

**KU LEUVEN**

**KU LEUVEN.  
INSPIRING THE OUTSTANDING.**







Founded in 1425, KU Leuven has been a centre of learning for almost six centuries. Today, it is Belgium's highest-ranked university as well as one of the oldest and most renowned universities in Europe. KU Leuven is a leading European research university and co-founder of the League of European Research Universities (LERU). The university offers a wide variety of internationally oriented programmes. These programmes are supported by high-quality interdisciplinary research conducted at both the university and its internationally acclaimed hospitals. Boasting an outstanding central location in the heart of Europe, KU Leuven offers a truly international experience, high-quality education, world-class research, and cutting-edge innovation.

# KU LEUVEN UP CLOSE

## A HIGHLY RANKED UNIVERSITY

**#5** in the Reuters World Ranking of Most Innovative Universities (2017)

**#47** in the Times Higher Education World University Ranking (2017-2018)

**#71** in the QS World University Ranking (2017-2018)

## A RESEARCH-DRIVEN UNIVERSITY

**#6** in the European Commission Horizon 2020 programme

**#10** in the ERC grants programme with over 110 projects

## A COMPREHENSIVE UNIVERSITY

**78 bachelor's programmes**

(74 taught in Dutch, 4 in English)

**205 master's programmes**

(141 taught in Dutch, 62 in English, 2 in French)

**44 advanced master's programmes**

(19 taught in Dutch, 24 in English and 1 in Spanish)

## KU LEUVEN IN NUMBERS

**Founded in 1425**

**14 campuses in 10 cities across Flanders**

**16 faculties**

**57,286 students**

**20,524 staff members**

**+250,000 alumni**

## OUR RESEARCH

**7,296 researchers**

**475 million euros research expenses**

**5,098 PhD students**

**124 spin-offs**



# A GLOBAL UNIVERSITY

KU Leuven is home to a vibrant community of international students and staff members spread across its various campuses. 17% of the university's 57,000 students come from abroad, representing more than 160 countries. KU Leuven is a founding member of the League of European Research Universities (LERU), a select group of distinguished research-intensive universities that sets the standard for research in Europe. The university also works with a select number of top-level partner institutions worldwide, and stimulates purposeful international mobility and intensive research cooperation. It continuously strives to integrate the local and international student and research communities on all its campuses through a variety of programmes and activities. Internationalisation is key in the policy of the university's new board.

→ **57,286 students**

→ **9,722 international students**

→ **163 different nationalities**

## KU LEUVEN IS A MEMBER OF THESE DISTINGUISHED UNIVERSITY NETWORKS:

### LERU

**Members:** University of Amsterdam, Universitat de Barcelona, University of Cambridge, University of Copenhagen, Trinity College Dublin, 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, Université Paris-Sud, Sorbonne University, University of Strasbourg, Utrecht University, University of Zurich

### Coimbra Group

**Members:** Aarhus Universitet, Åbo Akademi University, Universitat de Barcelona, Universitetet i Bergen, Università di Bologna, University of Bristol, Eötvös Loránd University Budapest, Universidade de Coimbra, Trinity College Dublin, Durham University, University of Edinburgh, University of Galway, Université de Genève, Universität Göttingen, Universidad de Granada, Universität Graz, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, Universität Heidelberg, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi, Istanbul University, Universität Jena, Universität zu Köln, Uniwersytet Jagielloński Kraków, Universiteit Leiden, KU Leuven, Université catholique de Louvain, Université Montpellier, Università di Padova, Università di Pavia, Université de Poitiers, Charles University, Saint Petersburg State University, Universidad de Salamanca, Università di Siena, University of Tartu, Turun yliopisto, Uppsala universitet, Vilnius University, Universität Würzburg

### Venice International University

**Members:** Boston College, Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Duke University, European University St. Petersburg, Institut National de la Recherche Scientifique, KU Leuven, Ludwig Maximilians Universität, National Research Council of Italy, Tel Aviv University, Università Iuav di Venezia, University of Bordeaux, University of Lausanne, University of Padova, University of Rome Tor Vergata, Waseda University, Tsinghua University, Metropolitan City of Venice

# WORLD-CLASS RESEARCH

KU Leuven boasts a strong international reputation for research excellence. As a comprehensive university, it pursues curiosity-driven and strategic frontier research as well as targeted and demand-driven research, all in an interdisciplinary environment. KU Leuven has a strong record of securing funding from the most competitive research funds, including the prestigious ERC Grants awarded by the European Research Council.

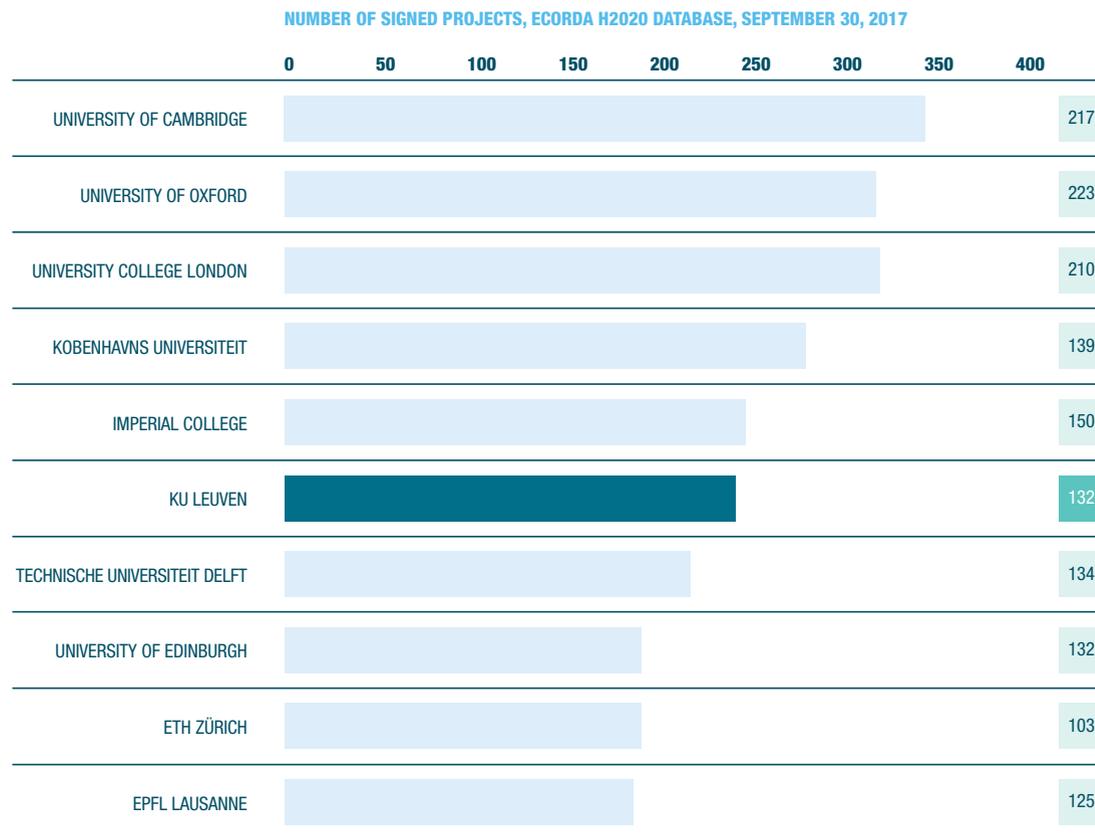
KU Leuven ranks sixth in the number of projects under the EU Horizon 2020 Programme, only preceded by Oxford, Cambridge, University College London, Copenhagen and Imperial College London. The university's research output consistently ranks among Europe's best. Since 2014, KU Leuven has acquired 238 projects and around 132 million euros in funding from Horizon 2020.

## KU LEUVEN IN HORIZON 2020

→ **238** projects

→ **€ 132** million

## TOP 10 HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS with regard to number of Horizon 2020 projects



LABEL = BUDGET IN MILLION €



Compared to 2005, KU Leuven has seen a growth in the number of citations to 315%. The number of publications also increased to 182%. The number of researchers increased to 131% by the end of 2016.

- NUMBER OF KU LEUVEN PUBLICATIONS
- NUMBER OF KU LEUVEN CITATIONS
- NUMBER OF KU LEUVEN SENIOR ACADEMIC STAFF

→ **828,648** SCIE citations\*

→ **45,901** SCIE publications\*

\*BOF distribution key 2017

# CUTTING EDGE INNOVATION AND

KU Leuven is a pioneer and leader in the valorization of research and innovation. The technology transfer office LRD (KU Leuven Research and Development) was one of the first in Europe. LRD has a long tradition of collaboration with the industry, patenting, licencing, and creating spin-off companies.

KU Leuven is one of the most innovative universities in the world. It's the only non-American university in the top 5 (2017). One of the main reasons for this strong position is the high number of publications, citations and patent filings.

## THREE FAMOUS KU LEUVEN INNOVATIONS:

- **Advanced Encryption Standard (AES)**  
The international standard for securing digital information, e.g. on the internet, smartphones and online banking.
- **Tenofovir**  
The most widely used anti-HIV drug in the world. KU Leuven also has a long and renowned history in the development of other medicines.
- **3D printing**  
KU Leuven was at the basis of the development and commercialisation of 3D printing, thanks to its spin-offs Materialise and LayerWise, among others.

## REUTERS TOP 5

Most innovative universities worldwide • 2017

1	Stanford University	USA
2	Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)	USA
3	Harvard University	USA
4	University of Pennsylvania	USA
5	<b>KU Leuven</b>	<b>Belgium</b>

## LRD IN FIGURES

2017:	3,106 new contracts concluded
2017:	€ 72 million revenue from intellectual property
2005-2017:	€ 927 million external capital investment in spin-off portfolio

## LRD'S IMPACT

124 spin-off companies
6,700 direct jobs
7 IPO's (Initial Public Offering)

**R&D**







# HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION

At KU Leuven, research and education are inextricably linked. The university's study programmes are research-based, which ensures that students acquire academic skills while also developing a critical and research-oriented attitude. Flexibility and state-of-the-art technology are integral to each study programme. A KU Leuven degree offers a significant competitive advantage and is highly valued around the world.

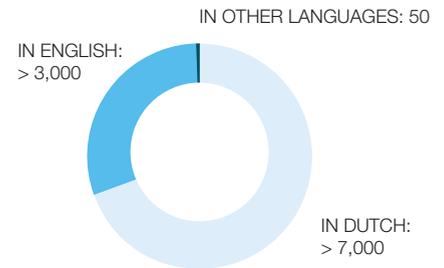
The ECTS quality label guarantees that all credits obtained at KU Leuven are transparent and fully transferable.

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KU Leuven is a charter member of edX, an online learning platform and MOOC provider that offers high-quality courses from the world's best universities and institutions to learners everywhere. Since October 2015, KU Leuven has set up and successfully run 9 MOOC's, with 18 runs in total.

- Most popular MOOC: Existential Well-being Counselling (16,564 learners)
- Total number of learners: >100,000 from over 170 different countries

## NUMBER OF COURSES:



## TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 57,286

<b>Bachelor</b>	<b>40.1%</b>
<b>Initial Master</b>	<b>28.4%</b>
<b>Advanced Master</b>	<b>4.3%</b>
<b>Doctoral Programme</b>	<b>8.9%</b>
<b>Academic Teacher Training</b>	<b>0.5%</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>17.8%</b>

# TOP-LEVEL MEDICINE IN AN INNOVATIVE ENVIRONMENT

The academic University Hospitals Leuven are connected to KU Leuven. They are known as an international, leading medical centre and strive for highly technological and humane patient care. Patients with the most complex conditions from Belgium and abroad come to University Hospitals Leuven. The Leuven transplant centre, for instance, is a prominent centre with survival rates that are among the highest in the world. It is also renowned worldwide for foetal surgery, endometriosis interventions and hereditary diseases. University Hospitals Leuven are currently working on a proton centre, an innovative form of radiotherapy that targets tumours with precision and spares healthy surrounding tissue.

Just like KU Leuven, University Hospitals Leuven also prioritize innovation. Researchers from KU Leuven and physicians from University Hospitals Leuven work at walking distance from each other on the Health Science Campus. Researchers test their findings in the hospitals' labs and physicians count on substantiated scientific support in their search for the best possible treatment for patients. Students from KU Leuven also receive their training at the Health Science Campus. They learn first-hand from physicians and specialists teaching from experience. The combination of clinical care, research and training in a single location creates an inspiring interaction that, ultimately, always has one goal in mind: better patient care.

**15,162,000** laboratory tests/year

**419,200** radiological examinations/year

**70,100** consultations/year

**57,700** emergencies/year

**57,500** hospital admissions/year

**56,600** surgical procedures/year

**28,300** kidney dialyses/year

**>9,000** staff members

**1,500** physicians

**300** transplants/year

**The Leuven Cancer Institute (LKI)** is one of the centres where researchers, physicians and healthcare providers from KU Leuven and the University Hospitals Leuven collaborate closely. Fundamental and clinical researchers work in close cooperation to better understand cancer and develop new personalised therapies. These are customised treatments that combat tumours with even greater precision and involve fewer side effects.

## THE LKI IN 2017:

Oncological inpatients: **63,316**

Radiotherapy sessions: **40,923**

Oncological patients: **35,210**

Scientific publications: **969**







# KU LEUVEN LIBRARIES

The KU Leuven Libraries play a crucial role in the university's innovative and international research policy through large-scale physical and electronic collections. They maintain unique heritage materials, provide state-of-the-art solutions for digitisation, visualisation and information management, and provide research data management and advice on copyright, Open Access and Open Data.

The KU Leuven Fund for Fair Open Access promotes the development of new and innovative publishing models that are cost-efficient and give the researchers complete control over the dissemination of their research results. Moreover, Fair Open Access strives to give the scientific community full control over the publishing model by having the researchers themselves manage all legal rights.

The unique heritage collections of the KU Leuven Libraries are renowned worldwide. For instance, KU Leuven Libraries is working on the Khirbet Mird Papyri Project. In this project, an exceptional collection of old papyrus fragments (7th-8th century AD) from Khirbet Mird near Qumran by the Dead Sea is digitised and preserved for textual research and scientific publication of the corpus.

Furthermore, the libraries house the renowned archive of the well-known philosopher Husserl, and their collection of books on religion and theology is second only to the Vatican (1,300,000 volumes, including the Anjou Bible).

Locations: **25**

Staff members: **190**

Total number of opening hours:  
**854** hours/week

Visits: **3,099,700**/year

Available seats for study  
and research: **4,964**

Physical collection: **3,107,295** items

Digital collection: **355,562** items

Loans and renewals: **338,526**/year

Full text downloads: **5,860,647**/year

# KU LEUVEN'S IMPACT

KU Leuven researchers' work has a significant impact all around the world and in a wide range of research fields. In 2016, KU Leuven's Gross Value Added amounted to over 7.4 billion euros and our university created almost 80,000 jobs\*.

Below are just a few of KU Leuven's success stories.

## THE WORLD'S LARGEST BANANA COLLECTION

Banana research may seem trivial, but the banana is key to the daily nutrition of 1 billion people. At KU Leuven, we house the biggest collection of banana genes in the world. This collection contains both edible and non-edible bananas from all over the world. Genetic diversity ensures that organisms are less susceptible to threats and KU Leuven helps maintain this diversity. Research is also being conducted into how we can make our crops more nutritious, productive and resilient. KU Leuven has already distributed more than 17,000 banana samples to researchers and farmers in over 109 countries.

## ANGIOGENESIS

Our university is among the world's best when it comes to research into angiogenesis, Greek for blood vessel formation. Our researchers developed inhibitors that ensure tumours no longer receive oxygen or nutrients. In doing so, they are the moving force behind the development of a drug that slows the development of cancer. The researchers also contribute to studies on the muscular disorder ALS.

KU Leuven has a long tradition of developing innovative and effective medications. In 1979, our researchers isolated and characterised tissue plasminogen activator (tPA). Administered as a medication, tPA treats heart attacks and strokes, and has saved numerous lives. Millions of patients have benefited from this medication.

## SAGALASSOS

KU Leuven has been conducting interdisciplinary research on the archaeological site of Sagalassos, that flourished under Greek and Roman rule, since 1990. Sagalassos is one of the best-preserved ancient cities thanks to its location at a high altitude. As a result, the site offers a unique opportunity to study a city and its territory from antiquity in all its aspects of bustling activity through archaeological research.

\* BIGGAR Economics, 2017





THE WORLD'S LARGEST BANANA COLLECTION



ANGIOGENESIS



SAGALASSOS

UNIVERSITAS: CATHOLICA

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