

Student and Research Mobility



<https://uclouvain.be/en/faculties/psp/international-student.html>

Get to know UCL

✓ **UCLouvain is one of the oldest universities in Europe and provides unique opportunities for interdisciplinary and multicultural experiences**

Building on almost 600 years of experience, UCLouvain is today a multisite university (Louvain-la-Neuve, Brussels Woluwe, Mons, Tournai, Brussels Saint-Gilles, Charleroi) at the forefront of innovation and excellence in education and research. *The university has more than 30,000 students of 126 different nationalities*, and a staff of about 5,800 teachers, researchers, administrators and technical collaborators. UCLouvain is responsible for the education of nearly one out of two French-speaking university students in Belgium, and gives courses in a vast range of disciplines.

✓ **UCLouvain is ranked among the best universities in Europe. Research is a principal activity**

More than 1,000 research contracts are signed every year between UCLouvain and other universities, public institutions and private companies. UCLouvain provides a variety of services to society and the academic community through 3 science parks (Louvain-la-Neuve, Brussels, Seneffe), 2 university hospitals (Saint-Luc Brussels and Mont-Godinne), 2 museums, and 10 main libraries.

With one Nobel Prize, 21 Francqui Awards (the 'Belgian Nobel Prize') and many other honours, *UCLouvain offers an education driven by solid research*. The university's aim to innovate is made concrete by €231 million in annual research investment, and 220 projects funded through European framework programmes. UCLouvain also has close relationships with the commercial world, particularly with the 365 companies in the university's three science parks and research transfer of 65 active spin-offs companies.

Get to know UCL

✓ UCLouvain is open to the world

Since its creation, UCLouvain has not only been open to the world; it has reached out to the world and invited it in. *25% of the teaching staff, 40% of the research staff and 20% of the student body are international.* This openness is reflected in the many exchange partnerships with universities worldwide, active participations in international networks, and long-held traditions of cooperation with developing countries.

✓ The pedestrianized city of Louvain-la-Neuve

UCLouvain is located in the heart of Europe, 25 km from the center of Brussels and the European institutions, 300 km from Paris and 400 km from London.

The university campus of Louvain-La-Neuve is a unique site; a pedestrian-friendly city with a wide range of services to students and researchers. This includes leisure and culture, language schools, various sport activities, kindergartens, health care, schools, commercial centers and services

University buildings, cultural and commercial centers, residential areas and green spaces are harmoniously mixed in order to create a friendly and pleasant atmosphere.

Teaching

The *Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences* offers high quality teaching. Teaching staff are high-level researchers who are recognized at an international level for their scientific competence. An annual assessment of the teaching by the students contributes to making continuous improvement to teaching methods and course content.

<https://uclouvain.be/en/faculties/psp>

✓ **Teaching at the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences covers the following fields:**

- Clinical and health psychology
- Developmental and educational psychology
- Educational sciences
- Family sciences and sexology
- Neuropsychology
- Social and organizational psychology
- Speech and language therapy

UCLouvain participates in international university networks (Coimbra Group, FIUC, FUCE, The Guild) and *has partnerships with many top institutions around the world*. International experience is part of the quality training that is provided by the University. Consequently, the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences as well promotes international cooperation. It encourages teachers and students to study or work abroad, and *welcomes international students and teacher-researchers* to study and work at the Faculty. For that purpose, the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences has a number of strengths to offer to international students, including:

- **High quality teaching.** The faculty relies on evolutionary pedagogy and pays special attention to the current job market, continuously adapting courses to meet demands of society, and creating new career opportunities for students. UCLouvain drives innovation by using new technologies for teaching, for example MOOCS on edX.

Teaching

- **Advanced Research.** The IPSY and IACCHOS research institutes linked to the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences are leading institutions in a wide range of research subjects. International students can apply for research internships. Students receive 2 ECTS credits for taking part in scientific conferences or seminars organized by the research institutes.
- **A warm welcome.** UCLouvain organizes information days for international students, with information stands concerning sports, culture, accommodation, support services, the Erasmus Student Network, etc. The Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences also organizes a welcome session at the beginning of the semester, providing visiting students with an opportunity to meet the members of the Faculty's International Relations Committee and other students.
- **Free French classes.** International students are offered the possibility to take French classes all year long to improve their French.
- **Courses and course materials in English.** While most courses are taught in French, a selection of courses are taught in English to facilitate access to international students. In addition, many courses taught in French provide study material in English for non-French speaking students. For some courses, there is a choice to do exams in either French or English.
- **Mentoring.** Teaching staff in the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences are attentive to student's concerns. The relations between teachers and students are based on mutual respect. This is testified by a number of initiatives, such as the annual *Revue Psycho*, a play created by students to parody teachers; *Psyrou*, a newspaper produced by students which publishes articles focusing on the light side of Faculty life, and sporting encounters between students and teachers.

Teaching

- **Access to resources.** International students have access to a wide range of resources of the Faculty and of the UCLouvain, including libraries, learning centers and computer rooms.
- **Many cultural and sports activities** are organized for international exchange students by the various theme houses and student associations.

✓ A unique experience

Studying at the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences of the UCLouvain is not only good for your academic career, it also provides for a unique experience. There are many good reasons to study abroad, including:

- To develop new knowledge in your field of interest
- To approach learning from a different perspective
- To develop new skills, values and functioning modes as a future psychologist, speech and language therapist, or educational sciences professional
- To learn and practice a foreign language
- To live in a different environment and culture
- To boost your resume/CV
- To meet other international students from different cultures

✓ Admission conditions and process

- Exchange study period

If you are considering to spend a term or a full year at the UCLouvain, the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences will be happy to welcome you if there is a mobility agreement between your own faculty and our institution. A list of agreements can be found here:

<https://uclouvain.be/en/faculties/psp/international-partnerships.html>.

Teaching

Useful information about the application procedure, accommodation, language requirements, preparation ... is available via the following link: <https://uclouvain.be/en/study/etudiant-echange.html>.

You will be accepted as an *exchange student* if the following conditions are fulfilled:

- Your nomination is sent by the international relations coordinator of your university
- The application form contains all the requested documents (transcript of records, learning agreement, copy of passport or identity card)
- All requested documents are sent by the 31st of May (for the 1st semester or the full academic year) or by the 30th of November (for the second semester)

An e-mail confirming your exchange study period will be sent by the Faculty.

- **Internship**

The Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences also accepts *internships* for a minimum period of two months for students engaged in a master's degree or a PhD within the framework of Erasmus + programme.

If you are interested, please follow this procedure:

- Contact a promotor in your field: <https://uclouvain.be/en/research-institutes/ipsy/research-axes-ti.html>
- Send the documents that are required by the promotor (e.g., resume or grades) and wait for his/her written approval.
- Fill in the Erasmus+ agreement and send it back to the promotor.

If you have any questions, please contact our international relations coordinator:

Michèle Piquart (michele.piquart@uclouvain.be)

Research

The Psychological Sciences Research Institute (IPSY)

Research in psychology and education sciences aims to describe, model, explain, predict or modify the behaviours of children or adults, both individually, and in social, educational, organizational or institutional contexts.

The Psychological Sciences Research Institute (IPSY) of the UCLouvain consists of approximately 266 members, including 44 teaching and research professors, 109 PhD students, 23 postdocs, 11 staff members, and 79 external researchers and collaborators. The Institute provides researchers with personalized assistance and support in editing, statistics, ethics, access to a participant pool, budget and project management. Testing and experimental facilities include 9 fully equipped laboratories for individual testing, 4 laboratories for group testing, a Psychophysiology Laboratory, an EEG-ERP Laboratory, an Immersive Virtual Environment Laboratory, a Motion and Eye-tracking Laboratory, and a Crossmodal Perception and Plasticity Laboratory. IPSY enjoys an outstanding national and international reputation, and has developed fruitful scientific collaborations with leading universities around the world. More information about the institute is given here:

<https://uclouvain.be/en/research-institutes/ipsy>

Internationally, our researchers are involved in numerous research networks, which is reflected by a very good positioning in international rankings. The QS World University Rankings ranks Psychology at the UCLouvain among the global top 100. In addition, our researchers are involved in local networks and make their knowledge available to society. Research on educational systems and teaching practices makes UCLouvain an essential reference for educational professionals in Belgium.

Some researchers are also involved in the Institute of Neurosciences - System and Cognition Division (<https://UCLouvain.be/en/research-institutes/ions/cosy>) and the Interdisciplinary Research Group in Socialisation, Education and Training (<https://uclouvain.be/en/research/girsef>).

Research

IPSY operates in four research areas

IPSY operates in four research areas:

- Social behaviour, work and society
- Clinical and health psychology
- Psychological development and education
- Cognition and neurosciences

Traineeships are possible for exchange students in each of these areas. For more information, please contact our research manager:

Nadine Fraselle (nadine.fraselle@uclouvain.be)

✓ **Social behaviour, work and society**

Understanding social behaviours, their background and their consequences, especially in the individual and group relationships, in the public space and in professional contexts

Some of the research topics that are addressed are:

- How are our preferences formed? Which errors of judgment contaminate our decisions of consumption and why?
- What are the consequences of discrimination, of dehumanization at work, in prison, in male-female relationships, and how to fight them?
- Live well at work, age well at work. What are the challenges of employability?
- Relationships between individuals and their enterprise. From the point of view of human resources, how to consider the relation to hierarchy and its role in professional involvement?
- Relationships between sexual, ethnic, and economic groups: our perception of others influences our emotions and behaviours at school, at work, in society
- Cultures and religions, dogmatism, fundamentalism, sectarian phenomena, non-religious beliefs
- Evaluative conditioning
- Food and health

Research

✓ **Clinical and health psychology**

Clinical and health psychology is concerned with preventing, detecting and diagnosing psychological or psychosomatic problems in children and adults, as well as with the study of psychological and behavioural processes in health, illness, and healthcare. Developing evidence-based, holistic and positive approaches to foster mental and physical health through participatory approaches involving researchers and practitioners is central to the clinical and health psychology research at the UCLouvain.

Some of the research topics that are addressed are:

- Executive and emotional processes in alcohol dependence
- Helping people to better manage their health
- Improving self-management of chronic illness
- Investigating how emotions and the failure to express them affect our health
- The contribution of psychological processes to social inequalities in health
- Empathy in the therapeutic relationship
- Understanding and preventing parental burnout
- Adolescent depression: the family as a therapeutic resource and a place for social sharing of emotions
- Mindfulness and behavioural disorders
- Evaluation of the psychological processes involved in anxiety-depressive disorders
- The role of control beliefs in health and ageing
- Food and health
- Emotion regulation in children with chronic diseases
- Psychological, ontological and esthetic dimensions of the creative process

✓ **Psychological development and education**

This research domain is concerned with analyzing lifelong learning processes and personal development of people in interaction with their environment.

Research

Analyzing the relationships between training devices and teaching practices, motivational processes and learning processes in educational systems.

Some of the research topics that are addressed are:

- The development of the child and his potential with disabilities and handicaps
- Design, validation and evaluation of observation tools and intervention methodologies for people with disabilities
- Evaluation of the behaviours of hard-to-manage children, intervention with parents and teachers
- Transition to parenting as a period of development
- Violence in school and bullying
- Effects of pedagogical practices on learners
- Learning to read and write, and learning disabilities
- Trajectories and transitions in school and work
- Teaching devices, commitment, perseverance and success in higher education
- Evaluation mechanisms of students' productions and their formative effect
- Pedagogical professional development of higher education teachers

✓ **Cognition and neuroscience**

This research domain aims to understand the link between brain functioning, cognitive functions and behaviour.

Some of the research topics that are addressed are:

- Understanding the numerical development of children, and detecting those at risk of developing a learning disability in mathematics or dyscalculia
- adults) to improve the diagnosis and management of brain-damaged patients with numeracy disorders

Research

- Defining the functional and neuroanatomical components of calculation and number processing, using different but complementary methodologies (functional imaging, neuromodulation, lesion data in brain-damaged patients, mental chronometric and behavioural measures in healthy)
- Development of rehabilitation strategies for sensory (vision/auditory) deprivation or restoration
- Development of methods to improve second-language learning or language learning in clinical populations
- Diagnosis and treatment of linguistic pathologies
- Understanding the mechanisms involved in action perception and production, including speech
- Understanding how the human visual system solves the complex task of face perception with psychophysics, neuroimaging and electroencephalography methods
- Neuropsychological and neurophysiological exploration of somatosensory systems and cognitive impairments in patients with sensory and/or motor deficits (e.g. chronic pain, sensory deprivation, hemiparesis)
- Understanding the cognitive and neural processes of perception and action, and to create new diagnosis and reeducation methods using new technology

Personalized assistance and facilities

✓ Statistics

The Statistical Methodology and Computing Service (SMCS) offers expertise, methodological support and calculation tools to the scientific and academic members of the university. This support covers both research and teaching activities.

For instance, when a reviewer of an article that you have submitted requests that you add the Bayes factor or another index you do not know, or that you depart from classical analyses with mixed or hierarchical models and you do not know how to do this, the SMCS offers personalized statistical support to help you address these questions.

Research

Another example is the calculation of sample sizes, which is more and more often required when a study is set up. The Institute, in collaboration with the SMCS, offers applied training in this field, and on many other topics.

If you have a large amount of data or you would like to apply models that are time-consuming in CPU time, UCLouvain offers tools for efficient calculations and software for statistical analyses specifically for psychologists.

✓ **Ethics**

The research carried out within the Institute is subject to the examination of an ethics Committee. It promotes and upholds ethics in research practices. The Committee is particularly attentive to the following issues: high-level professional skills, respect for the rights and dignity of persons, informed consent, confidentiality and respect for private life, participants' rights to receive understandable information about procedures and results of the studies.

✓ **Testing and experimental facilities**

The Institute aims to provide the best opportunities to facilitate high quality research: IPSY has audiovisual equipment including high definition digital cameras, sound recording equipment and software required for image and sound processing. Hiring this equipment from our special AV service allows researchers to record behaviours of participants and to perform detailed analysis of behaviours such as parent-child interactions, speech problems, responses to various situations, etc.

The Institute has four computer labs for simultaneous testing of groups of participants (respectively 12, 6, 2 and 5 positions), and 9 fully equipped laboratories for individual testing. In addition, it has several specialist laboratories.

Research

The Psychophysiology Laboratory allows a wide range of physiological measures to be recorded for further statistical processing. Measuring the electrical activity of the brain (visual attention, memory, and language functions) makes it possible to analyze the role of emotional bias in life events. The laboratory is especially equipped to study the physiological component of emotions by stimulating the participant to induce certain emotions and to measure changes of several physiological parameters such as heart rate, skin conductance or activity of certain facial muscles (EMG).

The EEG-ERP Laboratory enables the measurement of Event-Related Potentials (ERPs) in order to study cognitive processes with a high temporal resolution. This domain of research aims to identify spatio-temporal patterns of brain activity that underlie perceptual processing that can be modified by attention.

The Immersive Virtual Environment Lab aims to immerse individuals into virtual scenarios with the advantage of providing a better control of behavioural situations, and to dispense with practical problems encountered with more traditional techniques of immersion 'in vivo'.

The Crossmodal Perception and Plasticity Lab is dedicated to multisensory psychophysical testing, with a semi-anechoic chamber comprising state-of-the-art stimuli delivery systems for auditory, tactile and visual experiments.

The Motion Analysis Lab uses a Polhemus Liberty 240/8 motion analysis system to track and record actions. The laboratory also uses Plato Visual Occlusion Spectacles (from Translucent Technologies) to control vision and allow for accurate recording of reaction time in real, everyday situations.

The Eye-Tracking Lab uses an EyeLink 1000 eye tracker that measures the distance between a light source reflection on the eye surface relative to the center of the pupil in order to measure eye-fixations and saccades made to visual stimuli (1000 captures a second).

Research

✓ 40 IPSY seminars are organized per year

Visiting students can receive credits for taking part in scientific conferences or seminars organized by the research institutes. Some examples of topics covered in recent seminars are:

- *Separating the signal from the noise: some lessons from the replicability crisis in Psychology.* Marco Perugini, University of Milan-Bicocca, Italy
- *An Anatomy of Compulsions.* Christine Purdon, Waterloo University, Canada
- *Social Anxiety in Youth: An Integration of Current Findings and new Perspectives.* Anne C. Miers, Developmental and Educational Psychology Unit, Leiden University, The Netherlands
- *Employing Multinomial Processing Tree Models in Experimental Research: An Illustration in the Domains of Attitude Acquisition and Moral Judgment.* Prof Mandy Hütter, Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen, Germany
- *How to navigate a tempting food environment.* Prof. Dr. Emely de Vet, Wageningen University, The Netherlands
- *Single dose testosterone administration impairs cognitive reflection in men.* Gidi Nave, Wharton College, University of Pennsylvania, PA, USA
- *Empathy, Morality, and the Effects of Violent Video Games.* André Melzer, Université du Luxembourg, Grand Duchy of Luxemburg
- *Transfer of Training: Recent Theoretical and Methodological Advances.* Andreas Gegenfurtner, Technische Hochschule Deggendorf, Germany

Research

✓ International researchers' testimonies

I like to do research because it is a way to contribute to our understanding about human behaviour. My research topic concerns food behaviour, which is especially relevant for the current obesogenic environment. UCLouvain provides a research environment that values networking and group work but also provides a cheap sports program that allows you to become a little healthier yourself. I also appreciate the openness for many research methods including qualitative research because in the psychological field not all universities pay enough attention to this aspect. What I like about Louvain-la-Neuve is that everything you need is really close and actually walking distance. If you would like to learn/improve your French, this is also a good place to start. You can take language courses, conversation tables or improve by simply talking to your fellow students/colleagues.



Valérie Broers, PhD student, The Netherlands

Research



When I started my PhD at the UCLouvain, I was afraid it could have been difficult to make friends, since I could not speak French. Luckily, that was not the case. I felt welcomed from the beginning! Colleagues helped me with paperwork or simply showed me how to book a lab, how to recruit participants for the experiments. In other words, all the crucial things you need to know when conducting research in another country. I have been surprised to discover the amount of facilities and techniques that are available for researchers, and the willingness to share knowledge and expertise during formal and informal meetings. Lab group meetings are usually organized once per month, having the chance to exchange ideas and points of view, but also doubts, and show the results of your research, improving your communication skills. This is the strength of working in a dynamic international environment, where collaboration aimed to a common goal and improvement are the foundations.

Louvain-la-Neuve is the city that makes this happen, thanks to the active student life. Everything is close-by and easily accessible, and the amount of restaurants, cafes or simply meeting points exceeds your expectations. Plus, for people who prefer bigger cities, it is very well connected with the vibrant Brussels, the center of the European Union.

Giorgia Zamariola, PhD student, Italy

Research

I am doing a cross-cultural study between Europe and China right now in IPSY at UCLouvain. I like it here because I am enjoying the incredibly positive academic atmosphere and support from the faculty and colleagues here. My colleagues are nice and sweet, it is indeed cozy to work with them.



I thought it could be harder for me to adapt myself from big cities to a small city like LLN. But I actually love LLN a lot after I came here. It is very convenient for everyday life and quite international. Most people here are multi-lingual and friendly to international students. It is not indeed a metropolis, but you can almost get everything you need here. With the forest and the lake nearby, and without heavy traffic in the central town, the idyllic scenery of LLN is the amazing thing that I appreciate.

Jiang Long, PhD student, China

Research



To be recruited at UCLouvain was a very stimulating opportunity, both because of the expertise of the professors working there, and of the quality of the research environment.

As a researcher at IPSY, I benefit from a series of logistic and financial support that enables me to carry on scientific activities such as the conceptualization and setting up of research projects and data collection, or the attendance at international scientific meetings. To conduct my research for example, I have access to a very large number of participants and to an impressive infrastructure for experiments. All the necessary softwares for research practice are freely available, and a great team of computer engineers is on site to help if I encounter any difficulty. As far as training is concerned, the affiliation to the University comes with free access to varied training courses. The institute also involves PhD Students and Post-Doctoral researchers in the supervision of interns and Master students, which provides both a significant work force and a rewarding sense of responsibility.

In short, UCLouvain is a highly qualified workplace to acquire all the skills that are needed to become a creative and productive researcher.

Julie Terache, PhD student, France

Research

I am working in the Crossmodal Perception and Plasticity lab in IPSY. I am interested in studying the effect of visual deprivation on the development and the cross-modal reorganization of the occipital cortex. In my research, I am combining both behavioural and neuroimaging techniques (functional magnetic resonance imaging - fMRI) to address my questions.



I am glad to be in UCLouvain because of the nice working environment and the collaborative atmosphere between colleagues from the different departments. Our institute provides the opportunity to investigate a broad range of topics including language, numerical cognition, face perception, and many others. IPSY also provides the chance to investigate such topics using different techniques including (and not limited to) psychophysics, Electro-encephalography (EEG), and trans-cranial magnetic stimulation (TMS). Moreover, researchers in UCLouvain have existing collaborations with international universities, which provides the opportunity for international interaction and communication.

Working in Louvain-la-Neuve is really enjoyable. It's a vibrant student city, which despite its small size, is full of students from different backgrounds and provides a great social life. The city is easily accessible by public transport and connected to major cities. So, whether one prefers to live in a vibrant student city, or a larger nearby city, Louvain-la-Neuve provides the opportunity for both.

Mohamed Rezk, PhD student, Egypt

Research



I am Liên, PhD student in Psychology. I have a scholarship from the ARES (Academy of Research and Higher Education). The ARES together with UCLouvain, ULg, and the National University of Vietnam in Ho Chi Minh City are funding a training project in the South of Vietnam. This project focuses on "Identification, assessment and management of learning disorders in school context". This project includes two main topics: cognitive disorders and psycho-affective disorders. For this reason, I am at the UCLouvain to do my thesis. I am interested in the typical numerical development and dyscalculia (atypical development).

I am now working in the Numerical Cognition Group - Development in the Institute for Research in Psychological Sciences (IPSY). There are five people in this field: my professor, one post-doctorate fellow, one scientific collaborator, and two PhD students. We have group meetings to share our results, to discuss articles, and we have the opportunity to discuss intercultural differences and bond at lunchtime. Most of my colleagues in my lab are interested in discovering Vietnamese culture (language and food), which makes me feel welcome and well integrated.

I also appreciated the welcoming of the international students, which always replies very fast and very efficiently to my requests; and the service of the SMCS for supports in methodology and statistical computation. The service of multimedia provides us with many devices that help to realize experimental testing. Finally, all the conferences and seminars organized by IPSY and the Doctoral School are very interesting and push me to make progress.

I like jogging around the lake of Louvain-la-Neuve, which is very beautiful and calm. The city with around 46% students out of the population is really young and open with very dynamic activities, like the "24h-bike". In addition, I like the Blocry sports center, which offers many interesting sports activities (dance, yoga, swimming, badminton...) that support me to be fit, to have a good health and balance my life.

Liên Thi, PhD student, Vietnam

