



Pushing the frontiers
of innovative research

LE
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League of European Research Universities

University of Amsterdam

Universitat de Barcelona

University of Cambridge

University of Edinburgh

University of Freiburg

Université de Genève

Universität Heidelberg

University of Helsinki

Universiteit Leiden

KU Leuven

Imperial College London

University College London

Lund University

University of Milan

Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München

University of Oxford

Pierre & Marie Curie University

Université Paris-Sud

University of Strasbourg

Utrecht University

University of Zurich

WELCOME MESSAGE



Since its founding in 2002, the League of European Research Universities (LERU) has emerged as a prominent advocate for the promotion of basic research at European universities. LERU strongly believes that basic research plays an essential role in the innovation process and significantly contributes to the progress of society.

LERU aims at furthering the understanding and knowledge of politicians, policy makers and opinion leaders about the role and activities of research-intensive universities. Drawing on the impressive academic potential and expertise of its network, LERU has a strong and significant impact on research policy in Europe.

LERU is dedicated to continuing this through direct communication and discussions within the policy community, sound proposals for further improvement and progress, and carefully considered position papers on fundamental issues such as academic careers and the role of universities.

Our broad spectrum of activities and our contributions to the research policy debate have established LERU's reputation as a major stakeholder in the EU. LERU now has an important and well-respected voice in the discussions about the future of Europe's research policy. In the years to come, LERU will continue to influence policy, and intensify cooperation among like-minded organisations worldwide to stress the importance of universities for research and innovation.

This brochure provides an excellent overview of our network and its numerous activities. I wish you pleasant reading.

Sincerely yours,

Prof. Alain Beretz

Chair of LERU

ABOUT



The League of European Research Universities (LERU) is an association of 21 leading research-intensive universities that share the values of high-quality teaching within an environment of internationally competitive research.

LERU advocates:

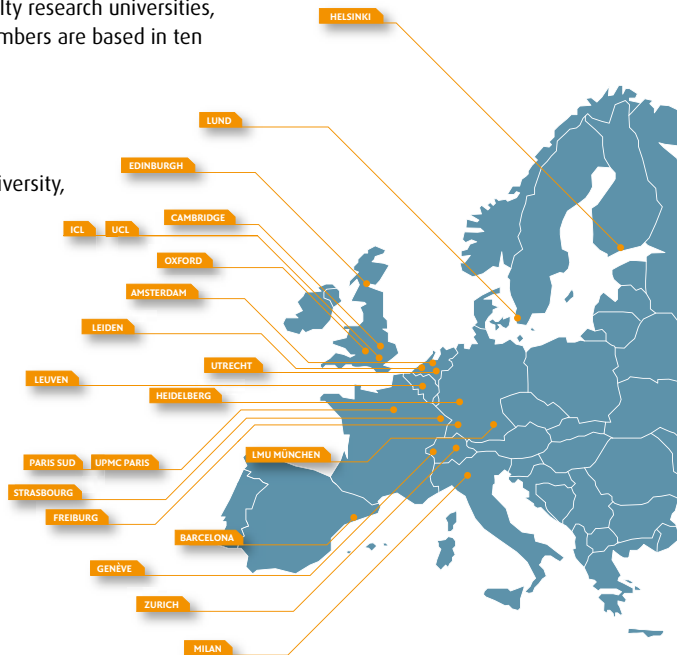
- education through an awareness of the frontiers of human understanding;
- the creation of new knowledge through basic research, which is the ultimate source of innovation in society;
- and the promotion of research across a broad front in partnership with industry and society at large.

The purpose of the League is to advocate these values, to influence policy in Europe and to develop best practices through mutual exchange of experience. LERU regularly publishes a variety of papers and reports, including high-level policy statements, in-depth analyses and concrete recommendations for policymakers, universities, researchers and other stakeholders.

MEMBERS

LERU is a consortium of some of the most renowned research-intensive universities in Europe. Founded in 2002 as a partnership of 12 leading multi-faculty research universities, it expanded its membership to 21 universities in 2010. LERU's members are based in ten European countries.

- Belgium: KU Leuven
- Finland: University of Helsinki
- France: Université Paris-Sud, Pierre & Marie Curie University, University of Strasbourg,
- Germany: University of Freiburg, Universität Heidelberg, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München
- Italy: University of Milan
- Spain: Universitat de Barcelona
- Sweden: Lund University
- Switzerland: Université de Genève, University of Zurich
- The Netherlands: University of Amsterdam, Utrecht University, Universiteit Leiden
- United Kingdom: University of Cambridge, University of Edinburgh, Imperial College London, University College London, University of Oxford



ORGANISATION

Rectors' Assembly and Board of Directors

Each member university is represented in LERU by its head of institution. The Rectors' Assembly (RA) is the highest decision-making body of the organisation. It meets twice a year at a different member institution.

The Rectors' Assembly appoints three of its members to serve as the Board of Directors (BoD) and elects a chairperson from among them. The Chair of the Board of Directors also presides over the Rectors' Assembly.

Presently, the LERU Directors are:

- **Prof. Alain Beretz** (Chair), President of the University of Strasbourg
- **Prof. Andrew Hamilton**, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford
- **Prof. Bert van der Zwaan**, Rector Magnificus of Utrecht University



Prof. Alain Beretz

He graduated with a degree in pharmacology and has been a member of the Pharmacology Faculty of the University of Strasbourg since 1990. His research deals with thrombotic disorders, vascular pharmacology and chronic vascular diseases. He was Vice-President in charge of technology transfer, and then President of the Université Louis Pasteur in Strasbourg. He was elected in January 2009 as the first President of the University of Strasbourg, the product from an innovative merger of the three previous universities. In 2010 the University of Strasbourg received a €375 million endowment for the improvement of campus buildings. It is also one of the first three winners of the “Excellence Initiative”, a series of competitive calls for projects yielding a total €1.2bn grant from the French government’s “Operation Campus” competition. In 2013, Prof. Alain Beretz was re-elected President of the University of Strasbourg and appointed Chairman of LERU.



Prof. Andrew Hamilton

Professor Andrew Hamilton has been Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford since October 2009 and was Provost of Yale University from 2004-2008. He read chemistry at Exeter University, has a Masters degree from the University of British Columbia and received his PhD from Cambridge University in 1980. He spent a post-doctoral period at the Université Louis Pasteur in Strasbourg. His research interests lie at the interface of organic and biological chemistry, with particular focus on the use of synthetic design for the understanding, mimicry and potential disruption of biological processes. He received the Arthur C Cope Scholar Award from the American Chemical Society and is a Fellow of the Royal Society. He is a member of the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council and the Hong Kong University Grants Committee.



Prof. Bert van der Zwaan

Since the start of his academic career in 1982, Bert van der Zwaan has been working at Utrecht and Nijmegen universities in the Netherlands, and has held many positions outside of the academia. Being trained as a paleontologist, his main research interest involved (paleo)ecology, although already early in his career he participated in many interdisciplinary programs. Through this work he became very interested in the (regional) impact of universities on innovation. After becoming dean of the Faculty of Geosciences in 2006, he has left the chair of Biogeology at Utrecht University since 1 September 2008 and became completely involved in science management. He has been appointed Rector Magnificus of Utrecht University as of 2011.



SECRETARY-GENERAL AND LERU OFFICE

LERU's secretariat, known as the LERU Office, is based at the KU Leuven in Belgium. The Secretary-General is the head of the Office and the internal and external face of LERU.

He is responsible for the daily management of the organisation and is assisted by the LERU Office staff.

Prof. Kurt Deketelaere, Secretary-General

Since July 2009, Kurt is the Secretary-General of the League of European Research Universities (LERU). Before joining LERU, he was the chief legal advisor (2004-2007) and the chief of staff (2007-2009) of the Flemish Minister for Public Works, Energy, Environment and Nature.

He is also a professor of law (however on parttime leave since 2007) at the University of Leuven, the university where he studied law (1984-1989), obtained his PhD in Law (1989-1995) and spent (until now) his whole academic career.

Furthermore, he is an honorary professor of law at the University of Malta and the University of Dundee, was awarded the Hou-De Honorary Chair at the National Tsing Hua University in Taiwan, and has been a visiting professor of law at the Universities of London, Sydney and Singapore.

Kurt published extensively in the field of EU Environmental, Energy and Climate Change Law, and is the editor of several leading bookseries and journals in that field.

Finally, he chairs the Board of Directors of the Flemish Energy Regulator (VREG), is chair of the Flemish Environmental Damages Commission, co-chair of the Malta Legal Forum on Adaptation to Climate Change, and is on the board of a number of profit (MRBB, AIF) and non-profit (I-Cleantech) organisations in Belgium.



Dr. Katrien Maes, Chief Policy Officer

Katrien is Chief Policy Officer of the League of European Research Universities. She has been with LERU since 2004 and is currently responsible for policy development across all areas of LERU's research and higher education related activities, from research funding, management and assessment, to research careers, doctoral training, professional development and gender issues. She is an expert in EU research policies and programmes.

Originally from Belgium, Katrien lived and worked in the US from 1986 until 2002, first as a doctoral student in linguistics, then as an Assistant Professor of Italian language pedagogy at the University of Delaware. During that time her research interests focused on syntax, second language acquisition and computer-assisted language learning. Her teaching subjects ranged from Italian language and linguistics to foreign language acquisition and pedagogy for young and adult second language learners.



Laura Keustermans, Policy Officer

Laura is Policy Officer of the League of European Research Universities. She joined LERU in January 2007 and is currently responsible for policy development across different areas of LERU's activities, in particular EU research funding programmes, teaching and learning and social sciences and humanities.

Laura obtained a Master's degree in Modern History from KU Leuven in 2003, after which she specialised in international relations. Before joining LERU she worked as an Account Manager in an international company involved in IT distribution.



**Alea López de San Román,
Policy Officer**

Alea is Policy Officer of the League of European Research Universities. She joined LERU in November 2013 and is currently responsible for policy developments in the field of innovation and entrepreneurship, open access and text and data mining.

Originally from Spain, Alea obtained a Double Degree in Law and Political Science (2002-2007) and a Master's Degree in International Affairs (2011-2012), followed by European Studies at the KU Leuven.

Before joining LERU, she worked at the Regional Office of Madrid in Brussels.



**Bart Valkenaers,
Press and Communications Officer**

Bart has been Communications Officer at the League of European Research Universities since 2009. He is currently responsible for all press and communications activities and for policy developments in the fields of communication, alumni and charitable funding.

Bart graduated in 2007 from Leuven University College where he studied marketing. Shortly after, he did a one year specialisation in communications. Before joining LERU, he worked for the Communications Office of KU Leuven and for the KU Leuven Association, a structural cooperation between the KU Leuven and 11 university colleges in Flanders.



**Veerle Van Kerckhove,
Administrative Coordinator**

Veerle Van Kerckhove started at the LERU Office in September 2009.

She is Administrative Coordinator and Personal Assistant to the Secretary-General. Veerle has started her career as a teacher in primary schools.

Later she worked as a consultant in the leasing sector. Before joining LERU, she was the Personal Assistant to the Financial Director of KU Leuven Research & Development (LRD).

ACTIVITIES



Internal

LERU's policy development activities are undertaken at the request of the Rectors' Assembly. Committees, communities, working groups and expert groups, consisting of LERU Rectors, Vice-Rectors or other senior members of staff, are established as needed to help elaborate LERU policy positions and are instrumental in producing policy papers, advisory letters, round tables, etc.

The Policy Committee (PC) deals with various aspects of research policy matters of importance to Europe's research-intensive universities and elucidates the role universities play in the knowledge economy.

LERU communities bring together representatives from all member universities to work on LERU policy or collaborative issues in certain areas. Communities may be created at the request of the Rectors' Assembly or by a proposal to the BoD/RA from one or more LERU members or the LERU Office. They operate on a continuous basis and are led by a steering group in collaboration with a LERU Office member.

Recent initiatives have focused on research data, social sciences and humanities, innovative doctoral training, enterprise and innovation, research impact, etc.

LERU Working groups are set up on an ad hoc basis to develop a policy view in a specific area. They bring together top experts from LERU universities. In response to or in anticipation of specific initiatives at the European level the experts develop common views through meetings and discussion, which LERU publishes as advice papers. Recent examples include the working groups on alumni relations, charitable funding, gender, law and e-learning.

LERU Expert Groups are set up with a limited task and for a limited time to provide expertise to an existing LERU representative body (e.g. RA, BoD, PC, Community or Working Group). Their creation is usually requested by one of these bodies and their remit defined within this context. LERU has Expert Groups on research integrity, research data and legal expertise.

The activities of the various committees, communities and working or expert groups are coordinated by the LERU Office.



FACTS & FIGURES

ACTIVITIES

External

To pursue its goals effectively, LERU maintains a dialogue and cooperates with EU-related organisations active in the higher education and research arena. These include the bodies of the European Union, the European Research Council, the European Institute of Innovation and Technology, the Joint Research Centre and others. LERU monitors and influences the developments of relevant EU policy programmes and initiatives.

Each year, in spring and autumn, a reception for LERU's EU research affairs network (EU officials and other stakeholders) is organised in Brussels.

Aiming at the creation of a Global Council of Research-Intensive Universities, LERU gradually intensifies its contacts with sister organisations worldwide, such as the Association of American Universities, the Group of Eight in Australia, the Russell Group in the UK, the C9 in China, the Association of East Asian Research Universities, the RU11 in Japan and the U15 in Canada.

- Together LERU member universities represent more than 550,000 students, including 50,000 PhD candidates.
- Each year about 55,000 master's degrees and 12,000 doctorates are awarded at LERU universities.
- The total research budget of LERU's members exceeds €5 billion.
- More than €1 billion is granted to the LERU universities by research councils, while over €1.25 billion comes from contract research.
- The total sum of research grants from EU projects to LERU universities is approximately €300 million.
- More than 20% of ERC grants have been awarded to researchers at LERU universities.
- Over 230 Nobel Prize and Field Medal winners have studied or worked at LERU universities.
- 55,000 academic staff and 55,000 non-academic staff work at the member institutions (hospital-only staff not included).

IMPACT

LERU firmly established itself as a network of top-level universities dedicated to fundamental research. Internally, it has built up an organisation fit to meet LERU's aims.

It developed ways to disseminate its message on research and higher education through several types of influential publications, helping to shape research policy at the EU level.

LERU has become a valued interlocutor for the European Commission on various research topics (Horizon 2020, ERA, etc.) and acts as the voice of European research-intensive universities on a very wide range of topics related to EU research policy.

Through membership in the LERU network, LERU's members can influence national agendas and improve their expertise through mutual learning and exchange of best practices.



MEMBERS

UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM



University of Amsterdam
The Netherlands

Spuij 21
1012 WX Amsterdam

www.uva.nl

A modern university with a rich history, the University of Amsterdam (UvA) traces its roots back to 1632, when the Golden Age school Athenaeum Illustre was established to train students in trade and philosophy. Today, with more than 30,000 students, 5,000 staff and 250 study programmes (bachelor's and master's), many of which are taught in English, and a budget of more than €600 million, it is one of the largest comprehensive universities and a genuine intellectual hub in Europe. Besides its membership of LERU, it maintains intensive contact with other leading research universities around the world.

Teaching and research at the UvA are conducted at seven Faculties: the Humanities, Social and Behavioural Sciences, Economics and Business, Law, Science, Medicine and Dentistry, with programmes offered in almost every field. Over time, the UvA has risen to international prominence as a research university, gaining an excellent reputation in both fundamental and socially relevant research. The UvA's thriving doctoral programmes provide an excellent foundation for engaging in high-quality teaching and research.

The UvA seeks to offer an inspiring international academic environment in which both staff and students can develop their talents optimally. Characterised by a critical, creative and international atmosphere, the UvA has a long tradition of open-mindedness and engagement with social issues, in keeping with the spirit of the city with which it is inextricably linked.

UNIVERSITAT DE BARCELONA

The University of Barcelona (UB) is the most renowned public institution of higher education in Catalonia, catering to the needs of the greatest number of students and delivering the broadest and most comprehensive offering in higher educational courses. The UB is also the principal centre of university research at state level and has become a European benchmark for research activity, both in terms of the number of research programmes it conducts and the excellence these have achieved. In 2012, it obtained 420 research projects in competitive calls, 20 European projects and more than 400 research projects and collaboration agreements with companies, with an overall income of almost 60 million euros.

Its own history, dating back from 1450, is closely tied to the history of Barcelona and of Catalonia. The University combines the values of tradition with its position as an institution dedicated to innovation and teaching excellence: a university that is as urban, outward-looking and cosmopolitan as the city from which it takes its name.

The UB counts 19 faculties and schools and five affiliated centres which comprise almost 74,000 students and more than 5,000 professors. The UB offers 66 bachelor's degree courses, 140 university master's degree courses, 73 doctoral programs, 49 extension courses, 367 UB-specific master's and postgraduate degree courses and 408 lifelong learning courses (IL3-UB).



Universitat de Barcelona
Spain

Gran Via de les Corts Catalanes 585
E-08007 Barcelona

www.ub.edu



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE



University of Cambridge
United Kingdom

The Old Schools
Trinity Lane
Cambridge CB2 1TN

www.cam.ac.uk

The University of Cambridge is consistently ranked among the foremost universities in the world. Its mission is to contribute to society through the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence. This is exemplified by its world-class teaching and its cutting-edge research across all disciplines. To date, 90 affiliates of the University of Cambridge have won the Nobel Prize, more than any other institution.

Founded in 1209, the University of Cambridge remains a self-governing community of scholars. It comprises 31 autonomous Colleges and over 150 departments, faculties and other institutions. For administrative purposes, academic units are grouped into six Schools: Arts and Humanities, Biological Sciences, Clinical Medicine, Humanities and Social Sciences, Physical Sciences, and Technology.

The University provides the central resources for research and teaching, such as lecture theatres, faculty libraries and laboratories; sets the curriculum; conducts the examinations; and confers the degrees. The Colleges are responsible for admitting undergraduate students and for providing accommodation, food, a welcoming community, and small-group undergraduate teaching to complement the lectures and practical classes organised by the university.

Cambridge is committed to disseminating and applying the results of its research to create economic and social benefit. The university sits at the heart of the largest technology cluster in Europe, comprising 1,500 hi-tech and bio-tech companies; fourteen companies which started in the Cambridge cluster are now valued at over €1 billion.



UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

For more than 400 years, the University of Edinburgh has been at the heart of European intellectual development. Edinburgh people have explored space, revolutionised surgery and published era-defining books, and they continue to make history. They have introduced the world to creations and ideas ranging from the first department of English Literature 250 years ago to the Higgs boson. Today Edinburgh is a major contributor to Europe's leading-edge research in climate change mitigation, life sciences, informatics and supercomputing.

The University of Edinburgh is consistently ranked one of the world's top universities. As one of the UK's top five universities for research, its global reputation for innovative research and high-quality teaching attracts some of the world's best minds. Edinburgh is home to more than 31,000 students, more than a third of them from outside the UK. The University has staff and student mobility programmes with 200 universities across 23 European nations. It actively participates in the European Union's Framework Programme and collaborates with a wide range of research-intensive European universities.

Among its many research centres, international cultures are a prominent focus, helping build strong academic partnerships spanning the globe while pursuing the wider goal of advancing tolerance, mutual understanding and cross-cultural dialogue.

Edinburgh is a truly international university firmly rooted in Scotland. Its vision is to recruit and develop the world's most promising students and outstanding staff and to benefit society as a whole. Edinburgh aims to play a central role in enhancing Europe's research competitiveness in the global knowledge economy.



The University of Edinburgh
United Kingdom

Old College
South Bridge
Edinburgh EH8 9YL

www.ed.ac.uk



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH

UNIVERSITY OF FREIBURG



Founded in the 15th century, the University of Freiburg has a long-standing reputation of excellence in academic teaching and research. Among the most renowned university members were the philosophers Edmund Husserl and Martin Heidegger, the economist Walter Eucken, and such Nobel Prize winners as Hans Spemann, Hermann Staudinger, Georg von Hevesy, Friedrich August von Hayek and Georges Köhler.

Today, with its mixture of traditional subjects and modern technology, the University of Freiburg is flourishing more than ever. The university and its hospital employ more than 16,000 staff. Organised according to the classical model of a comprehensive university, it provides 24,000 students with a broad range of subjects – from applied information technology, the entire spectrum of medical specialities and natural sciences to the fields of humanities and social sciences.

The University of Freiburg's research and teaching policies aim to overcome the barriers between individual disciplines to create opportunities for new perspectives on complex problems. The university uses its location bordering on Switzerland and France to establish a European Campus, a research area in the heart of the continent. By supporting collaborative research projects across boundaries and implementing centers of knowledge and interdisciplinary graduate colleges, the university provides the disciplines an effective means by which to benefit from each other's knowledge.

An added benefit that comes with such flexibility is an increased international interest for the University of Freiburg. A significant number of scientists and students comes from all over the world, whose culture-specific views of scientific procedures and research approaches enrich the dialogue with their German counterparts. 34% of the graduate student body are from foreign countries. The general international exchange of scientific results and experiences also plays an important role at the University of Freiburg. More than 300 partner universities and programmes on five continents, together with the alumni association, form a first-class international network.

University of Freiburg
Germany

Rektorat
Fahnenbergplatz
79085 Freiburg

www.uni-freiburg.de



UNIVERSITÉ DE GENÈVE

The Academy of Geneva was officially founded in 1559 by two eminent Reformers, Jean Calvin and Théodore de Bèze, and was then renamed University of Geneva (UNIGE) in 1873. For the last four and a half centuries, the Alma mater has attracted students and researchers to Geneva from all over the world.

Composed of nine Faculties: Science, Medicine, Humanities, Social Sciences, Economics and Management, Law, Theology, Psychology and Educational Sciences, and Translation and Interpreting. The UNIGE also boasts several interfaculty centres, and offers a programme in environmental studies.

The university has always encouraged interdisciplinarity. In this respect, it provides courses in various fields, and fosters crossed research.

Located at the heart of international Geneva, the UNIGE has woven a vast network with international and non-governmental organisations. These connections facilitate collaborations between scientists and researchers, including from the CERN (European Organisation for Nuclear Research), the UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme), and the WMO (World Meteorological Organisation).

The UNIGE benefits from an international reputation of fundamental and applied research, particularly in molecular biology, astrophysics, and social and economic sciences. It also hosts six national research centres, and is proud to count amongst its faculty a recipient of the Fields Medal, which is the equivalent of the Nobel prize in Mathematics.



Université de Genève
Switzerland

24 rue du Général-Dufour
CH - 1211 Genève 4

www.unige.ch



UNIVERSITÄT HEIDELBERG



Universität Heidelberg
Germany

Grabengasse 1
69117 Heidelberg

www.uni-heidelberg.de

Heidelberg University, founded in 1386, is Germany's oldest university and one of the strongest research universities in Europe. The successes in both rounds of the Excellence Initiative and in international rankings prove Heidelberg's reputation and leading role in the scientific community. In terms of educating students and promoting promising early-career academics, Heidelberg relies on research-based teaching and an outstanding, well-structured training for doctoral candidates.

Heidelberg University is a comprehensive university, offering the full spectrum of disciplines in the humanities, law and the social sciences alongside the natural and life sciences, including medicine. Heidelberg aims to strengthen the individual disciplines and to further interdisciplinary cooperation as well as to carry research results over into society and industry. At the heart of the university's strategy are four major research fields, the "molecular and cellular basis of life", "structure and pattern formation in the material world", "cultural dynamics in globalised worlds" and "self-regulation and regulation: individuals and organisations". Heidelberg also draws its strength from its cooperation with numerous local non-university research institutes as well as its central involvement in two leading-edge clusters funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research.

Heidelberg University is tied into a worldwide network of research and teaching collaborations. Exchange programmes have been established with more than 400 universities worldwide. Heidelberg's marked global interconnectedness is also evidenced by its 19 university partnerships and several international research training groups.

With its aspiration of connecting traditional values with future-oriented scientific concepts in research and teaching, the university is building bridges to the future - Zukunft. Seit 1386.



UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI

The University of Helsinki is consistently ranked among the 100 best universities in the world. The university is especially strong in the fields of atmospheric physics, metapopulation biology, molecular medicine, mathematics of inverse problems, world politics and Russian studies. It is Finland's largest university with over 36,000 students, of which 5,000 are doctoral students, and 9,000 personnel, of which 5,000 are researchers and teachers.

The University of Helsinki covers an extensive amount of research fields and provides society with research results to the benefit of both the private and the public sector. High-quality research is the basis for all teaching: University of Helsinki students graduate as versatile experts and strengthen the Finnish knowledge economy with their skills and know-how. The students are involved in the researchers' work from the beginning of their studies, and every researcher is also teacher. To improve the university education further, a Teachers' Academy has been established to gather well-respected teachers who are interested in developing their teaching skills and distributing good practices within the university.

The University of Helsinki has an international outlook and its research and educational linkages span the globe. Founded in 1640, the University of Helsinki wants to strengthen its position among the world's leading multidisciplinary research universities and to actively promote the well-being of humanity and a fair society.



University of Helsinki
Finland

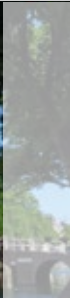
PL 33 (Yliopistonkatu 4)
00014 University of Helsinki

www.helsinki.fi/university



UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI

UNIVERSITEIT LEIDEN



Universiteit Leiden
The Netherlands

Rapenburg 70
2311 EZ Leiden

www.leidenuniv.nl

Leiden University, founded in 1575 as the first university in the Netherlands, is one of Europe's foremost international research universities. This prominent position gives Leiden graduates a leading edge in applying for academic posts and for functions outside academia. The university has selected six profile themes for its research: fundamentals of science; health, life and biosciences; health across the human life cycle; law, democracy and governance: legitimacy in a multilevel setting; the Asian challenge and the global interaction of civilisations and languages. These themes, all areas in which Leiden researchers excel, transcend the traditional boundaries between disciplines and faculties. Leiden University offers opportunities for top-level fundamental research whilst at the same time reflecting key societal and global concerns of the 21st century.

Leiden University offers 46 bachelor's and 73 master's degree programmes, many of them English-taught. The university is home to 23,000 students – from 110 countries - and 4,000 FTE staff.

Teaching at Leiden University is closely integrated with research. The university believes that a complete educational programme comprises a bachelor's and a master's stage. The master's stage has a one-year master's programme and a challenging two-year research master's variant. These constitute the preparation for the following stage: the PhD.

Leiden University collaborates in a wide range of partnerships, through which it is able to amass expertise across the borders of disciplines and academic fields. Interdisciplinary collaboration is not restricted to scientific fields within the university; Leiden also has partnerships with other research institutions, non-profit organisations, government authorities and the business sector.



KU LEUVEN

KU Leuven is a knowledge nexus in the heart of Europe where cutting-edge research, high-quality education and service to society meet.

As a leading European research university, KU Leuven pursues curiosity-driven and strategic frontier research as well as targeted and demand-driven research. With research expenditures of over €384 million and an academic staff of more than 6,000 researchers from 120 countries, KU Leuven strives to build on its strong international reputation for research excellence. Excellence in education is built on and cultivated through excellence in research. KU Leuven offers a comprehensive catalogue of 322 academic degree programmes supported by its research activities, including 85 degree programmes taught in English. The university's doctoral schools provide internationally oriented PhD tracks for more than 4,000 doctoral students. KU Leuven is Belgium's largest university, with 42,000 students in Leuven and 12,000 students at its campuses in 11 Belgian cities, including Brussels, Ghent and Antwerp.

KU Leuven takes up an important responsibility toward the world of industry and society as a whole. Technology transfer is stimulated through KU Leuven Research & Development (LRD). KU Leuven cooperates closely with external partners in industry, government and civil society. KU Leuven's university hospital network provides high-quality healthcare, including advanced tertiary care, at five medical campuses in the region and contributes intensively to the university's research and teaching activities. KU Leuven strives to carry out this manifold mission in an atmosphere of international openness and individual reflection, epitomised by its motto: 'KU Leuven. Inspiring the outstanding.'



KU Leuven
Belgium

Oude Markt 13
3000 Leuven

www.kuleuven.be

KU LEUVEN

IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON



Imperial College London
United Kingdom

South Kensington Campus
London SW7 2AZ

www.imperial.ac.uk

One of the world's leading universities, Imperial College London's 14,000 students and 6,500 staff are expanding the frontiers of knowledge in science, medicine, engineering and business, and translating their discoveries into benefits for society.

Founded in 1907, Imperial builds on a distinguished past - having pioneered penicillin, holography and fibre optics - to shape the future. Imperial researchers are working to improve global health, tackle climate change, develop sustainable energy technology and address security challenges.

Imperial nurtures a dynamic enterprise culture, where collaborations with industrial, health-care and international partners are the norm.

In 2007, Imperial College London and Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust formed the UK's first Academic Health Science Centre. This unique partnership aims to improve the quality of life of patients and populations by taking new discoveries and translating them into new therapies as quickly as possible.

Imperial has nine London campuses, including Imperial West: a new 25 acre research and translation centre in White City, west London. At Imperial West, world-class researchers, businesses and higher education partners will co-locate to create value from ideas on a global scale.

**Imperial College
London**

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

University College London (UCL) is one of the world's leading multidisciplinary universities, with an international reputation for the quality of its research and teaching across the academic spectrum. UCL is consistently ranked as one of the top UK universities and in the top 10 universities worldwide.

The Research Assessment Exercise of 2008 confirmed UCL's research strength with outstanding results achieved across all the subjects we offer, ranging from Biomedicine, Sciences, Engineering and the Built Environment to Laws, Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities. UCL is home to the third highest number of world-leading academic staff in the UK and has 21 Nobel Prize winners amongst its former staff and students.

UCL is also highly rated for its teaching quality. We offer a dynamic and challenging learning environment, and our degree programmes reflect the latest research.

UCL is London's global university and is committed to finding solutions to major global challenges. UCL works in cooperation with many worldwide partners and global perspectives are embedded in the undergraduate and graduate degrees. UCL attracts talented staff and students from all over the world and over 40% of our students are from countries outside the UK, and from more than 150 countries in total. They are welcomed for the different perspectives and diversity they bring to teaching and learning at UCL.

UCL is located in the heart of London and is surrounded by the greatest concentration of libraries, museums, archives and professional bodies in Europe.



University College London
United Kingdom

Gower Street
London
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www.ucl.ac.uk



LUND UNIVERSITY



Lund University
Sweden

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www.lunduniversity.lu.se



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Lund University is a world-class university that works to understand, explain and improve our world and the human condition. Founded in 1666, the University has been consistently placed around the world's top 100 universities in recent years. It tackles complex problems and global challenges and works to ensure that knowledge and innovations benefit society.

Lund University provides education and research in engineering, science, law, social sciences, economics and management, medicine, humanities, theology, fine art, music and drama.

The city of Lund is Sweden's most attractive study destination. The University offers one of the broadest ranges of programmes and courses in Scandinavia, based on cross-disciplinary and cutting-edge research. A degree from Lund University is a hallmark of quality both in Sweden and abroad. The compact university campus encourages networking and creates the conditions for scientific breakthroughs and innovations.

The 47,700 students (individuals over year) and 7,500 employees are based mainly at the campuses in Lund, Malmö and Helsingborg. The university has a turnover of around €850 million, of which two thirds is in research and one third in education.

Lund is in a period of rapid development. The work to provide answers to the major questions and challenges facing mankind is being intensified. The major research facilities ESS and the MAX IV Laboratory are under construction in the city, and they will change our view of the world and the world's view of Lund.

UNIVERSITY OF MILAN

The University of Milan is among the European universities most committed to research in all fields. It is a comprehensive university that offers a stimulating study and work environment, in one of the most thriving European cities.

Its 2,200 professors represent the highest concentration of scientific expertise in the region and its research is ranked among the best in Europe.

The University of Milan offers 134 study BA and Master programmes, 31 doctoral programmes, 63 specialization schools. Very actively participating in the EU framework programmes, the University has achieved a good success rate in recent years particularly in the fields of Life Sciences, Food Quality and Safety, Nanotechnologies, Environmental Sciences and Social Sciences.

International partnerships are numerous and worldwide. Several bilateral and multilateral relationships have been established with partners in both the developed and the developing countries, with the latter being supported by teaching, supervision and know-how.

In recent years degree programmes entirely or partly taught in English, as well as joint and double degrees, have multiplied, as part of a wider process of internationalization.



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UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI MILANO

LUDWIG-MAXIMILIANS-UNIVERSITÄT MÜNCHEN

As one of Europe's leading research universities, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität (LMU) in Munich is committed to the highest international standards of excellence in research and teaching.

Building on its more than 500-year-long tradition, LMU offers a broad spectrum of disciplines that covers all areas of knowledge, ranging from the humanities, law, economics and social sciences, to medicine and the natural sciences. With degree programmes in 200 subjects and numerous thematic combinations, LMU offers a diverse array of courses. Close to 50,000 students are currently enrolled in these programmes.

LMU Munich provides excellent conditions for innovative research, both within individual fields and through inter- and transdisciplinary collaborations. Some 700 professors and 3,900 academic staff members carry out research and teach in 18 faculties. Their know-how and creativity form the foundation of the university's outstanding research record. In the Excellence Initiative, a nationwide competition designed to strengthen world-class research at German universities, LMU was highly successful in both rounds of the Initiative, held in 2006 and 2012.

LMU Munich maintains cooperation agreements with more than 500 partner universities worldwide. With around 7,500 students from 130 countries, LMU has one of the largest foreign contingents at any German university. LMU is the university in the heart of Munich, one of Germany's most attractive cities, providing students and academics with enticing career opportunities – in science, industry, the media or in the cultural sector.

Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität
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UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Oxford is the oldest university in the English-speaking world and lays claim to eight centuries of continuous existence. It has been at the forefront of understanding the world – and shaping it – for centuries.

Oxford's 22,000 students are among the most talented undergraduate and postgraduate students in the world. They are attracted by the chance to study at a leading university with a centuries-old reputation for innovation and outstanding academic achievement; excellent facilities and resources in world-famous libraries, laboratories and museums; and the opportunity to work alongside world leading researchers.

Oxford's collegiate system is at the heart of the university's success, giving students and academics the benefits of belonging both to a large, internationally renowned institution and to a small, interdisciplinary academic community. It brings together leading academics and students across subjects and year groups, and from different cultures and countries, helping to foster the intense interdisciplinary approach that inspires much of the outstanding research achievement of the university and makes Oxford a leader in so many fields. For the intensity, breadth, quality and impact of its research, Oxford has few peers in the world. Research activity extends from the study of the formation of the universe and the development of early civilisations to high performance computing and the latest breakthroughs in medical science. Oxford's outstanding academic researchers are today developing new ways of working together, across traditional disciplinary boundaries and across continents, to meet the key challenges of a modern, globalised world.



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PIERRE & MARIE CURIE UNIVERSITY

Pierre & Marie Curie University (UPMC), a leading French university of science and medicine, is the principal heir of the Faculty of Sciences and one of the heirs of the Faculty of Medicine in Paris. UPMC provides bachelor's, master's and doctoral programs to 33,000 students in the fields of chemistry, engineering, mathematics, medicine, physics, life and earth sciences, the environment and biodiversity. UPMC also includes the Paris Astrophysics Institute, the Henri Poincaré Institute, and three marine stations on the French coast.

As France's largest scientific and medical complex, with 100 laboratories and 8,400 of its staff of 10,300 working in research units, UPMC studies the most important issues of sustainable development: health, climate change, water, biodiversity, energy, and communications.

It has earned recognition not just for its contribution to fundamental science but also for its extremely targeted research, as demonstrated by the many awards regularly won by UPMC researchers. UPMC actively promotes corporate research and education partnerships (industry-sponsored research, chairs affiliated to a sponsoring company) and technology transfer.

UPMC is also a founding member of Sorbonne University, one of the most comprehensive university centers in the country regrouping of five establishments: UPMC, Paris-Sorbonne, Muséum national d'histoire naturelle(MNHN), Compiègne University of Technology and INSEAD Business School. The comprehensive institution of Sorbonne University offers UPMC students in science and medicine an expanded choice of courses and degrees, including humanities and technology.

Sorbonne University was selected as an "Excellence Initiative" by the French government, and is fully supported by the CNRS (the national scientific research center), Inserm (the national institute of health and medical research) and the IRD (national institute for research and development).

Pierre & Marie Curie
University
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UNIVERSITÉ PARIS-SUD

Paris-Sud University is one of the most distinguished research institutions in Europe, now playing a major role in the creation of the consortium university of Paris-Saclay scheduled to open in 2014.

A multidisciplinary university with a strong science and health science component, it offers education and training in a broad spectrum of fields, ranging from exact sciences (from fundamental to applications and technology) to clinical medical practice, through computer science, physics, chemistry, nanotechnologies, biology, and pharmacy. The vast array of disciplines also includes law, economics, management, and sport sciences, all of which contribute to the university's social outreach.

Its research laboratories enjoy an outstanding international reputation. Mathematics and physics have historically earned Paris-Sud University its worldwide standing, which has been recognised with the most prestigious awards.

Paris-Sud University is renowned not only for its research but also for the extent and variety of its courses and programmes, both in academic disciplines at the bachelor's, master's and PhD levels, and in professional training. Multidisciplinary curricula with teaching supported by cutting-edge research, an innovative pedagogy to accommodate a variety of students are some of the features of a programme offering geared towards the needs of society (e.g. environment science or energy).

As an institution rooted in society, Paris-Sud University conducts outreach activities of various kinds, scientific and technical, artistic, and others at the crossroads between the two, with new "Science-Culture-Society" activities under development.



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construire l'avenir®

UNIVERSITY OF STRASBOURG



University of Strasbourg
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The University of Strasbourg was created by the successful merger of three universities in 2009. It was the first French university to have merged as a single entity. It offers its 43,000 students academic programmes in almost all disciplines with a particular focus on multidisciplinary approaches. Strasbourg is one of the most outstanding research universities in France and was one of the seven universities selected by the French government for the “Initiative of Excellence” programme launched in 2011.

The main strength of the University of Strasbourg stems from its active involvement in virtually every scientific discipline. Many of its research teams have a worldwide reputation in exact science domains as well as in social sciences and humanities.

The University of Strasbourg is strongly tied to its neighbour universities of the Upper Rhine Region such as Freiburg and Karlsruhe in Germany and Basel in Switzerland. With nearly 20% of its students coming from abroad (up to 50% for PhDs) the university is an attractor of international talent.

The University of Strasbourg has a strong commitment to technology and knowledge transfer. It is a member of the international Biovalley cluster, one of the most important clusters in biotechnologies and health in Europe with more than 2,000 jobs and 45 companies created since 2005.

UTRECHT UNIVERSITY

Utrecht University is one of Europe's leading research universities, recognised internationally for its high quality and innovative approach to both research and teaching. Founded in 1636, the University has always focused strongly on research. Owing to its solid grounding in discipline-based scholarship, Utrecht University is at the forefront of developments in interdisciplinary knowledge. The University participates in various thematic multidisciplinary collaborations that conduct excellent research.

With its prominence in teaching and research, Utrecht University works towards finding solutions of the highest possible impact and significance to the major challenges facing the 21st century. To this end the research focuses on four main strategic themes: Life Sciences, Sustainability, Institutions and Dynamics of Youth.

Collaboration is fundamental to providing excellent teaching and research as well as societal relevance. Utrecht University therefore works collaboratively with the business sector to undertake innovative research that is relevant to society at large.

Internationally, Utrecht University collaborates with renowned universities around the world through joint teaching and research programmes, exchange of researchers, lecturers and students, fellowship programmes, chairs for visiting professors and joint publications. Besides faculty collaborations, Utrecht University has also entered into university-wide strategic collaborative alliances with a limited number of international research universities focusing on one or more of its strategic research themes.



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Universiteit Utrecht

UNIVERSITY OF ZURICH

Founded in 1833, the University of Zurich (UZH) is Switzerland's largest university, with a current enrolment of over 26,000 students. Made up of seven faculties covering more than 100 different subject areas, UZH is proud to offer the most comprehensive academic programme in the country. Students can choose from a wide variety of bachelor's, master's and PhD programmes, while the University's continuing education programmes offer excellent learning opportunities across a broad spectrum of subjects.

UZH is ranked among the world's top universities. Numerous distinctions highlight the University's international renown in the fields of medicine, immunology, genetics, neuroscience and structural biology as well as in economics. As a further example of the University's outstanding scholarship, the Nobel Prize has been conferred on twelve UZH scholars.

The University of Zurich has developed several strategies to underpin its international reputation of excellence in research and to maintain its top position in global competition. UZH researchers form strategic networks to share their findings with groups from other institutions of higher learning in Switzerland and abroad, and the University has established interdisciplinary research projects and competence centres to promote these national and international networks.

Integrating research and education in the curriculum is a primary objective at UZH. The degree programmes offered not only attest to the University's academic excellence, but also reflect its focus on research-based teaching: all UZH programmes of study place great value on engaging UZH students in individual research at an early stage in their careers.



University of Zurich
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**University of
Zurich** UZH

The League of European Research Universities has published the following papers:

Position papers:

- Women, research and universities: excellence without gender bias (*July 2012*)
- Research universities and research assessment (*June 2012*)
- Doctoral degrees beyond 2010: training talented researchers for society (*March 2010*)
- Harvesting talent: strengthening research careers in Europe (*January 2010*)
- What are universities for? (*September 2008*)
- The future of the European Research Area (*September 2007*)
- Doctoral studies in Europe: excellence in researcher training (*May 2007*)
- Universities and innovation: the challenge for Europe (*November 2006*)
- Commentary on the purpose, structure and functions of a European Institute of Technology (*May 2006*)
- Competitiveness, research and the concept of a European Institute of Technology (*November 2005*)
- Strengthening Europe's knowledge base to secure its future / Leuven declaration (*May 2005*)
- Growth, research-intensive universities and the European Research Council (*March 2005*)
- Unlocking Europe's Intellectual Potential - Universities and A European Common Market for Research (*April 2004*)
- Research-Intensive Universities as Engines for the "Europe of Knowledge" (*May 2003*)
- The European Higher Education and Research Areas and the Role of Research-Intensive Universities (*August 2002*)

Advice papers:

- Good Practice Elements in Doctoral Training (*January 2014*)
- LERU Roadmap for Research Data (*December 2013*)
- The future of SSH in Europe: collected LERU papers on the SSH research agenda (*September 2013*)
- International Curricula and Student Mobility (*April 2013*)
- Social Sciences and Humanities: essential fields for European research and in Horizon 2020 (*June 2012*)
- The TTO, a university engine transforming science into innovation (*January 2012*)
- The European Research Area: priorities for research universities (*December 2011*)
- The LERU roadmap towards Open Access (*June 2011*)
- Clear choices for Europe: smart investment in research and innovation (*May 2011*)
- Academic freedom as a fundamental right (*December 2010*)
- Universities, research and the "Innovation Union" (*October 2010*)
- Challenges for biodiversity research in Europe (*June 2010*)
- University rankings: diversity, excellence and the European initiative (*June 2010*)
- Towards an effective 8th Framework Programme for Research (*June 2010*)
- Improving the social security of internationally mobile researchers (*May 2010*)

Briefing papers:

- LERU takes concrete steps towards ERA (*January 2014*)
- Creative arts and research-intensive universities: a crucial partnership (*September 2012*)
- Academic health centres in research-intensive settings (*March 2011*)

LERU publications are freely available in print and online at www.leru.org.





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