The University of Louvain,
a world-class university in the heart of Europe
A diverse and open community

UCL fully entrusts its students, researchers and faculty to advance the state of knowledge and develop new approaches to important questions facing society.

<table>
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<th>1,900</th>
<th>3,000</th>
<th>8,800</th>
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<td>Teachers, 14% from abroad</td>
<td>Researchers, 30% from abroad</td>
<td>University hospital staff</td>
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250 PhD students defend their theses each year

Each year, 1,600 students commit to a social, cultural or sport-related project with the support of the university.

Research—a passion

Each day, UCL’s 3,000 researchers conduct fundamental and applied research within the university’s three sectors: humanities and social sciences; science and technology; health sciences. UCL’s Louvain Technology Transfer Office, a turnkey solution service, helps researchers use their results to benefit the society.

Innovation in teaching

At UCL, professors are encouraged to make innovative techniques central to their teaching approach. They can rely on support from the Louvain Learning Lab (LLL), an incubator of innovative educational methods, which helps instructors integrate new teaching tools: project-based learning, flipped classes, interactive teaching platforms, e-learning. This lab made UCL a pioneer in MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) in Belgium.

Created in 1425, the University of Louvain (UCL) is one of the oldest universities in Europe. Today, UCL is a research-intensive and world-class university ideally located near Brussels, known as the capital of the European Union. As UCL’s rector, I am pleased and proud to welcome to our Louvain-la-Neuve Science Park the first Chinese business centre focusing on innovative technologies in Europe: the China-Belgium Technology Centre (CBTC). For our university, it provides a unique opportunity to develop new business and academic collaborations with Chinese colleagues who, like us, are the heirs of a very ancient civilisation. We have the ambition to become the European hub for academic and business relations with China. To this end, we established a partnership with the China Scholarship Council and devoted a specific budget to facilitate this collaboration.

This booklet describes the many tremendous opportunities that we offer to our Chinese partners. Do not miss the chance to work with us for your European projects. You will benefit from UCL’s high-quality research and Belgium’s excellent quality of life.

Prof. Vincent Blondel, UCL Rector

I chose UCL because of its long history, unique geographical location and supportive academic environment.

Xiaohui Tang
UCL Senior researcher
Engineering Sciences and Technology
Reaching out to the world

Ever since its founding in 1425, UCL has both reached out to the world and invited it in. Such openness is evident in its various international partnerships, participation in European and global networks, and long tradition of international collaboration in support of developing countries.

600 years of exploring the world

Since its founding, UCL has explored the world and what it means to be human. In the 19th century UCL evolved into a research and teaching university. In the 1970s, its separation into a Flemish university (KULeuven) and a French-speaking university (UCL), and the transfer of the latter to Louvain-la-Neuve and Brussels, accelerated the pace of innovation within its laboratories and lecture halls. In the 1990s, the university takes part in the world’s most significant international projects in information technology, nanoscience, cancer therapy and immunology, ethical studies and analysis of climatic, economic, geopolitical and societal changes.

Culture: a window to the world

Artists in residence, seasonal performance programmes, an academic minor in culture and creation, cultural development funding—culture is everywhere at UCL. Students contribute enthusiastically to its development through countless initiatives. In November 2017, the university opened ‘Musée L’, a major art and science museum and a powerful symbol of the university’s intention to keep culture at the heart of the university’s scientific approach.

UI Europe, investor and manager of CBTC project (see page 11), made a generous donation of 1 million euros to the museum. “This symbolic gesture proves our willingness to foster dialogue, openness, and solidarity between Belgium and China - with a touch of art and science of course!”, said Minrong Zhang, CEO of UI Europe.

Ten subjects ranked in World’s Top 100

UCL is included amongst the world’s elite institutions in 29 of the 46 subjects ranked in QS Rankings 2017: Ten subjects are ranked in World’s Top 100: Philosophy and Theology, Divinity & Religious Studies, Medicine, Pharmacy & Pharmacology, Psychology, Geography, Anthropology, Economics & Econometrics, Law, Statistics & Operational Research. In addition, 14 UCL programmes are ranked among the world’s best by Eduniversal. They include the world’s first-ranked master’s course in actuarial science and fourth-ranked master’s course in entrepreneurship.

About one-quarter of UCL graduates have undertaken part of their training overseas.

UCL was one of the first universities to receive the ‘HR Excellence in Research’ award, associated with the European Commission’s Euraxess programme.

Fourth-ranked comprehensive French-speaking university in the world, UCL is in the top 1.25% of universities worldwide, making it one of the ‘world class universities’.

* According to THE, QS and Shanghai rankings.

We value international partnerships as a driving force for innovation in research and teaching.

Prof. Dana Samson
Pro-Rector for International Affairs

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UCL-China: from historical links to contemporary initiatives

UCL and China have a longstanding history of collaboration, dating back to UCL alumnus Ferdinand Verbiest (1623-1688), astronomer and friend of Emperor Kangxi. Nowadays, UCL links with China go from joint research projects to joint PhDs, and from researchers and student exchanges to joint publications.

Why UCL?
Prof. Yin Qiuzhen’s experience

“Coming to UCL for a postdoc stay in 2006, I found that it was an ideal place for doing research. The first and the most important reason is the freedom in research. Original ideas are always encouraged and supported at UCL and by the Belgian National Science Foundation (FRS-FNRS). Furthermore, the openness and the geographical location of UCL, at the heart of Europe, facilitate communications and collaborations with other institutions in Europe and other parts of the world. By benefiting from all these advantages, I have developed into an independent and internationally recognized researcher in my field. All these are the reasons why I chose to continue to do research and teach at UCL after my postdoc study.”

The culture diversity I have seen at UCL prompts me to strengthen the cultural cooperation between Belgium and China.

Tengfei Ren
UCL CSC co-funded PhD Student
Engineering Sciences and Technology

 keyPressed

▼ 10 UCL-CSC co-funding fellowships granted yearly.
▼ 7 of the prestigious members of the C9 league are UCL partner institutions.
▼ Over 1,000 Chinese alumni are part of UCL graduate network.

UCL firmly believes that the key to long term collaborations is to enhance mutual understanding between UCL staff and Chinese academics and researchers. To bring them closer, UCL signed a partnership with the China Scholarship Council. The CSC - UCL agreement offers attractive opportunities to Chinese graduates. Firstly, tuition fees are waived for all CSC-supported PhD students, whether degree seeking students or visiting PhD. Secondly, UCL organizes yearly the CSC-UCL co-funding fellowship competition: 10 CSC awardees are granted UCL support in the form of a monthly accommodation allowance for the duration of their PhD studies.

A strong partnership with the China Scholarship Council

Chinese degree seeking students at UCL

4 Levels of Mandarin offered at UCL language institute
34 Student exchange partnerships with Chinese universities
100 UCL students studying Chinese yearly
101 CSC scholarships granted to UCL graduates since 2002
40 Chinese staff members
1 Academic Chair dedicated to EU-China relations (InBev Baillet Latour Foundation)
11 Chinese Academy of Sciences Institutes collaborate with UCL researchers

Signature of a joint PhD agreement with Hunan University (August 2016)
Through its teaching, social mission and consistently rigorous research, UCL endeavours to understand the world, identify challenges and find solutions.

Programmes in all fields of study
As a comprehensive university, UCL offers a very wide range of programmes:

– Humanities: law and criminology; economics and management; history, history of art and archaeology; information and communication; languages, literatures and art; philosophy and ethics; psychology, speech and language therapy and education; political and social sciences; theology and religious studies.

– Science and technology: agricultural and environmental bioengineering; architecture and urban planning; sciences, including veterinary sciences; mathematics, statistics and actuarial science; engineering sciences; computing.

– Medical sciences: medicine and dentistry; physiotherapy and sports sciences; pharmacy and biomedicine; public health.

A cross-disciplinary approach to research
At UCL, research emanates from 21 institutes, which implement research policy in their respective scientific disciplines. Moreover, recognising that exploring major social issues demands a more comprehensive, cross-disciplinary approach, UCL launched a new research initiative, the ‘Louvain4’ consortia. These bring together researchers from all sectors of the university to study themes of societal interest. Seven key topics have been targeted so far:

> nutrition,
> ageing,
> cities and community life,
> education,
> energy,
> water,
> evolution.

Each year, 50% of university degrees in French-speaking Belgium are awarded by UCL.

35 research chairs are supported by the Louvain Foundation.

UCL is at the centre of a network of hospitals that provides half the hospital beds in French-speaking Belgium.

UCL offered me a pleasant atmosphere of academic learning. I appreciated all administrative personnel, professors and classmates, whom I have never forgotten.

Pan Huaqiong
Associate professor at the Department of History, Peking University; UCL Alumnus

Understand and act

€231 Million annual investment in research

2,500 Research programmes per year

14 Faculties

21 Research institutes, 33 technology platforms

187 Master’s programmes, 42 bachelor’s programmes, 22 doctoral schools

200 Continuing education programmes

2 University hospitals, 1,814 beds

65 Active spin-off companies

Pan Huaqiong
Associate professor at the Department of History, Peking University; UCL Alumnus
Fostering entrepreneurship and innovation

UCL has acquired 600 years’ experience and a long-standing reputation for stimulating entrepreneurship, innovation and international openness. As an act of serving society, which is one of UCL’s missions, this first-class knowledge is made available to everyone through Louvain Innovation Network.

“Louvain Innovation Network”, one innovation ecosystem for everyone
Louvain Innovation Network (LIN) is UCL’s innovation ecosystem. It is designed to guide, develop, grow and host projects run by students, researchers, entrepreneurs or companies. Made of a strong network of six partners of the university, LIN covers Belgium’s French-speaking area, Brussels, and connects with a high level international network.

Focus on one of the LIN Partners: Louvain-la-Neuve Science Park
Louvain-la-Neuve Science Park was created by UCL in 1971 to welcome innovative companies in Louvain-la-Neuve. Far more than an ideal location for technological companies close to Brussels, the role of the park is to develop opportunities and partnerships between academy and business. Today, the first science park of Belgium hosts over 260 companies and 6,200 highly skilled jobs on 231 hectares in fields such as life sciences, ICT, engineering, chemicals, and green technologies.

CBTC Smart Valley, an all-in-one business centre for Chinese high-tech companies
Hubei United Investment Group has chosen Louvain-la-Neuve Science Park to implement the CBTC Smart Valley project. It is the first all-in-one business centre focused on innovation and dedicated to Chinese companies interested in Europe and European companies involved with the Chinese market. CBTC is located in UCL’s Louvain-la-Neuve Science Park, Belgium’s first science park. Thanks to this proximity with the university, CBTC will create connections with education, research, and innovation ecosystems between Europe and China, and provide tailor-made solutions for developing cooperation and technological partnerships between China and Belgium.

CBTC benefits from the ongoing support of the highest authorities in Belgium and China since 2009.

UCL has established a specific Strategic Board to ensure smooth integration of the CBTC in Louvain-la-Neuve.

- CBTC Smart Valley is an all-in-one business centre for Chinese high-tech companies.
- Hubei United Investment Group has chosen Louvain-la-Neuve Science Park.
- CBTC is the first all-in-one business centre focused on innovation.
- CBTC will create connections with education, research, and innovation ecosystems.
- CBTC will provide tailor-made solutions for developing cooperation and technological partnerships.

Focus on CBTC:

- CBTC is located in UCL’s Louvain-la-Neuve Science Park, Belgium’s first science park.
- CBTC is the first all-in-one business centre focused on innovation.
- CBTC will create connections with education, research, and innovation ecosystems.
- CBTC will provide tailor-made solutions for developing cooperation and technological partnerships.

The LIN partners:

- BLSI
- CEI Louvain
- INNOTECH
- M²
- VIVES

The CBTC details:

- €200 Million euros of total investment
- 8 Hectares of land ideally located along highway E411
- 70,000 Square meters of facilities
- 200 Companies and 1,500 jobs expected in CBTC
- 300 Residential units available in the city for Chinese expatriates
- 30 Minutes away from international airports and Brussels
- 2019 Opening of CBTC

Discover Louvain-la-Neuve Science Park’s video (in Chinese)
A crossroad in the heart of Europe

Located in Belgium, at a crossroads between Europe’s major capitals, UCL is headquartered in Louvain-la-Neuve, about 30 km south of Brussels. The town, created in 1971 by the university, offers a unique living environment.

It boasts innovative architecture, a town center entirely free from motor traffic with a variety of social and cultural activities. The university also has six other sites in Brussels and Wallonia.

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