU, Lansing (US), honorary professor at University of Luxembourg, guest professor at the National key-lab of Chemical Engineering, Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, China, honorary professor at Sichuan University, Chengdu, China and Invited professor at Université Polytechnique Hauts-de-France. He joined the Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology (LIST) where, as scientific director in 2016-17, he launched and installed the National Composite Center of Luxembourg (NCC-L).

Ph. Dubois was vice-rector of research of UMONS for more than 7 years and president of the Royal Society of Chemistry in Belgium in 2006-2007. Ph. Dubois is titular member of the Royal Academy of Sciences, Belgium (since 2010) and elected member of the European Academy of sciences EurASc (Engineering Division) (since 2017). In 2024, he became *Doctor Honoris Causa* of University of Montpellier, France and *Honorary Professor* of Sichuan University, China.

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Prof. Dr. Laurence RIS
Vice-Rector for International Relations, Mobility and
Cooperation
Université de Mons

Master in Biological Sciences from the University of Mons 1994, and holder of a PhD in Biology since 1997, Laurence Ris specializes in neuroscience, with a particular focus on the mechanisms of memory and learning. After serving as a doctoral and postdoctoral research fellow with the Belgian National Fund for Scientific Research (FNRS), she completed an initial research stay at the Collège de France in Paris (CNRS). In 2002, she obtained her habilitation thesis for her work on brain plasticity.

She subsequently carried out a research stay at University College London (WIBR) before being appointed FNRS Research Associate in 2003 within the Department of Neurosciences of UMONS. There, she developed recognized expertise in electrophysiology and neuronal connection plasticity, reflected in numerous national and international collaborations.

Lecturer since 2012 and Full Professor since 2018, she was the Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy from 2014 to 2022. She is currently responsible for the Biomedical Section, within which she launched, in 2019, a specialized Master's degree in Neuroscience, fully taught in English. She is also co-founder of the Interdisciplinary Centre for Psychophysiology and Electrophysiology of Cognition (CiPsE) at the University of Mons.

She was President of the Belgian Neuroscience Society from 2015 to 2017 and President of the Belgian Brain Council between 2021 and 2025. She served as a member of the Scientific Committee of the Belgian Alzheimer Research Foundation from 2015 to 2023 (STOP Alzheimer) and is member of the international ALBA network, which promotes equity and diversity in brain sciences. Committed to development cooperation, she has coordinated a research and development project in partnership with the University of Lubumbashi in the Democratic Republic of Congo between 2015 and 2022.

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Prof. Dr. Ruddy WATTIEZ
Vice-Rector for Research, Innovation
and Entrepreneurship
Université de Mons

With a PhD in Chemical Sciences, Ruddy Wattiez's career as a researcher has been in the field of chemistry, and more particularly in biochemistry and protein chemistry. He graduated from the UMH and obtained his PhD in 1990. He then undertook numerous training periods in foreign institutions, such as the Beckman Research Center (USA) and the Institut de Biosciences et Biotechnologies of the CEA in Grenoble. After being appointed as a qualified FNRS researcher, he became director of the Proteomics and Microbiology Unit in 2007 and then professor in 2011.

Over the years, his expertise in protein chemistry has led him to forge numerous links with foreign institutions, including the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, UC Berkeley, the University of Stirling, the Institut Pasteur in Paris and the European Space Agency. He initiated the creation of the Belgian Proteomics Association and the UMONS Biosciences Research Institute, of which he was president for almost 4 years.

Based on his experience, he developed, and is currently director of, the inter-university bioprofiling platform. After serving as Dean of the Faculty of Science in 2016, he is now Scientific Director of the Materia Nova Research Centre. He is Vice-Rector for Research at UMONS since 2018.

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Prof. Dr. Anne- Emilie DECLEVES

President of the Research Institute for Health Sciences and Technology

Université de Mons

Anne-Emilie Declèves is Professor of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry at the University of Mons (Belgium). She is the leader of the Metabolic and molecular Biochemistry Laboratory and serves as the President of the Institute for Health Sciences and technology. She obtained a Master in Biological Sciences from the ex-Université de Mons-Hainaut (UMH) in 2003, and received her Ph.D. degree in Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences from University of Namur (Belgium) in 2008. Thereafter, she joined the Center for Renal Translational Medicine at University of California, San Diego (USA) for a 3-year postdoctoral fellowship where she was engaged in advanced research training in the field of obesity-related kidney disease and targeted delivery of therapeutics for kidney disease. After completing her postdoctoral research at UCSD, she obtained an incoming post-doc fellowship co-funded by the Marie-Curie Actions of the European commission to pursue her research in kidney diseases in Belgium. For the past 15 years, she has pursued a dedicated and coherent translational research program focused on the renal complications, particularly in metabolic diseases, developing strong expertise in phenotypic analysis through imaging, molecular, and biochemical approaches.

Lecturer since 2015 and Full Professor since 2024, she is President of the Institute for Health Sciences and technology, within which she co-founded AdHuCell, a technological platform at UMons dedicated to complex and innovative three-dimensional (3D) cell culture methods. In addition to her academic responsibilities, she is President of the F.N.R.S. Contact Group “Phénomènes oxydatifs et antioxydants” and is an active member of the international European Renal Cell Study Group (ERCSG), which is dedicated to promote networking between European scientists to discuss advances in basic and clinical research. She is also a member of the Board of Directors of Biowin S.A. and serves on the scientific board in collaboration with hospital partners.

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Dr. Kevin EL HADDAD

Project Management Officer for the WAL4XR

Head of R&D for Diabolocom

Université de Mons

Kevin El Haddad holds a PhD in Engineering Sciences from the University of Mons (UMONS), Belgium. As a researcher specializing in conversational AI, agentic systems, human-agent interaction, and Extended Reality (XR), he focuses on developing intelligent assistive systems designed to enhance productivity and provide societal value. His work serves to align academic innovation with industrial application.

He currently serves as the Project Management Officer for Wal4XR, a Walloon-funded initiative at UMONS. In this capacity, he oversees the operations of a consortium comprising five universities and two research centers, overseeing the operations of 15 researchers dedicated to advancing immersive technologies.

In the private sector, he leads Research and Development for the firm Diabolocom. His work involves developing and implementing AI systems tailored for customer interaction applications, ensuring theoretical models are translated into functional enterprise solutions.

With a background in the startup ecosystem, he co-founded Phedone, a company focused on AI-based systems for client support automation. Following the acquisition of Phedone by Diabolocom in 2023, he has continued to steer the integration of these automated technologies within broader commercial frameworks.

He also contributes to several EU-funded initiatives, including AI4Debunk. Within this project, he develops agentic systems that serve as decision-support tools designed to identify and mitigate disinformation.

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Prof. Dr. Ir. Olivier KAUFMANN

Head of the Geology and Applied Geology Department

Université de Mons

With a master in Mining Engineering (1993) at the Faculté Polytechnique de Mons, an Additional Degree in Management (1994) and Diploma of Specialized Studies in Management (Industrial Management) (1995) at Facultés Universitaires Catholiques à Mons, Olivier Kaufmann, started his professional activities at the interface of industry and research. He came back at the Faculté Polytechnique in 1996 to pursue a PhD in Applied Sciences (2000) on the mapping, detection, and hazard assessment and management of cover-collapse sinkholes. He specializes in applied geophysics, geomatics and 3D geological modeling.

After obtaining his PhD, he held the positions of Assistant (2001), Assistant Professor (2005) and Professor (2013) at the Polytechnic Faculty of Mons and furthered his expertise through short training and research stays (USA, UK, France, Austria...). Since 2012, he has served as head of the Geology and Applied Geology Department. Within the Mining and Geology Engineering degree committee, he played a key role in streamlining the program and securing its accreditation. He teaches in French on GIS and geomatics, geostatistics and geological modeling, applied geophysics, and karst and natural hazards to master's students in Mining and Geology Engineering. He is in charge of an applied geophysics field camp and helps supervise a geology field camp for these students. He also teaches in English to master's students in Energy Engineering and students of the Erasmus Mundus SMACCs.

He participates in the research and exploration of deep structures and regional reservoirs for geothermal energy using potential field methods and seismic reflection. He also conducts numerical modeling of abandoned underground coal mines for methane capture and underground thermal storage. Olivier Kaufmann is an involved member of the Research Institute for Energy, and of the Research Institute for the Science and Management of Risks of the University of Mons. Committed to the Learning by Doing and Open Science movements, he is an active member of the OhmPi team, which develops and promotes an open hardware and open software resistivity meter for laboratory and small-scale field experiments.

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Prof. Dr. Romina RINALDI
Professor and Head
of the Clinical Orthopedagogy Unit
Université de Mons

Romina Rinaldi holds a master's degree in psychology with a specialization in clinical neuropsychology obtained at the University of Mons in 2012. She was awarded a doctoral fellowship to conduct her PhD research at the Unit of Cognitive Psychology and Neuropsychology and successfully defended her doctoral thesis in Psychological Sciences in 2015. Following her doctorate, she combined postdoctoral research positions within the Clinical Orthopedagogy Unit (UMONS) with clinical and managerial experience in specialized mental health care settings for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. In 2021, she became Head of the Clinical Orthopedagogy Unit at UMONS, where she also serves as Associate Professor. In this role, she secured the accreditation for and continues to coordinate an interuniversity master's program in clinical orthopedagogy. Recognized since 2016 as a protected professional title and an autonomous healthcare profession, clinical orthopedagogy addresses prevention, assessment, and intervention for individuals with educational, behavioral, developmental, or learning difficulties.

The program is designed to train high-level practitioners capable of delivering evidence-based, person-centered support across a wide range of disability and neurodevelopmental contexts. She is also Vice-President of the UMONS Health Institute and academic coordinator of a university certificate in low vision, developed within the *UMONS – Les Amis des Aveugles* chair, the first university chair in Belgium exclusively dedicated to visual impairment. More recently, she founded and now coordinates the Center for Interdisciplinary Research on Disability and Inclusion (CIRDI), a joint research initiative bringing together researchers from the University of Mons and external partners including LES CEDRES (a specialized organization supporting students with disabilities in higher education) and the SUSA Foundation (which supports nearly 3,000 individuals with autism spectrum disorder across the French-speaking region of Belgium). Her research focuses on mental health, quality of life, and equitable access to healthcare for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, with a strong commitment to person-centered approaches and inclusive research practices.

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Université de Namur

Founded in 1831, the University of Namur (UNamur) carries on the values of the Jesuit traditions of openness, excellence, freedom, and sustainability in its mission of teaching, research, and service to society. UNamur's priority is to educate students and young researchers to become responsible and active members of the society and encourage them not only to acquire solid knowledge in their chosen fields of study, but also to engage in extra-curricular activities and in social, cultural, and humanitarian projects.

The University is situated in Namur, the capital city of Wallonia. It is home to some 7500 students studying in more than 50 academic programs offered by seven different Faculties. The programs are embedded in strong research capabilities. Researchers collaborate in the framework of eleven transdisciplinary research institutes and nine research platforms. Research activities are clustered around five main transversal topics: Life and Health Sciences, Information and Communication Technologies and Society; Heritages, Cultures and Societies, Economic and Social Vulnerabilities and Materials, Energy and Environment.

UNamur is a member of the European Alliance UNIVERSEH and of several other international networks, and it collaborates with many international partners. It plays an important role at local, regional, and national level by encouraging a dialogue with economic and political actors. It contributes to the creation and the transmission of knowledge and to high quality education for all students, regardless of their origin. It promotes excellence in research and attaches great importance to the wellbeing of the entire academic community.



Prof. Dr. Annick CASTIAUX

Rector

Université de Namur

Doctor in Physics, Annick Castiaux began her career as an FNRS fellow at the Solid Physics Laboratory of the University of Namur. In 1998, after a post-doctoral experience in France, she left academia to start a career as a consultant in Information Management at IRIS, an international company active in the field of digital economy.

In 2002, she was appointed as a professor in the Management Department of the UNamur, where she has developed a new curriculum in business engineering. At the same time, she launched a research group in Innovation Management to study technology and innovation, with an approach paying great attention to social responsibility and sustainable development. Her interest in exploring creative and innovation processes and their impact on society has led her to cofound (in 2014) the TRAKK a creative hub, where actors from different backgrounds can interact and collaborate on a number of projects. In 2015 she cofounded the *Creativity and Innovation Research Centre (CIRCé)*, a research unit operating within the Namur Digital Institute and whose aim is to study innovation ecosystems.

Director of the Management department from 2013 to 2017, she has been serving as academic Director for International Affairs from 2013 to 2017 and as Vice-rector for teaching, quality assurance, communication and digital transition from 2017 to 2021. Since 2018 she is the representative of the Association of French-speaking rectors in the EUA working group on Innovation ecosystems.

From 2020-2021 she was a member of the Strategic committee of *Get Up Wallonia*. Elected Rector of the University of Namur in March 2021, she was reappointed in 2025 for a second term.

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Prof. Dr. Stéphane LEYENS
Vice-Rector for International Relations and Cooperation
Université de Namur

Stéphane LEYENS obtained a Master's degree in Biological Sciences in 1986 (University of Namur) and a Master's degree in Philosophy in 1996 (Catholic University of Louvain). In 2004, he defended his doctoral thesis in philosophy (Catholic University of Louvain), which focused on practical reasoning and the question of objectivity in ethics (*Explicitation conceptuelle et engagement moral*, Presses Universitaires de Namur, 2007).

He is currently Professor of Philosophy in the Department of Sciences, Philosophies and Societies, within the Faculty of Sciences, at the University of Namur. His research focuses on development ethics, interculturality and social justice. He leads several research projects on issues of human development and social justice, combining field research and theoretical philosophy, in the context of countries in the Global South (India, the Philippines, Peru, Morocco).

For over fifteen years, he has been involved in various programmes of the Belgian University International Cooperation. In this framework, he is the coordinator at the University of Namur of the international inter-university Master's programme "Integrated Health Risk Management".

He has also been the director of the University of Namur's NGO, the Forum Universitaire pour la Coopération Internationale au Développement (FUCID), of which he is currently president.

Since September 2025, he has been Vice-Rector for International Relations and Cooperation. In this role, he is responsible for international mobility (students and staff), academic diplomacy, international cooperation with the Global South, and the university's position within the European Alliance 'Universeh'.

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Prof. Dr. Jeroen DARQUENNES

Professor

Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures

School of Philosophy and Humanities

Université de Namur

Jeroen Darquennes is a full professor of German linguistics and general linguistics. His research focuses primarily on language contact and conflict within linguistic minorities in Europe.

He is the author of dozens of publications on aspects of language policy and planning in Europe, one of the editors of *Sociolinguistica* (the European sociolinguistics yearbook published by De Gruyter Brill), co-general editor of the series *Handbücher zur Sprach- und Kommunikationswissenschaft* (De Gruyter Brill), co-general editor of the *Multilingual Matters* series, and a member of the editorial boards of international journals such as the *Journal of Historical Sociolinguistics* (De Gruyter) and *Language Problems and Language Planning* (John Benjamins).

He served as director of the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures from 2012 to 2015. From 2016 to 2021, he directed the Namur Institute for Language, Text, and Transmediality (NaLTT, founded in 2016). In September 2017, he was appointed Special Advisor for International Development and Academic Coordinator of the International Relations Office at UNamur. From 2021 to 2025, he served as Vice-Rector for International Relations and Chair of the Board of Directors and General Assembly of FUCID, UNamur's NGO dedicated to international cooperation. In 2021–2022, he held a Francqui Chair (Multilingualism and Language Contact) at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel. He is currently a visiting researcher at the University of Montreal, where he collaborates with members of the Canada Research Chair in Comparative Linguistic Minorities in the Department of World Literatures and Languages.

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Prof. Dr. Florence GEORGE

Professor
Faculty of Law
Université de Namur

Florence George is a Professor at the UNamur Faculty of Law and a lawyer.

She teaches Civil Liability Law, the Law of Obligations, Special Contract Law, and Insolvency Law.

She also serves as the Erasmus Academic Coordinator for the Faculty of Law

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Prof. Dr. Jean-Pierre GILLET

Full professor and Director of the Laboratory of Molecular Cancer
Biology
Department of Biomedical Sciences, Faculty of Medicine
Université de Namur

Jean-Pierre Gillet is a full professor in the Department of Biomedical Sciences at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Namur. He holds a PhD in molecular and cellular biology and is a renowned expert in the mechanisms of multidrug resistance in cancer.

After seven years at the National Cancer Institute (NIH, USA), he joined UNamur in 2012, where he teaches pharmacology, biotechnology, and non-clinical drug development. He leads the Laboratory of Molecular Cancer Biology within the Namur Cancer Research Pole of the NARILIS Institute, in close collaboration with the CHU UCL Namur.

His work follows an integrated approach, bridging fundamental research and clinical applications. His team combines cutting-edge studies on ABC transporters with translational projects targeting refractory cancers, including esophageal adenocarcinoma, hepatocellular carcinoma, and acute myeloid leukemia. The innovative exploration of animal venoms as a source of bioactive molecules further demonstrates his ability to open new scientific avenues and bring together interdisciplinary expertise to identify novel therapeutic targets and improve patient care. He has received several distinctions, including the Adrien Bauchau Prize and the NCI Director's Intramural Career Development Innovation Award.

As a member of the Scientific Council for Translational and Clinical Research of the Fondation against Cancer and the scientific commission of Télévie, he actively helps shape oncology research in Belgium. Since 2023, he has represented the academic body on the Board of Administrators of the University of Namur.

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Dr. Laurence MEURANT

Senior Research Fellow

Department of French and Romance Languages and Literatures,
School of Philosophy and Humanities
Université de Namur

Laurence Meurant is a Senior Research Fellow at the F.R.S.-FNRS at the University of Namur, where she teaches the courses “Language, Gesture, Sign” and “Issues in General Linguistics” in the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters. With her doctoral dissertation (2006), devoted to the role of gaze in the sign language of French-speaking Belgium (LSFB), she pioneered the field of signed language linguistics in the Wallonia-Brussels Federation (FWB). In 2013, she founded the LSFB-Lab, the first and only research team dedicated to the study of French Belgian Sign Language, which she has led since its inception. She is responsible for creating the first large-scale LSFB corpus as well as a comparable corpus of multimodal spoken French data.

These resources enable the LSFB-Lab team to conduct comparative analyses between sign language and spoken language. Laurence’s research interests have always been driven by questions arising from the field and society, particularly those related to bilingual education for deaf students and adults. Since 2004, she has been a scientific partner in the bilingual education program (LSFB–French) established at Sainte-Marie School in Namur, where she provided continuing education for teachers until 2022.

In 2022, through a collaboration with the UNamur School of Computer Science, she created the first bilingual LSFB–French dictionary that can be searched in both French and sign language (via webcam). At UNamur, Laurence served as president of the Namur Research Institute for Language, Text, and Transmediality (NaLTT) from 2021 to 2025, which brings together 55 academic and scientific researchers. She has also been a member of UNamur’s Ethics Committee for the Humanities since 2017. Outside UNamur, she has been a full member of the “Council for the French Language, Endogenous Regional Languages, and Language Policies” since 2021, serving as an expert in sign language. Since 2012, she has also been in charge of the F.R.S.-FNRS “Contact Group” dedicated to the linguistics of Belgium’s sign languages.

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Dr. Gilles PERROUIN
FNRS Research Associate
Faculty of Computer Science, PReCISE/NaDI
Université de Namur

I am a FNRS Research associate (“chercheur qualifié”) at the Namur Digital Institute (NADI) and the Faculty of Computer Science of the University of Namur in Belgium. After I received my PhD jointly from the Universities of Luxembourg and Namur in 2007, I held several postdoctoral positions at the universities of Rennes, Luxembourg and Namur. My research interests involve quality assurance of variability-intensive, intelligent, complex systems and software testing techniques to achieve more ethical and sustainable machine learning.

In particular, I developed combinatorial interaction testing, mutation-driven, and sampling techniques for variability-intensive systems (e.g., software product lines, configurable software) for which I received two 10-year Most Influential Paper awards in 2024 from the SPLC and VAMOS conferences. This expertise led me to recently investigate their role in various categories of software systems, including Real-time and AI-based software. In total, I co-authored more than 100 publications in peer-reviewed venues.

I am a member of IEEE and ACM. Since 2020, I am an associate editor at the ACM Transactions on Software Engineering and Methodology journal and the Wiley Software Testing Verification and Reliability journal. I also serve in the program committee of major testing and software engineering conferences such as ICST or ICSE.

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Université libre de Bruxelles

With one-third of its students and researchers coming from abroad, the Université libre de Bruxelles is one of the most multicultural Belgian universities. It has a long-held tradition of excellence, thanks to its more than 220 research units, 8 interdisciplinary institutes, over 2,000 PhD candidates and more than 3.600 researchers and members of academic staff in all fields. It received 4 scientific Nobel Prizes out of the 6 awarded to Belgians, among them the 2013 Nobel Prize in Physics. Actively involved in the European Research Area, ULB has obtained to this day 41 ERC grants and received European funding (COFUND) to host international post-doctoral researchers.

With its 12 faculties, Schools and Institutes, it trains students in all disciplines, closely combining cutting-edge research and education. ULB also recently spearheaded the creation of a large-scale university hospitals network and a scientific biopark dedicated to technological innovation. Open to the world, ULB has set up many partnerships with some of the world's top universities and is a proud member of the CIVIS European Alliance. Since its creation, ULB has been cultivating the flame of freedom. It has constantly demonstrated its independence and its commitment to the great struggles for democracy, individual liberties and human rights.



Prof. Dr. Annemie SCHAUS
Rector
Université libre de Bruxelles

Annemie Schaus holds a law degree from ULB (1988) as well as a postgraduate diploma in international law (1989). Her research and teaching at the ULB Faculty of Law and Criminology focus primarily on public law, the interaction between domestic and international law - particularly the implementation of international treaties within a federal state - as well as the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms, the vast majority of which derive from international and European law. She also coordinates a Rights and Freedoms Legal Clinic within the Faculty. Despite this full-time academic commitment, she has always maintained a link with legal practice and remains a member of the Brussels Bar.

She practised as a lawyer full time for five years after completing her studies (1988–1992), notably within the law firm of Roger Lallemand when he was defending the legislation decriminalising abortion. Her specialisation in rights and freedoms led her to become involved in human rights organisations, such as the international NGO European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR), based in Berlin. Its sister organisation, the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR – New York), enabled her to work alongside the renowned Michael Ratner (†), lead counsel for Julian Assange. Annemie Schaus served as Dean of the ULB Faculty of Law and Criminology (September 2007 – January 2011), and subsequently as Vice-Rector for Institutional Relations and Knowledge Transfer (2011–2012), followed by Vice-Rector for Academic Policies (2012–2016).

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Prof. Dr. Marius GILBERT
Research Director, FNRS
Vice-Rector for Research
Université libre de Bruxelles

Professor Marius Gilbert is Vice-Rector for Research and Valorization at the Université Libre de Bruxelles. He started his research career as a visiting researcher at the University of Oxford, obtained a PhD on the spatial epidemiology of a forest insect pest at ULB, where he was awarded in 2006 a permanent FNRS-FRS academic position. In 2016, he founded the Spatial Epidemiology Lab (SpELL) and lead it until 2023. During the COVID pandemic, he joined the expert group assembled by Prime Minister Sophie Wilmes to advise the government and was at the forefront of the expert communication in the media. In September 2020, he published a book titled “Juste un passage au JT”, which aimed to popularize the science behind the pandemic and to share the experience of a scientist's journey at the nexus of political decision and communication. His research interests include emerging infectious diseases and global changes.

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Dr. Arnaud TERMONIA
Chief of Staff to the Rector
Université libre de Bruxelles

As a bioengineer (1995) and PhD in life sciences (2002), I have worked alternately in academia and industry, in the fields of life sciences as well as training and education. I co-founded (2004) a genomics spin-off, @dnavigation, and have led numerous educational and training projects in the private sector, including @Van in Sanoma Learning and @DCMS. I founded ULBHeLSci – the Health & Life Science Training Center – in Charleroi (Biopark, 2008) and Brussels (Erasmus Campus, 2014). I was Head of Continuing Education at ULB (2013-2022) and Director of the Health Cluster, ULB's health and biomedical cluster (2017-2022). Since June 2022, I have been Chief of Staff to the Rector of the Université libre de Bruxelles.

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Prof. Anne WEYEMBERGH

Vice-Rector for External Relations and Cooperation
Université libre de Bruxelles

Prof. WEYEMBERGH is full Professor at the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB, Law Department and Institute for European Studies) and Vice Rector for External Relations and cooperation – ULB. She is former President of the Institute for European Studies of the ULB (Sept. 2014 - 2019) and Director of the Center of European Law (2019-2020). She founded and co-coordinates the European Criminal Law Academic Network (ECLAN: <http://www.eclan.eu/>) since November 2004. She is Visiting Professor at the College of Europe (Natolin campus).

She is Member of the Académie Royale des Sciences, des Lettres et des Beaux-Arts de Belgique (Classe des Lettres et des Sciences morales et politiques).

She has coordinated numerous research projects and is especially Lead scientist of the GEM-Stones programme (Globalisation, Europe and Multilateralism - Sophistication of the Transnational Order, Networks & European Strategies), Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions (Grant Agreement No 722826) (2016-2020).

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Prof. Thierry MAGIN
Professor, Ecole polytechnique de Bruxelles
Université libre de Bruxelles

Thierry Magin is a professor at the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB) and at the von Karman Institute for Fluid Dynamics (VKI). He obtained his PhD from ULB and VKI in 2004. After completing his doctorate, he spent two years at École Centrale Paris, where he studied nonequilibrium radiation for the Huygens mission. He then joined Stanford University and the NASA Ames Research Center for three years, contributing to the development of aerothermodynamic models for the Orion capsule.

In 2010, he established a research team with the support of the European Research Council, focusing on multiscale and multiphysics models as well as computational methods for reactive flows and plasmas. Professor Magin's research centers on hypersonics and applications in very low Earth orbit. Together with his team, he investigates the fundamental principles and aerospace technologies, in collaboration with space agencies, defense organizations, and industrial partners.

Professor Magin has been a pioneer in applying uncertainty quantification tools to aerospace engineering for the validation and calibration of models based on experimental data. He received the European Space Agency's "Foundations of Aerothermodynamics" Award for his work at the interface between computational chemistry and fluid dynamics. He also held the Jean d'Alembert Chair at École Polytechnique in Paris for his interdisciplinary research in kinetic theory, at the intersection of aerospace engineering and applied mathematics.

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Mrs. Chantal ERTVELD

International partnerships team leader
and North-American affairs officer

Université libre de Bruxelles

With over 20 years of experience in the internationalization of higher education, I am service-oriented and enjoy helping members of my academic community. I contribute to their internationalization efforts through my expertise in the field - particularly regarding North America - as well as through ULB's funding programs for internationalization.

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PART 2: UNIVERSITY COLLEGES

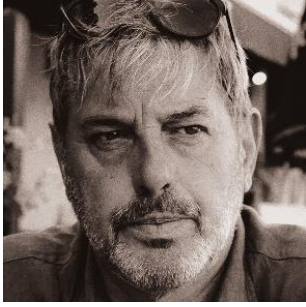


Haute École Albert Jacquard

Haute École Albert Jacquard (HEAJ) is a Belgian university college located in Namur. A pioneer in its field in Wallonia, the HEAJ launched its Bachelor's degree in Graphics Techniques 25 years ago. Its expertise and reputation in this domain have earned it international recognition. As part of its three-year bachelor's degree program, the school trains professionals in the following areas: 2D and 3D animation, 3D VFX, graphic communication, interface design and development, real-image production, as well as green packaging design.

Moreover the HEAJ also offers Master's programs in Video Games and Transmedia Architecture. The Master's in Video Games covers the entire design process—from concept to management and entrepreneurship—and offers four areas of specialization: game art, game design, programming and technical art. The Transmedia Architecture program focuses on the creation of interactive media (videos, games, visuals, sounds, events, etc.) to build cohesive, interconnected storytelling universes.

HEAJ places strong emphasis on human-centered values and student support. Our commitment to remaining a school on a human scale stems from our belief in the importance of providing personalized guidance to support students in their professional journeys. As such, our programs prioritize hands-on experience and internships to prepare graduates to enter the workforce with confidence as well as to foster growth in these sectors in Belgium by emphasizing entrepreneurship, while building strong international ties with academic institutions and businesses.



Mr. Lionel MARBEHANT

Head of the Creative and Digital Industries Department
Digital and Creative Media Department

Haute École Albert Jacquard

Lionel Marbehant is a professional photographer with a focus on social reporting, as well as motor and water sports, performing arts, and music scenes. In the early 2000s, driven by a desire to share his expertise and passion, he began teaching photography and digital image processing at the Haute École Albert Jacquard in Namur. Nowadays, it is as the Department Head that he uses his talents to support the community of image lovers made up of students and teachers at the HEAJ Digital and Creative Media Department.

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Haute École Charlemagne

The Haute Ecole Charlemagne (HECh), University College, is a higher education institution within the Wallonia-Brussels Federation. It stands out for the diversity of its academic programs, its strong regional ties, and its commitment to student success and educational innovation.

Organized into several departments - education, economics, biomedical sciences, agronomy, and technique - the HECh offers a wide range of bachelor's and master's degree programs designed to prepare students for professional careers, closely aligned with the needs of the socio-economic world. Each year, it trains students in a variety of fields such as education, biomedical technologies (laboratory technologists), eco-conception, tourism, and real estate, as well as agricultural sciences, including garden and landscape architecture and the training of industrial engineers in agronomy.

With its multi-site presence, the Haute Ecole Charlemagne, University College, operates on several campuses in Wallonia, notably in Liège, Gembloux, Huy, and Verviers. This regional presence fosters close ties with students and local partners, while actively contributing to regional development.

The institution places particular emphasis on the quality of its teaching, student support, and international outreach. It has established numerous partnerships, both academic and professional, and actively participates in mobility programs, applied research, and international cooperation initiatives.

Committed into societal transitions, the HECh grounds its actions in a framework of sustainability, inclusion, and innovation, training competent, responsible, and globally-oriented professionals.



Mrs. Michèle SIMAR
Director-President
Haute École Charlemagne

Michèle Simar has served as President Director of the Haute Ecole Charlemagne (HECh), University College, since February 2021. In this role, she oversees the institution's strategic and operational management, ensuring the quality of its programs, the coherence of its development, and adherence to the values upheld by Wallonie-Bruxelles Enseignement.

With a degree in Romance philology and a teaching certification for upper secondary education, she began her career in 1995 at the Haute Ecole Charlemagne, University College, as a French teacher in the economics department, before joining the education department, where she focused on teaching French and its pedagogy. Her commitment to teacher training and her dedication to the institution led her to serve as Director of the Department of Education from 2016 to 2021.

Building on this experience, she has developed an institutional vision grounded in academic excellence, student support, and educational innovation. She places particular emphasis on fostering a culture of quality, driving digital transformation, and strengthening collaborative dynamics within teams.

It also works to integrate the University College into academic and professional networks, both in Belgium and internationally, in order to support mobility, applied research, and cooperation initiatives. Its efforts are driven by a commitment to training competent, responsible professionals who are attuned to contemporary challenges.

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Haute Ecole de la Province de Liège
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF THE PROVINCE OF LIEGE

Haute École de la Province de Liège

The University College of the Province of Liège (HEPL) offers 72 courses (Bachelor's – Master's – Specialisations) across 12 fields: agronomy & environment, chemistry & biotechnology, construction & energy, education & psychology, electromechanics & production management, management & law, information & communication, industrial engineering, motor sciences, digital technology & IT, health, and social sciences.

The HEPL has 10 campuses spread across Liège (Belgium) and the surrounding Province.

With a staff of 1,200 (lecturers, experts and administrative staff), it provides 11,000 students with a course of study that combines theoretical learning with practical experience, through professional internships and numerous interactions with representatives from the socio-economic sectors.

The HEPL is, first and foremost, an institution that offers 'education open to all for the future of everyone'.

Committed to the values of education promoted by the Province of Liège, the HEPL develops innovative teaching within a sustainable framework that fosters collaboration, mobility and personal fulfilment. While remaining true to its role as a 'School in the City', the HEPL is part of the Bologna Process and embraces openness towards Europe and the world. As a member of the European university alliance UNIGreen since 2022, the HEPL is committed to fostering internationalisation, research, sustainability, innovation and entrepreneurship. The HEPL has thus established numerous partnerships with other university colleges and universities across Europe, as well as in the Americas, Africa and Asia, facilitating particularly enriching academic exchanges.

The HEPL aims not only to maintain its existing partnerships in Canada but also to develop and diversify them. It therefore intends to establish new academic collaborations that facilitate student and staff mobility, particularly in the fields of Health and Motor Sciences. Synergies in applied research are another of the HEPL's objectives.



Mrs. Annick LAPIERRE
Director-President
Haute École de la Province de Liège

Annick Lapierre holds a master's degree in physical education and physiotherapy from the University of Liège. She began her career at HEPL in 1996 as a lecturer in the Department of Motor Sciences. Alongside her teaching duties, she worked as a physiotherapist in hospitals and private practice. She then became Head of the Department of Psychological and Educational Sciences for six years and was subsequently elected Director-President of the HEPL in 2019.

Annick Lapierre is also involved in the European alliance UNIGreen, of which the HEPL is a member. She sits in the Board of Directors and the Management and Internationalisation working group. In this role, she contributes to discussions about the new chapter UNIGreen will enter in 2027, when UNIGreen 2.0 brings on board two new partners.

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Mrs. Patricia MOTTART
Head of the Motor Sciences Department
Motor Sciences Department
Haute École de la Province de Liège

Patricia Mottart holds a Master's degree in Physiotherapy from the University of Liège and has been Head of the Motor Sciences Department since late 2019. She oversees the organisation and development of physiotherapy, occupational therapy and psychomotor therapy training programmes.

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Haute Ecole EPHEC

As a prominent institution within the Belgian higher education landscape, EPHEC University College (*Haute École EPHEC*) is distinguished by its high-level pedagogical model, deeply rooted in practical application and innovation. Our mission is to train highly qualified experts through an academic offering structured around four strategic sectors, specifically designed to meet contemporary socio-economic challenges.

Advanced Sectoral Expertise: The University College is organized into four academic pillars, ensuring sharp specialization and immediate professional immersion: **Business Sector:** The institution's historic core, this sector trains future managers and entrepreneurs in fields such as management, international trade, marketing, finance, and law. Emphasis is placed on decision-making agility and business ethics within a globalized market. **Health Sector:** Dedicated to training healthcare and assistance professionals, this sector combines scientific rigor with a humanistic approach. It addresses public health challenges through curricula centered on technical expertise, empathy, and professional ethics. **Tech Sector:** A true hub for innovation, this sector prepares students for careers in digital technology and applied sciences. From business informatics to artificial intelligence, the programs integrate the latest technological advancements to support the digital transformation of organizations. **Education Sector:** This sector is devoted to training pedagogues and teaching professionals. It promotes modern, inclusive learning methods aimed at developing professionals capable of transmitting knowledge while fostering critical thinking in new generations.

EPHEC University College bases its added value on three guiding principles:

Collaboration with the Professional World: Our programs are co-developed with industry experts, ensuring a perfect alignment between the skills taught and the requirements of global employers.

Internationalization: Through numerous cooperation agreements—notably with partners in Canada and across Europe—EPHEC promotes student and faculty mobility, strengthening the multicultural dimension of its degrees.

Pedagogical Innovation: The use of technological laboratories, business simulations, and immersive internships guarantees immediate operational proficiency for every graduate.

Commitment and Social Responsibility: Beyond the transmission of knowledge, EPHEC University College is committed to shaping responsible citizens. Our core values of integrity, ambition, and benevolence permeate every curriculum, preparing graduates to become agents of positive change within society. **At a Glance:** With six campuses in Brussels and Wallonia, EPHEC University College welcomes over 6,500 students across its four sectors, positioning itself as an essential academic partner for human capital development and innovation.



Mrs. Emmanuelle HAVRENNE

Director-President

Haute Ecole EPHEC

Emmanuelle Havrenne has served as the Chief Executive Officer (Directrice-Présidente) of EPHEC University College since 2020. She first joined the institution in 2016 as Managing Director, following her tenure as Secretary General of the SeGEC (the General Secretariat for Catholic Education in the French- and German-speaking Communities of Belgium). Her career originally began at EPHEC, where she served as a Senior Lecturer in Economics from 1987 to 1995.

She holds a Master's degree in Economics from UCLouvain and a Certificate in Management. Her academic background is further enriched by specialized training in systemic and strategic organizational intervention.

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Mrs. Caroline LOVENS
Director of International Relations
Haute École EPHEC

Caroline Lovens is a Business Engineer (UCLouvain) with eight years of international experience across the United Arab Emirates and Spain. She initially joined the Center for Social Economy Research at the University of Liège (ULiège) before joining EPHEC. During her eight-year tenure as a Senior Lecturer and Researcher, she specialized in the circular economy and the teaching of management and finance. Since September 2024, she has served as the Director of International Office.

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Haute École Galilée/ IHECS

Founded in 1958, the Institut des Hautes Études des Communications Sociales (IHECS) is a higher education institution of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation specializing in journalism and communication.

Located in the heart of Brussels, IHECS offers a curriculum that combines theoretical instruction with professional practice, closely aligned with the realities of the industry. Its educational approach is based on a project-based methodology that encourages experimentation, collaboration, and the development of directly applicable skills.

In the context of the transformation of media and communication practices, IHECS pays particular attention to the challenges of digital technology, digital media, and the creative industries, integrating these dimensions across all its programs.

The institution offers a Bachelor's degree in Communication as well as ten Master's programs. It offers six 120-credit Master's programs, including one in journalism—press and information—and five in communication (public relations, advertising, cultural and social communication, media education, and event management), as well as four 60-credit Master's programs with flexible schedules in these same fields, leading to the award of university-level degrees recognized in the Wallonia-Brussels Federation.

IHECS currently enrolls approximately 3,000 students in its undergraduate programs.

With its roots in Brussels and its position at the intersection of the academic and professional worlds, IHECS helps train professionals capable of addressing contemporary challenges in information and communication.



Mrs. Sophie HENRARD

Head of International Relations

IHECS Brussels school of Journalism and Communication

After initially working as an art historian specializing in art books in London, I shifted my focus to higher education. For nearly 20 years, I have headed the International Department at IHECS (Brussels School of Journalism and Communication), where I have built a network of over 100 partners in some 40 countries across Europe and beyond. In particular, I have designed programs for exchange students, including an English-language curriculum, an orientation week, and an immersion program in French as a foreign language.

As the head of a six-person team, I help foster the values of commitment, creativity, and openness across the various dimensions of internationalization: student mobility, inter-institutional projects, intensive programs, international cooperation, and project support. To this day, I continue to enthusiastically pursue the development of new collaborations.

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Haute École Louvain en Hainaut

The Haute École Louvain en Hainaut (HELHa) is a Belgian higher education institution offering a wide range of professionally oriented programmes. HELHa aims to become a key player in higher education in French-speaking Belgium, training professionals with high added value: expertise, self-fulfilment and solidarity. To become a benchmark, our University College is putting in place conditions promoting the success of its students, at academic, professional and personal levels. The aim is to train professionals who are in step with developments in the world of work and society, while maintaining a welcoming and friendly atmosphere.

In a nutshell, HELHa is :

- 4 separate departments, namely the Department of Arts, Business and Communication, the Department of Health and Medical Technologies, the Department of Education and Social Work and the Department of Sciences and Life Technologies;
- 65 undergraduate programmes (3 to 4 years with a Bachelor's or Master's degree) and graduate programmes (5 years with a Master's degree);
- 14 locations in the Charleroi, Mons, Tournai and Walloon Brabant areas;
- A wide range of support services for students (via the social unit, psychological unit, sports unit, inclusion unit, guidance and reorientation unit, student entrepreneurs unit, international office, documentation centres, etc.);
- Numerous contacts with companies in both the public and private sectors;
- An average of 10,000 students per academic year;
- Over 2,000 graduates per year;
- And a wide range of career opportunities for our students, who have developed all the skills and softskills they need to be immediately effective in the job market.



Prof. Philippe DECLERCQ
Director-President
Haute École Louvain en Hainaut

Philippe DECLERCQ has been Director-President of HELHa since 2017, after serving as Vice-President-Director from 2012 onward. After completing a period of civil service with the NGO ATD Fourth World in London and Brussels, he began his professional career in January 1993 as a technical sales engineer at the construction company SA RONVEAUX in Ciney (Belgium).

He then entered the field of higher education in September 1993, where he taught in the Bachelor's degree in Building. He gradually became the programme's pedagogical coordinator (1998) and, later on, Head of the Science and Technology Bachelor's programmes at HELHa (2004).

Deeply involved in institutional development, he played an active role in steering HELHa's strategic plan in 2014, in INTERREG projects conducted with the University of Amiens, and served as an internal auditor for the road laboratories of SA LABOTOUR in Tournai (Belgium). He has also intervened as a guest lecturer at KAHO-St-Lieven in Aalst.

He currently represents the confessional universities of applied sciences within the Board of Directors of ARES (the Academy for Research and Higher Education in the French-speaking Community of Belgium). He is also Chair of the Board of Directors of HELHa's Centre for Research, Studies and Training (CeREF) and a member of the Board of Directors of the Pôle hainuyer.

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Mrs. Pauline CORNIL
International Office Coordinator
Students Affairs Service
Haute École Louvain en Hainaut

Pauline Cornil has built a career of more than ten years shaped by international engagement, academic mobility, and multilingual project management. Holding a Master's degree in Multidisciplinary Translation and an advanced Master's in Applied Linguistics from the University of Mons, she began her career as a translator and later as a project manager, coordinating teams, budgets, and quality processes for technical and multilingual projects.

After several international experiences—including work in Norway and in Sweden as a French teacher—she broadened her expertise in the tourism sector with a strong focus on customer relations, organisation, and intercultural communication.

In May 2020, she joined HELHa as Coordinator of Outgoing Mobility. In this role, she oversees all student and staff mobilities, leads transnational projects, and manages the internal and external communication of the International Office.

Since 2023, she has served as International Office Coordinator and represents the institution abroad to develop and strengthen European and international partnerships. She chairs the International Mobility Commission of the *Pôle hainuyer*, where she contributes to welcoming international students and coordinating shared French as a Foreign Language courses.

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Mr. Adrien MOGENET

Director of Academic Affairs – Education and Social Work

Haute École Louvain en Hainaut

Adrien Mogenet, 38, is a specialist in pedagogy and communication. He currently serves as Director of Academic Affairs at HELHa Education & Social, where he oversees the Bachelor's programme in Social Work and the Master's in Social Engineering and Social Action. With more than ten years of experience at HELHa, he has successively worked as a Senior Lecturer in French, then as Head of the Education Department in Braine-le-Comte, before joining the management team of the Louvain-la-Neuve (Cardijn) campus in 2025.

His career has also been shaped by extensive involvement in non-formal education. For over twelve years, Adrien held several positions within the Baden-Powell Scouts Federation of Belgium, including Pedagogical Director and Spokesperson. In this context, he coordinated pedagogical projects, training programmes for youth leaders and management teams, and contributed to strategic decision-making.

Alongside this, he worked as a journalist for the daily newspaper *L'Avenir* and for *Averbode* publishing, covering social issues, politics, culture, and education, while also producing educational materials for school audiences. Adrien also gained experience in institutional communication at the European Parliament, and developed an international teaching background through positions in Sweden and Italy.

He holds Master's degrees in Romance Languages and Literatures and in Information and Communication, as well as the CAPAES teaching certification. Today, he puts his expertise at the service of developing high-quality academic programmes, rooted in contemporary social challenges and designed to support student success.

Adrien is the father of two children (4 months and 5 years old) and, in his spare time, enjoys playing the piano, listening to music, spending time outdoors, and trying to make sense of the world.

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Haute École Provinciale de Hainaut – Condorcet

With nearly 10,000 students and 10 campuses located throughout Hainaut (Belgium), from Tournai to Charleroi, including Mons and the Centre region, the HEPH–Condorcet is a key player within the Wallonia-Brussels Federation (Belgium) and a local human-scale institution, deeply attentive to its students' needs.

The institution offers nearly 100 short-cycle (Bachelor's) and long-cycle (Master's) programs, covering a wide range of fields such as agrobioscience and chemistry, applied arts, economics, law and management, public health, motor sciences, speech and language therapy, education sciences, communication, and social sciences, marketing, tourism and hospitality management, and science and technology.

HEPH–Condorcet also offers multiple specializations, as well as bridging programs to other fields, and encourages its students to explore entrepreneurship. Each program combines theoretical and practical training.

The Bachelor's degrees offered at HEPH–Condorcet are career-oriented, meaning they prepare students for specific professions. Through numerous internships and networking with professionals, the institution provides programs directly connected to the labor market. Its graduates are highly sought after: they are ready to work upon graduation, and employers value these competent, resourceful, and efficient young recruits!

The institution also includes an Engineering School. Among the Master's degrees offered within the Agrobiosciences and Chemistry and the Science and Technology departments, six have received the CTI accreditation, a guarantee of internationally recognized quality.

Finally, HEPH–Condorcet encourages staff and students to get involved in international academic, research and cooperation projects. HEPH–Condorcet is committed to addressing societal challenges, focusing on digital and ecological transitions, artificial intelligence, and issues of gender and inclusion. Applied research is highly active, featuring numerous laboratories and research units organized around seven thematic areas.

INFO: www.condorcet.be



Prof. Dr. Axelle LEROY

Director-President

Haute École Provinciale de Hainaut – Condorcet

Axelle Leroy has led a remarkable dual career in higher education and scientific research. She holds a Master's degree in Biological Sciences and a Postgraduate Diploma in Molecular Genetics from the University of Mons (UMONS), and was awarded a PhD in Motor Sciences from the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB) in 2006.

Her professional career has been built primarily on a solid background in teaching, which began in 1989. She has taught extensively in biology, biochemistry and physiology at several institutions, whilst also authoring various educational texts. She currently serves as Director and President of the Haute École Provinciale de Hainaut-Condorcet, whilst continuing as a research fellow and lecturer at the ULB.

Alongside her managerial duties, she is deeply involved in cutting-edge research. Her work focuses primarily on neurophysiology, electrophysiology and electroencephalography (EEG) techniques. She has notably distinguished herself through her analyses of astronauts' brain activity in microgravity for the European Space Agency, as well as through her study of 'flow' biomarkers in tightrope walkers. Her expertise also extends to the development of therapeutic solutions for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and Alzheimer's disease.

Actively involved in the development of her region, she sits on the Picardy Wallonia Development Council and the board of directors of WAPINVEST, demonstrating a consistent commitment to combining scientific rigour, the transfer of knowledge and social engagement.

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Dr. Déborah LANTERBECQ

Coordinator of the Applied Research,
Development & Innovation Department

Haute École Provinciale de Hainaut - Condorcet

Deborah Lanterbecq is a biologist with a PhD in Science from the University of Mons (Belgium). Following her PhD thesis on phylogenetic analyses and evolutionary mechanisms of marine symbiotic organisms, she completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Yale University (USA, CT, New Haven) in the Molecular Systematics and Conservation Genetics Laboratory (Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology). After obtaining an FNRS research fellowship, she returned to Belgium and contributed to various research fields including molecular and evolutionary biology, biochemistry, chemistry, and materials science, before joining the University College Haute Ecole Provinciale de Hainaut-Condorcet as a teacher-researcher in 2014.

While continuing her teaching activities in biochemistry, she assumed the role of head of the Biotechnology and Applied Biology Laboratory (CARAH asbl /HEPH-Condorcet/Hainaut-Analyses) in 2017 - a laboratory specializing in the development of molecular methods for the detection, identification, quantification of microorganisms in various matrices. Currently, she is also coordinator of the Applied Research, Development & Innovation Department at HEPH-Condorcet, which supports the deployment of research within the institution and facilitates collaborations with external partners on innovative projects.

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Haute École Robert Schuman

Haute École Robert Schuman (HERS), located in Arlon, Libramont, and Virton, is a human-scale higher education institution offering bachelor's and master's programs across five major fields: economics, education, health, social work, and technology.

Situated in the heart of a cross-border region, HERS stands out for its international openness, high-quality teaching, and close relationship with its students. The institution adopts a student-centered approach, emphasizing personalized support to foster academic success and personal development.

HERS also places a strong emphasis on pedagogical innovation and adapting to real-world contexts, in close collaboration with professional stakeholders. Through practical initiatives, internships, and partnerships, students gain skills that are directly applicable in their future careers.

Dynamic and accessible, HERS provides a stimulating learning environment where academic rigor and individualized guidance go hand in hand, preparing students to thrive in ever-evolving professional contexts, both in Belgium and internationally.

<https://hers.be/>



Mrs. Laurence DENIS
Director President
Haute École Robert Schuman

Laurence Denis has been the Director-President of Haute École Robert Schuman (HERS) since 2018. Her career reflects a deep commitment to teaching and pedagogy.

After teaching mathematics in secondary education for more than ten years, Laurence Denis felt the need to specialize in educational sciences and pedagogy. In 2003, she joined the pedagogical department at HERS, where she was primarily responsible for courses in learning psychology and the supervision of student teaching placements, including both preschool and primary education. This experience allowed her to develop strong expertise in individualized support and the training of future teachers.

Over the years, she also took on management and coordination responsibilities, eventually becoming Director of the Pedagogical Department at HERS. In this role, she oversaw program organization, monitored both faculty and students, and developed innovative pedagogical initiatives, always focused on teaching quality and student success.

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Mrs. Claire COLLARD

Head of the international office

Haute École Robert Schuman

Claire Collard has been working in international environments for over ten years, building a career centered on mobility, cooperation, and the development of projects at both European and transatlantic levels.

Her interest in international engagement began during her studies, through an Erasmus+ experience in Spain. This immersion marked a turning point and set her on a path toward roles with a strong international dimension. She started her career in the financial sector in Luxembourg, where she gained solid administrative experience over five years, before joining the Belgian American Chamber of Commerce in New York. There, she supported international interns in their J-1 visa applications, directly contributing to the realization of professional mobility projects in the United States.

For the past six years, Claire Collard has been working at Haute École Robert Schuman, where she has held various roles that have enabled her to develop an in-depth understanding of the higher education landscape. In September 2024, she was appointed Head of the International Office. In this role, she leads and develops the institution's international activities, with a particular focus on academic partnerships and new forms of collaboration. She is especially interested in joint and double degree programs, supporting her institution in adapting to evolving models of international cooperation.

Her career is defined by a practical approach to internationalization, combining operational management, understanding of institutional challenges, and support for mobility initiatives. She works effectively in multicultural environments and is committed to building sustainable collaborations tailored to the realities of each partner.

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Mrs. Céline GRAVÉ

Administrative officer - International Relations

Haute École Robert Schuman

Céline Gravé holds a master's degree in communication from the University of Liège. Driven by a strong openness to the world, she began her career with a six-month international experience in South Africa as part of an internship.

She then turned to the field of professional integration, where she worked for nine years within a non-profit organization. In this role, she supported individuals facing precarious situations in their search for sustainable employment, while also assisting employers in their recruitment processes. This field experience strengthened her listening skills, adaptability, and commitment to inclusion.

For the past eight years, she has been working at the Haute École Robert Schuman (HERS). After an initial experience in the quality department and a period within the sustainable development unit, she has held the position of administrative officer in the International Relations Office for the past five years. She finds great fulfillment in this role thanks to the diversity of tasks, the richness of collaborations, and the many intercultural encounters.

At the same time, she serves as secretary of the Centre Ressort, the HERS center for research and continuing education. She actively contributes to the development of continuously evolving training programs, in a role that is both rich and diverse, marked by a wide range of topics and high-quality professional interactions.

Internationalization is a true driving force for her, along with human connections, project management, and the richness of collaborative work.

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Réseau de Recherche Appliquée (SynHERA)

SynHERA is the official interface between the 19 Universities colleges (Hautes Écoles) and 10 associated Research Centres of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation and their institutional, academic, and industrial partners. Our role: translate academic expertise into concrete innovation solutions and facilitate high-value collaborations. Our network brings together over 500 lecturers-researchers active across all scientific and technological fields — a unique reservoir of expertise, ready to be mobilised to support your projects.



Mrs. Sabine DOSSA

Director

SynHERA

I serve as the Director of SynHERA, where I orchestrate research collaboration between the University College of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation and the private sector. A lawyer by training, I apply my expertise to support high-impact R&D projects and foster innovation across Brussels and Wallonia

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Secrétariat général d'Enseignement Catholique

The Secrétariat général de l'enseignement catholique (SeGEC) is the coordination, representation and support body for the Organising Authorities of Catholic education in the Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles. Its mission is to support Organising Authorities and schools in fulfilling their role as providers of a functional public service in the field of education and teaching, in accordance with the educational project of Catholic education.

The SeGEC covers all levels of education: compulsory education, higher education, adult education, as well as psycho-medical-social centres. Through the 750 Organising Authorities of Catholic education, bringing together 1,750 school sites, it enrolls one pupil and one student out of two in the Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles.

It offers its members pedagogical, administrative, organisational and legal services, and supports the development of the network.

The SeGEC therefore carries out four core missions: promoting the educational project, supporting the Organising Authorities and schools through a comprehensive range of services, representing the network vis-à-vis the political authorities, and ensuring the quality of education.

With regard to higher education, 7 University Colleges ("Hautes Ecoles") and 6 Schools of Arts ("Ecoles supérieures des Arts") are affiliated with the SeGEC, representing approximately 55,000 students, that is around half of the total student population enrolled in these two forms of higher education in French-speaking Belgium.



Mrs. Vinciane DEKEYSER

Director

Secrétariat général de l'enseignement catholique

Following a career as a teacher in secondary education and then in higher education - both at university level, within a Faculty of Motor Sciences, and at a University College in the economic sector- Vinciane De Keyser joined the *Secrétariat Général de l'Enseignement Catholique* as Deputy Director. Since 2014, she has held the position of Director for Higher Education at the SeGEC, where she represents and brings together 7 University Colleges ("Hautes Ecoles") and 6 University of the Arts ("Ecoles supérieures des Arts") of Catholic education in the Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles.

She serves on the Board of Directors of the Academy of Research and Higher Education (ARES), of which she previously served as Acting President for two years.

At the intersection of political, legal and pedagogical issues, she and her team play a central role in defending the interests of the sector, building shared positions and fostering collective dynamics among institutions.

Her work focuses on several key missions:

- Identifying strategic challenges for non-profit denominational higher education
- Conveying the sector's recommendations to political decision-makers
- Analysing legal texts and their impact on institutional structures, processes and stakeholders
- Supporting and equipping the leadership to develop a shared understanding of policy directions, reforms and regulatory developments
- Assisting management teams and their staff in strengthening governance and in developing institutional capacities and competencies.

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PART 3: SCHOOLS OF ARTS



Académie des Beaux-Arts de Tournai

Educational and Artistic Project– ESA Academy of Fine Arts, Tournai Founded in 1756, the ESA Academy of Fine Arts in Tournai is a multidisciplinary center for research and artistic creation, combining historical heritage with contemporary innovation. Its teaching is forward-looking, fostering creativity, openness to the future, and the development of individual artistic approaches, while respecting the school's historical legacy. The Academy encourages experimentation, autonomy, and social responsibility, enabling students to develop a personal and critical artistic language. The pedagogical and artistic approaches integrate both technical and theoretical learning: practical skills are complemented by analysis, reflection, and critical thinking, while artistic research is grounded in personal practice, experience, and collaboration with universities and higher education institutions. The school promotes individual expression and active participation in cultural and social life.

The Academy offers nine long-cycle programs in the fields of Visual, Plastic, and Spatial Arts: Interior Architecture, Textile Design, Painting, Drawing, Advertising, Visual and Graphic Communication, Comics, Illustration, and Digital Arts. The curriculum is structured in two cycles: the first cycle (180 credits, transitional bachelor) and the second cycle (120 credits, master with specialized, didactic, or advanced focus). Programs detail courses, learning activities, hours, credits, competencies, and evaluation methods. The ESA also provides training for the Secondary School Teaching Certification (AESS, 30 credits). The language of instruction and administration is French, although some learning activities may be offered and evaluated in other languages as appropriate



Prof. Thomas BOUCART

Professor / Coordinator of international Erasmus Beaux-Arts
Digital Arts

Académie des beaux-Arts de la ville de Tournai

Multidisciplinary artist and educator, [Name Surname] has been a full professor in the Digital Arts department at the ESA Academy of Fine Arts in Tournai since 2002. He also coordinates the Erasmus program and has been leading traditional and stop-motion animation workshops across Europe and Africa since 2004. Founder of the Cie du Vélo Sans les Mains, he co-created and directed the Summer Academy of Wallonia Picarde from 2010 to 2023. A performer, prop master, set designer, and stage technician, he regularly collaborates in cinema and creates audiovisual projects, including 2D/3D animation, video mapping, and compositing. His work has been exhibited in numerous collective and solo exhibitions (Festival Lumen, Arts dans la Ville, Musée du Folklore de Tournai, 2005–2026). Onstage, he has performed in Cravate Club, Le Théâtre ambulant Chopalovitch, Les Unes fois d'un soir, La Caravane Vanne, and La Nuit des Intrigues, while actively participating in improvisation matches and special events with the Cie Les D'Main J'arrête. In cinema, he has contributed as actor and technician to projects including Ethernel, Night Trip, Icare, Les Premiers, les Derniers, La Maison, and L'Éclusier. Holding a Master's degree in Digital Arts (1997–2001), he has completed specialized training in pedagogy, theatrical improvisation, and stage management, including workshops with Norman Taylor, Serge Poncelet, and Ivo Mentens. His career combines teaching, artistic creation, and active engagement in cultural and audiovisual fields

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Académie Royale des Beaux-Arts Bruxelles - Ecole supérieure des Arts

Founded in 1711, ArBA-EsA is a higher education institution for the arts (School of Arts), one of the oldest art schools in Europe. A center for teaching, research, and a space for creation and production located in the heart of Brussels. The school is funded by the Wallonia-Brussels Federation and is organised by the City of Brussels.

The educational and artistic program combines a practical (studio-based) dimension with a reflective and critical theoretical component. It is a place for teaching, research and a space for creation and production. Particular attention is paid to the professional development and mobility of students and teaching staff.

The ArBA-EsA offers a full-time, long-term higher education program in the field of Plastic, Visual and Spatial Arts (APVE). Each year, more than 550 students participated on a Bachelor's degree (first cycle) or a Master's degree (second cycle) within one of the 17 programmes, on the Section 5, on a PhD in Arts and Art Sciences, or on one of the three professionalising continuing education programs known as Executive Masters (Knitting, Food Design or Interior Design).

The 17 courses: Art and Public Space, Interior Architecture, Visual Communication, Textile Design, Drawing, Urban Space, Engraving, Illustration, Lithography, Painting, Photography, Sculpture, Screen Printing, Tapestry / Textile Arts.

In recent years, new courses have been created: CARE Master's in Exhibition Practices, MULTI Master's in Editorial Practices, SITU Master's in Urban Design, Bachelor's and Master's in Urban Space (Body and Movement).

At ArBA, relational aesthetics and a participatory approach are ways of proposing, disseminating and constructing knowledge. The idea here is to develop agile thinking, reminding us that art histories are manifold and that diversity and porosity offer a remedy for gloom.



Mrs. Christine BLUARD

Director

Académie Royale des Beaux-Arts Bruxelles

Trained as an archaeologist and Egyptologist (ULB), Christine Bluard is a museologist and curator who is actively involved in the decolonisation of institutions. In September 2024, she took over as director of the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Brussels, a higher education institution for the arts. As a museologist, she is interested in exhibitions as spaces for dialogue and engagement with the public, and also as fields of research and convergence for researchers and artists.

At the AfricaMuseum, she developed the artist-in-residence programme, which breaks down barriers between disciplines, questions the inventories and provenance of collections, shares knowledge and raises new societal issues. For her, an art school is also a 'People's Campus' that nurtures the imagination, where decentralised and 'situated' forms of knowledge flourish. She likes gardens that aren't too manicured, the idea of the rhizome, and a bottom-up approach is very much welcome there. As head of ArBA-EsA, her aim is to strengthen the existing links between situated practice and critical theory. She advocates for creating space and time for young artists to work, ensuring the environment is conducive to learning artistic practices and art history. An inclusive, sustainable, open space, where kindness and resilience are integral to the educational approach. She pays particular attention to the mobility of students and teachers, encouraging them to diversify their learning environments and to co-create possible futures with other schools and institutions.

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ARTS²

ÉCOLE SUPÉRIEURE DES ARTS
ACADEMY OF ARTS

Arts au carré - École Supérieure des Arts

ARTS² (Arts au Carré) is an arts school of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation, located in Mons and Charleroi, Belgium. Building on the legacy of the Royal Conservatory of Mons and the Higher School of Visual Arts, it currently trains nearly 900 students in visual arts, theatre, music and dance.

Based in Charleroi, the Dance Department develops a Bachelor's and a Master's programme in Dance Interpretation in close connection with the professional field, cultural institutions, and academic partners in Belgium and abroad. Its pedagogical project combines artistic excellence, support for students, professional integration, and openness to contemporary choreographic practices.



Mrs. Julie BOUGARD

Director of Dance

Ecole supérieure des Arts-Arts au Carré

Julie Bougard's participation in this mission to Canada reflects a commitment to international outreach, cooperation and the development of lasting partnerships. Its purpose is to strengthen artistic and pedagogical exchanges with Canadian institutions, support student and staff mobility, encourage the sharing of expertise, and position the Dance Department of ARTS² within an international dialogue shaped by the contemporary challenges of creation, transmission and performance.

A dancer, choreographer, educator and Director of the Dance Department at ARTS², Julie Bougard has been active in the professional dance field for more than thirty years. She has performed with numerous companies, created several works, and collaborated with renowned choreographic artists. Her career combines performance, creation, transmission and institutional development. A committed figure in the Belgian dance landscape, she is dedicated to strengthening ambitious higher education in dance, closely connected to contemporary practices and to the realities of the professional sector, in Belgium and internationally.

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Prof. Cédric SABATO

Co-director of the Digital Arts track and Professor of
Entrepreneurship

Ecole supérieure des Arts - Arts au Carré

Cédric Sabato is an artist, artistic director, and digital arts educator at ARTS² (Mons, Belgium), where he co-leads the Digital Arts program. His work focuses on interactive and immersive experiences at the intersection of artistic creation, emerging technologies, and real-time systems.

At ARTS², he develops large-scale projects such as *Carnet de voyage d'une particule*, presented at Mons en Lumières 2026 in collaboration with OCAD University (Toronto), within an international context.

Alongside this, he develops work in artistic direction across cultural, healthcare, and digital fields. His practice explores the Anthropocene and the relationship between humans and forms of living intelligence, conceived as interconnected ecosystems.

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Prof. Martin WAROUX

Co-director of the Digital Arts track and Professor of
Entrepreneurship

ARTS²

Martin Waroux is a Belgian digital arts educator and practitioner based in Mons. He is a lecturer at ARTS² (Higher School of Arts), where he co-coordinates the Digital Arts program with Cédric Sabato and teaches entrepreneurship. His pedagogical approach explores the intersection of artistic creation, emerging technologies, and critical digital practices, with a focus on preparing students for contemporary creative industries.

Alongside his academic role, he is project manager at Le CLICK (Mons), where he coordinates the Lab (FabLab). Le CLICK is a support structure for project leaders and companies.

Actively engaged in digital literacy, he has been involved for many years in initiatives aimed at introducing young audiences to programming, algorithmic thinking, and creative technologies, in collaboration with organizations such as Technocité and Numédiart (University of Mons).

Since 2024, he has supervised ARTS² student projects presented at *Mons en Lumières*, an international light festival, as well as events such as the Festival des Bassins in Arras. As part of *Mons en Lumières 2026*, a project is being developed in partnership with OCAD University (Toronto) and will be presented in Toronto during Nuit Blanche.

Trained in graphic and web design (HEAJ, Namur), holding a degree in digital arts and a teaching certification, he has developed for over fifteen years a hybrid practice combining education, artistic experimentation, and digital innovation.

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Ecole supérieure des Arts – Saint-Luc Bruxelles

Based in Brussels, a multicultural city and headquarters of the European institutions, and established in the international scene of comics, contemporary narrative, interior design, new forms of visual communication and innovative policies, ESA Saint-Luc is an art school aiming to shape creative talents in a way both coherent and challenging, overseen by academics, researchers and professors from relevant academic disciplines.

Combining genuine education and training to creation, ESA Saint-Luc offers programs which stimulate not only artistic practice, but also reflection and research, in view of providing students with general culture, critical sense and commitment to rigor.

In order to build connections between academic institutions and cultural operators, the school has signed agreements with other establishments and universities, both in Belgium and abroad. These collaborations bring in more diversity, and trigger stimulating dynamics. In addition, ESA Saint-Luc organizes lectures by outside guests, workshops, trips, exhibitions, conferences as well as site visits.



Mrs. Septembre TIBERGHIE

Director

ESA Saint-Luc Bruxelles

Septembre Tiberghien has been Director of ESA St-Luc Brussels since 2023. After studying art history (BA, University of Montreal, MA Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne), she worked as a project manager in the contemporary art sector in France and Belgium.

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Mrs. Cécile DUJARDIN
Deputy Director
ESA Saint-Luc Bruxelles

An anthropologist by training, Cécile Dujardin is currently Deputy Director of the Collège des Arts Saint-Luc in Brussels. She is responsible for teaching, academic programmes and social affairs.

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Mr. Roland DECAUDIN

Director
École supérieure des arts - Saint-Luc Liège
School of Art and Design

Born in 1968 in Northern France, Roland Decaudin studied arts, communication and digital technologies and pedagogies at University of Valenciennes and Paris 8. While graduating at Université Paris 8 Hypermedia department, he started teaching digital arts and pedagogy at Université de Valenciennes and ESA Cambrai School of Arts in northern France. In 1999, Roland Decaudin cofounded a digital agency called “*Les imaginaires*” where, from 1993 to 2010, he designed interactive solutions for diverse clients from the institutional, cultural and industrial sectors. In 2007, the honour befell Roland Decaudin to take over the management of ESA Cambrai.

Appointments to ESA Tourcoing in 2011, ESADHaR Rouen-Le Havre in 2014 and EESAB-Lorient in 2015 followed. Rich of all this experience, in 2023, Roland Decaudin decided to embark on a new journey at ESA Saint-Luc Liège School of Art and Design – one of the largest French speaking art schools in Europe - where he was appointed head (director). His motto: “My key value is quality of student’s experience. This is built on empowerment of all stakeholders in higher education institutions, support of diversity, caring pedagogy, ambitious research and environmental sustainability”.

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Prof. Juliette BENSIMON-MARCHINA

Artist, Professor

Bande dessinée

Comics

École supérieure des arts - Saint-Luc Liège

Juliette Bensimon-Marchina was born in Paris. After studying for five years at the *École des Beaux-Arts* in Bordeaux, she moved to New York for a few years. It was there that she discovered and began to explore the world of comic books. Now an artist, author and comic book illustrator, she has published two albums published with '*Les Requins Marteaux*' publishing house. She also works for the press (*Focus, Les Inrocks, Libération*).

In 2022, she joined the pedagogical team at ESA Saint-Luc Liège, where she contributes to the comics studio.

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Mrs. Anne CRAHAY

Illustrator, Professor
Illustration

École supérieure des arts - Saint-Luc Liège

After graduating from the graphic design course at ESA Saint-Luc Liège, Anne Crahay turned to animated films and graphic design. During this time, she regularly worked together with theatre companies specialising in performances for young audiences. Since 2007, she has published around thirty children's books, and been nominated for several awards at the Bologna Children's Book Fair in 2010 and 2022. She currently holds a teaching position in the drawing and illustration studio at ESA Saint-Luc in Liège.

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Prof. Arnaud SOHET
Architect, Professor
Interior architecture
Stage design

École supérieure des arts - Saint-Luc Liège

Arnaud D. SoheT is a professor of interior architecture and stage design (Bachelor's and Master's programmes). He has been teaching within the Saint-Luc institutions for over 23 years. He spent 11 years in Brussels and has been in Liège for the past 14 years, having worked at both institutions for a time. Among other things, he has already had the chance and opportunity to co-organise a workshop with the University of Montreal (UdeM) in September/October 2016 on the theme: 'From one bank to the other, or how do we perceive our neighbour?'. The aim of these exchanges was to create site-specific installations within the urban fabric of Liège (Outremeuse district) and Montreal (Île Sainte-Hélène district).

His teaching approach is primarily focused on research-based creation. The workshops are, above all, experimental and applied research workshops and thus address social projects in the broadest sense. For example, this academic year's project involves the redevelopment of part of the Haut-Fourneau site in Ougrée (Cockerill) in the municipality of Seraing (on the outskirts of Liège). The fundamental idea behind the teaching approach is to learn how to discover the world in a poetic way through the medium of spatial design.

Furthermore, Arnaud Sohet has been working as a freelance scenographer for several years. His projects focus primarily on museography but also include event installations, notably for a pop/electro music festival in Liège in February 2026. To cite his most recent museography projects: 2025 'Sneaky Sneakers': exhibition at the Ferrum Museum in Kayl on the (over)consumption of trainers and raising awareness of the fashion associated with them, in collaboration with Fairtrade Luxembourg and the MUAR. 2025 'Sous la loupe': exhibition at the PHARE in Andenne, aimed at raising awareness and fostering an understanding of educational museums among young audiences. 2024 "Des idées plein la Terre", a temporary exhibition at the University of Liège to mark the 150th anniversary of the Faculty of Geology. 2024 "Fighting For", a travelling exhibition at the Cité Miroir on peaceful revolutions, in collaboration with the Territoires de la mémoire de Liège.

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Mr. Stefan ASKEW

Head of international relations
Ecole supérieure des arts - St-Luc Liège
School of Art and Design

Stefan Askew read European Studies at Maastricht University before graduating from International Development Studies at the University of Amsterdam and from a joint degree in Sustainable Development at the universities of Graz and Leipzig. After a spell working in the private sector, he joined ESA Saint-Luc Liège School of Art and Design as head of International Relations. Since then, he has managed various international projects such as ESA Saint-Luc Liège's participation in the Belgian economic mission to Japan in 2022. He works tirelessly to spread his enthusiasm for international exchanges and is always on the lookout for new collaboration opportunities. Since 2023, Stefan has also taken on the role of coordinating ESA Saint-Luc Liège's efforts to transition towards sustainable development.

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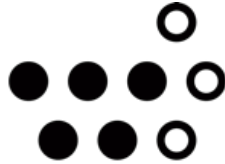
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PART 4: ORGANISATORS



Wallonie - Bruxelles International.be

Wallonia-Brussels General Delegation in Canada

The Wallonia–Brussels General Delegation in Canada ensures Wallonia-Brussels diplomatic representation. Its main missions are to make known and promote Wallonia-Brussels in all its diversity in Canada but also to help Walloons and Brussels residents, interested in Canada, to establish the contacts necessary for the realization of their projects. This also means the follow-up and implementation of the academic and scientific cooperation projects between Canada and the French speaking institutions of Belgium according to the agreements signed by our governments in 1993 and 2002.



Mr. Yann GALL
General Delegate
Wallonia-Brussels General Delegation in Canada

Education:

Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and International Relations, Université libre de Bruxelles (1999).

Professional Experience:

- General Delegate of Wallonia-Brussels to Canada (2023).
- Advisor for European Affairs and the Francophonie to the Minister-President of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation (2021–2023).
- General Delegate of the Walloon Region and the French Community of Belgium in Senegal, Benin, Burkina Faso and Guinea (2018–2021).
- Diplomatic Advisor to the Minister-President of the Walloon Region (2017–2018).
- Officer at the Directorate-General for European Affairs and Coordination, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2012–2016).
- Project Manager, King Baudouin Foundation (2011–2012).
- Project Manager, Public Affairs Department, Infrabel (federal railway infrastructure manager) (2009–2011).
- Project Manager, Europe Near East Forum (2007–2009).
- Project Officer, Brussels-Europe Liaison Office (2004–2007).
- Attaché, Cabinet of the Minister-President of the Brussels-Capital Region (2003–2004).
- Attaché to the Presidency of the PRL/MR (Liberal Party), responsible for European, economic and financial affairs; Assistant at the European Parliament (2001–2003).
- Deputy Advisor, Directorate of European Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and International Cooperation (2000–2001).

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Mrs. Charlotte EVRARD
Project Officer for Higher Education
Wallonia-Brussels General Delegation in Canada

Charlotte Evrard is a project officer at the Wallonia-Brussels Delegation in Québec, where she is responsible for matters related to education, training, and higher education, in collaboration with the office of the Academic and Scientific Advisor in Montreal. She is also in charge of youth, tourism, sports, and social issues, as well as the follow-up of files related to the Permanent Joint Commission Wallonia-Brussels / Quebec.

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Mrs. Sophie OMARI
Project Officer
Politics, Francophonie and Communications
General Delegation
Wallonia-Brussels General Delegation in Canada

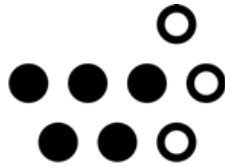
Sophie Omari has been Project Officer for Politics, Francophonie, and Communications at the Wallonia-Brussels General Delegation in Quebec/Canada since 2014. In this role, she coordinates the missions of high-level representatives of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation and Wallonia, while overseeing communications, media relations, and projects related to the Francophonie.

Having settled in Quebec in 2012, she first worked as a Junior Sales Assistant for the Wallonia Export and Foreign Investment Agency (AWEX Montreal), then strengthened her expertise in event organization at Bicom, a public relations agency. Before that, she held various sales and marketing positions in Brussels and Montreal, notably at Coca-Cola Enterprises, AstraZeneca, and Lantheus Medical Imaging.

Driven by her interest in diplomacy and international relations, she completed in 2017 a microprogram in diplomacy and international affairs at the National School of Public Administration (ENAP) in Quebec. In 2021, she earned her Master's degree in Public Administration – International Management. Originally from Brussels, she holds a Bachelor's degree in Communication from the Institut supérieur de formation sociale et de communication (ISFSC) and a diploma in Information and Communication from the Catholic University of Louvain. With several years of experience in project management, she also contributes to her community through volunteer work as a translator-editor and as a leader in social and humanitarian integration projects.

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Wallonie - Bruxelles International.be

Wallonia-Brussels International

Wallonia-Brussels International (WBI) is the public agency responsible for international relations of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation and Wallonia. WBI promotes entities with an international capacity for action (such as universities, clusters or companies) in Wallonia-Brussels and defends the values and interests of each of the parties, in a spirit of cooperation and mutual aid.

In the framework of agreements with 70 countries and regions, WBI supports all stakeholders in Wallonia-Brussels. Actions are carried out in areas such as culture, scientific research and higher education.

Wallonia-Brussels International works among others through a network of scientific liaison offices. The general objective of the network is to promote scientific and technological relations between research and innovation operators in Wallonia-Brussels and partner countries.



Wallonia-Brussels Campus

Wallonie-Bruxelles Campus (WB Campus) is the agency for promoting higher education of French-speaking Belgium on the international stage. It represents well-renowned higher education institutions, including 5 universities, 19 university colleges and 16 schools of arts.

WB Campus works under the auspices of Wallonia-Brussels International (i.e., the Ministry of Foreign Affairs), in close collaboration with the Academy for research and higher education (ARES) to support the internationalisation of our higher education institutions.

To reach its goal WB Campus uses different tools: www.studyinbelgium.be, multilingual publications, participation in promotional events abroad, organisation of promotional campaigns on specific themes.



Mrs. Pascale DELCOMMINETTE
General Administrator
Wallonia-Brussels International

From 1986 to 1990, Pascale studied translation (English and Spanish) at the International Interpreters' School (EII) in Mons. She completed these studies first with a European Studies certificate (1989-1990), then with a second certificate in Hispanic American Studies (1990-1991). A 'licence' degree (now the equivalent of an MA) in Social and Economic Sciences (1990 - 1992), a teaching diploma (1993-1994) and a post-graduate degree in International Commerce (1995-1996) were to follow.

Before joining Awex, the Wallonia Export-Investment Agency, in 1995, she worked as a project coordinator for the European Communities Commission, and then in a research position at the Political and Social Economy department at the University of Liège. In April 1997, Pascale joined the office of the Minister-President of the Walloon Government as an advisor. There, she was in charge of the "Foreign Relations" Cell. In 1999, it was time for a change. Pascale became an advisor to the office of the Vice-President of the Walloon Government, in the "General Policy" cell. She left the ministries in 2002 to become Manager for the General Secretariat of the Wallonia Regional Investment Society (SRIW). From 2004 to 2013, she worked in a series of managerial positions at the ministerial offices of the Region of Wallonia and the Wallonia-Brussels Federation: Deputy Private Secretary to the Minister-President of the Government of Wallonia (2004-2007); Private Secretary to the minister of Social Action, Health and Equal Opportunities (2007-2009); Private Secretary to the Minister-President for the Government of Wallonia and the Wallonia-Brussels Federation (2009-2013).

In parallel to these ministerial posts, Pascale joined the Ducreire Belgian Export Credit Agency in 2006 - she still holds this position - and became the government commissioner for the Economic Stimulation Agency (2007-2009), where she became a board member in 2012, and at the Wallonia Export-Investment Agency, Awex (2009-2014).

In January 2014, Pascale became Deputy General Administrator for Wallonie-Bruxelles International (WBI). In July of the same year, she was named General Administrator for Wallonie-Bruxelles International (WBI) and the Wallonia Export-Investment Agency (AWEX), replacing Philippe Suinen. In July 2015, she took up her new role.

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Prof. Serge JAUMAIN
Canada Guest Expert

A specialist in Canadian studies and a graduate of ULB and the University of Ottawa, Serge Jaumain is Professor of History at ULB, where he co-directs AmericaS (Centre for the Study of the Americas) and serves as Advisor to the Rector for Cooperation. He currently chairs the Scientific Council of the Institut des Amériques (Paris) and has previously chaired the International Association of Quebec Studies (AIEQ) and the International Council for Canadian Studies. His research focuses in particular on relations between Europe and Canada. He was awarded the *International Governor General's Award of Canada*.



Mrs. Aude SEGERS
Scientific and Academic Advisor in Montréal
Wallonia-Brussels International

The Scientific and Academic Advisor in Montreal is responsible for promoting the higher education, research and innovation sectors of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation and the Walloon Region in Canada, as well as facilitating academic, scientific and technological collaborations between French-speaking Belgium and Canada.

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Mrs. Cécile LIÉGEOIS
Head of Wallonia-Brussels Campus
Wallonia-Brussels Campus

Head of the Educational department of Wallonia-Brussels International and Wallonia-Brussels Campus agency.

Holding a Master's degree in political science (International Relations) and a Bachelor of laws from UCLouvain, she started her career as officer in the department of Scholarships and the department of Readers & Assistants of Wallonia-Brussels International.

From 2003, she became the head of the Education department of this administration.

A few years later, she received the mission of setting up an agency for promoting the higher education of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation on the international stage. She coordinates the activities of WB Campus since 2009.

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Mrs. Aline FRANCHIMONT
Project Manager
Wallonia-Brussels Campus

Project Manager at Wallonie-Bruxelles Campus agency, the Wallonia-Brussels International higher education department.

Holding of a master's degree in journalism and communication from IHECS (IHECS Brussels school – Journalism and communication), Aline started her career in 2009 as Communication Officer at Research in Brussels NPO, a public organisation in charge of promoting scientific research and raising the awareness level of youngsters for scientific studies. Since 2016, she has been working for Wallonie-Bruxelles International. Her job consists mainly in developing communication tools, strengthening the opportunities of actions of the agency and managing activities and projects of attractiveness to promote higher education in French-speaking Belgium.

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**ACADÉMIE
DE RECHERCHE ET
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SUPÉRIEUR**

Académie de Recherche et d'Enseignement Supérieur

The Academy for Research and Higher Education (Académie de recherche et d'enseignement supérieur – ARES) is the federation of the French-speaking HEIs of Belgium. As a public interest body, it is responsible for supporting these institutions in their teaching, research and community service missions. It brings together 6 universities, 19 university colleges, 16 colleges of arts and numerous adult higher education colleges. As a unique platform, ARES carries out the general coordination for the HE sector in the Wallonia-Brussels Federation.



Mr. Laurent DESPY

Administrator

Académie de Recherche d'Enseignement Supérieur

Graduated in journalism and communication from the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB), Laurent Despy began his professional career as spokesman for the Socialist Party (PS), which was then chaired by Philippe Busquin. He held this position from 1992 to 1999. He then became political secretary of the PS group in the Parliament of the French Community from 1999 to 2001. From 2001 to 2003, he continued his career as spokesman for Rudy Demotte, then Minister of Budget, Public Service and Sports.

Subsequently he moved closer to the field of education and was appointed in 2003 as “Government Delegate” to the ULB, where he carried out control and advisory missions. In 2007, he also became “Government Commissioner” at the Université de Liège (ULiège). In 2011, he was elected administrator of the same university.

Laurent Despy has also been politically involved at the municipal level as a municipal councilor from 2000 to 2018. He also has been alderman for housing, urbanism and land use from 2009 to 2017.

Laurent Despy is currently the administrator of ARES, since July 2020.

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Mrs. Charline CAUWE
Director of International Relations
Académie de Recherche d'Enseignement Supérieur

Charline holds a master's degree in European Studies from KULeuven. She began her professional career as an international project manager at the Youth Forum.

In October 2019, Charline joined the Academy for Research and Higher Education (ARES) as an international project manager. Her responsibilities included coordinating internationalization projects for various higher education institutions, developing tools and training programs to support their international teams, promoting their interests, and establishing collaborative initiatives with external partners.

In November 2022, she was seconded to the office of the Minister of Higher Education for a two-year period.

Charline returned to ARES in 2024 and was recently promoted to head of its international relations department. She now coordinates the management of various initiatives, projects, and actions aimed at supporting the internationalization of higher education institutions.

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Mrs. Laure-Eve DE SWAEF

Project Manager, International Relations Department
Académie de Recherche d'Enseignement Supérieur

A graduate of the ULB (Université Libre de Bruxelles) with a master's degree in Romance and French Language and Literature (specializing in the world of books and publishing) and a postgraduate master's degree in the construction of European history (UCLouvain-Saint Louis), Laure-Eve De Swaef began her career as a research fellow on a FNRS (National Fund for Scientific Research) grant while pursuing a doctorate in the humanities and social sciences before shifting her focus to European affairs.

After an initial experience as a project manager intern in the "Science and Society" field at the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF), she worked as a parliamentary assistant for the Brussels-Capital Region Parliament. In 2022, she became an attaché in charge of Research and Innovation at the Wallonia-Brussels Delegation to the EU. She notably co-chaired the Research Working Group during Belgium's Presidency of the Council of the EU in 2024.

Since 2025, she has been in charge of various projects related to the internationalization of higher education institutions within the International Relations Department of ARES. Among her responsibilities, she is specifically in charge of the North American and African regions.

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