Facultés Universitaires Notre-Dame de la Paix à Namur (FUNDP)
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The University

Founded in 1831 by the Society of Jesus, the FUNDP carries on the values of humanistic and Jesuit traditions through teaching and research: universality, quality, ethics and solidarity. Its priority is to educate students and researchers as responsible and active members of society.

With 40 different programmes at Bachelor, Master and Doctorate levels, the FUNDP welcomes 5,000 students in six faculties: Art, Law, Economics, Social Sciences and Business Administration, Computer Science, Medicine and Sciences. Its reputation is based on the quality of its education, the availability of its professors and sufficient resources to ensure maximum chances of success for each student. To achieve this, study technique and preparation courses are offered, along with small group seminars, on-line resources and material, as well as personalised assessments.

The FUNDP has redesigned its study programmes in line with the European harmonization of Higher Education (Bologna Process). The FUNDP has widened the choice of its studies to reconcile specific training with openness to social issues. Quality of study in Namur is a first-class adventure for those who wish to discover a university on a human scale at the crossroads of Europe, both as part of a study exchange programme or to prepare to enter professional life.

International Activities

The high quality of FUNDP teaching and research has ensured a growing international reputation, and has enabled it to create many cooperation agreements with other universities, as well as to develop partnerships and exchange programmes involving students, researchers and professors from all over Europe and beyond.

In its international policy, the FUNDP pays special attention to cultural diversity and it invests heavily in development programmes. Significant resources have been made available to make the stay of foreign guests and students both pleasant and fruitful.

International relations are placed under the joint responsibility of the university’s Rector Michel Scheuer and the Administrator for International Affairs, Xavier Thunis, who are supported by the Council for International Relations, Jacqueline Moineau who is responsible for student mobility; the FUNDP’s representative at the CUD (“Commission Universitaire pour le Développement”), Michel Jadot; and the international relations adviser, Laurence Vieslet.
Namur is the capital of Namur province as well as the political capital of Wallonia (the French-speaking Southern part of Belgium). The city has a population of 105,000. Namur is located at the confluence of the Sambre River and the Meuse River (both major waterways), and thus has had a military significance in centuries past that guaranteed continual assault, from Roman times through the second World War. As a result of having been levelled time and again, the antiquities in Namur are relatively sparse. Nevertheless, the city is large and important enough to offer the visitor a wealth of diversions.

One of the most magnificent buildings in Namur is St. Alban's Cathedral. (*Cathédrale Saint Aubin*) Built between 1751 and 1767, it shows the Italian influence. The Meat Hall is another impressive landmark in Namur. It is located on the banks of the Sambre and is one of the most important archaeological museums of Wallonia. This building was constructed between 1588 and 1590 and is made from brick and blue stones. The old St. James tower built in 1385 is Namur’s only belfry tower. Located on the *Place des Armes*, it watches over the city and was used in the past as a lookout for the city.

By far the greatest monument still standing in Namur is the Citadel. The Citadel served as a strategic bastion, attracting many attacks and numerous reconstructions during its history. Today the Citadel is accessible by a winding road or by cable-car.
The Citadel is open daily and offers visitors a look at its wonderful past and its importance throughout history.

Because of its strategic location, Namur has been the centre point of many battles over its long history. Today Namur has gained considerably in importance. The city is now the political capital of Wallonia. Here is the seat of the Walloon government.
Accommodation

Near the campus, located in the heart of the city, FUNDP manages numerous student accommodation complexes. In general, the standard of student accommodation in Belgium is very high, however, the International Education Office at Namur tries to accommodate international students in the Community Houses (kots).

There are several kots, but the most popular for Erasmus students is the Eurokot. Located near the university campus and reserved for students, it consists of 20 furnished rooms spread over 4 floors. Each floor consists of 5 rooms with a sink and complete furniture, a kitchen-dining room, and a shower and a toilet. At the ground floor are a TV room, a kicker and a table tennis table.

The focus of this house is community living among students of different nationalities. As a result, priority - but not exclusivity - is given to students generally remaining in Namur on weekends.

For more information and the full list of housing please go to:

http://www.fundp.ac.be/universite/services/social/logement/

Transport

At present there are no direct flights from Cork or Shannon to Belgium. However, both Ryan Air and Aer Lingus fly from Dublin to Brussels. Aer Lingus flies into the main Airport in Brussels, while Ryan Air flies into Charleroi airport. From either airport you can take a bus to the main train station where you can continue onto Namur. The journey from Brussels to Namur by train is just under an hour. The Go Pass gives students great discounts on rail services.

Namur is a substantial city and might be a little too large to discover all on foot. The layout of the city is complex and navigation is not easy. Cycling does not appear to be very popular with the locals, perhaps due to the number of cobbled streets. On the other hand, many one-way streets are except bicycles, so cyclists enjoy special privileges. The best way to cover large distances in the city is to make use of the very reliable and efficient public transport system.
Admissions Procedures

To apply to FUNDP as an Erasmus student you must send all the following documents to the address below:

- An application form and a learning agreement duly signed by you and your university
- A copy first side-reverse of your ID, European card, or passport
- Two passport photos
- A certificate giving evidence of your registration in your university of origin
- A certificate stating your French language ability to participate in various academic activities

These documents are to be received prior to June 30th for a registration for the first semester or the full academic year; before October 31st for the second semester only. If these documents arrive late, the application may not be processed. Faxed items will NOT be accepted.

The application form can be downloaded from:

Please send the application form and all documentation to:

Jacqueline MOINEAU
Institutional Coordinator
Facultés Universitaires Notre-Dame de la Paix
Service d’études du Rectorat, Mobilité Internationale
Rue de Bruxelles, 61
B 5000 – Namur

*You must also send us a confirmation of your application by e-mail at the following address:
ser-mobilite@fundp.ac.be
Academics

The Faculty of Arts

Research in the Faculty of Arts attempts to create new and critical perspectives on history, language, literature, art and philosophy by means of scholarly projects in these specific fields, but always within a wider interdisciplinary framework. Most research is carried out in the respective Departments of the Faculty, which enables it to feed into the various teaching activities they organize.

The Faculty of Arts offers a large choice of general, specialised and optional courses. It aims to instil in its students a sense of scientific rigour and critical judgement. It has a rich pedagogical tradition and experience, enjoys an international reputation and benefits from collaborations and partnerships with universities and institutes worldwide.

 Philosophy

This Department undertakes research in a range of domains including ethics (applied ethics and its relations with fundamental ethics), philosophical and interdisciplinary anthropology (with special attention given to the contribution of the social sciences, clinical approaches and phenomenology), metaphysics (and its interactions with formal cognitive science), the philosophy of mathematics, contemporary physical cosmology and Christian theology, and aesthetics. Christian metaphysics is another important research theme (in the mainstream of transcendent Thomism and the philosophy of Maurice Blondel).

History

This department engages in historical research in the following areas: the environment, editorial policies of European printers in the second half of the fifteenth century, the military history of Belgium at the beginning of the contemporary era, the history of the Belgium justice system in the contemporary period, the history of the police force in Belgium-controlled areas in 1795-1914, the study of models, norms and social practices.

Classical Languages and Literatures

The research of this department covers primarily the history of the Greek religious institutions, the history of mathematics, the political and religious history of Greece during the Imperial Period, historical and comparative linguistics (Indo-European) and the study and edition of Greek hippiatric texts.
French and Romance Languages and Literatures

This Department aims at analysing the workings and functions of language, to decipher its literary creations and to highlight what is at stake for society. These objectives guide the Department in its various investigations into the science of language, Belgian literature, the comparison of literature and the arts, women’s writing, French literature and literary theory.

Germanic Languages and Literatures

The research of this department covers German, English and Dutch language areas and it ranges from linguistics to literary and cultural studies. Areas of expertise include the literary and cultural relations between East and West, intercultural experience, bilingualism, linguistic attitudes, cognitive and functional linguistics, translations, Maeterlinck and Shakespeare.

History of Art and Archaeology

The research of this Department centres on a wide variety of areas and subjects including European prehistory, the glyptic of Central Asia, Roan archaeology in Italy, Gallo-Roman roads and habitats, Gothic architecture, sculpture, stained glass, museology, and contemporary artist’s books and collections. All of this research involves multidisciplinary collaborations.

Department of Modern Languages

One of the main objectives of the FUNDP has always been to provide its students with the best chances of professional integration. The FUNDP is therefore investing in foreign language acquisition courses. The Department of Modern Languages offers courses in English, Dutch and German, as well as training in French as a foreign language for non-French speaking students and researchers.

Department of Education and Technology

The Department carries out research centred on learning and teaching, both in degree courses and lifelong learning programmes. It delivers teaching methodology courses for professionals working in higher education, as well as continuous training for secondary school educators.

The Moretus Plantin University Library

The Moretus Plantin University Library (BUMP) is the central library of the FUNDP. It covers all the disciplines which are taught and provides materials on all types of media. The library is well stocked with some 800,000 volumes, 7,000 electronic periodicals, as well as multidisciplinary databases of bibliographical and text-based files. The library also has an invaluable collection of old and rare books which shelters some 20,000 old works, including a remarkable botanical collection of almost 2,000 volumes.
Library of the Centre for Religious Documentation and Research

Library of the Centre for Religious Documentation and Research (C.D.R.R) has more than 680,000 volumes, dealing primarily with philosophy, religious science and history. It is one of the only collections of its kind in Europe.

Practical Information

The Medical and Psychological Centre

The Medical and Psychological Centre offers practical help. It offers personalized evaluation, psychological support, stress management workshops, medical services and preventative care, and information seminars.

The Centre opens Monday to Friday from 12:30 till 13:30 for educational and psychological support and on Tuesday and Thursday from 12:30 to 13:30 for medical consultations. (Appointments are not required).

Banking

The banks in the region have long led the world in the field of electronic banking, and there are few transactions you can’t do either from an ATM (automatic teller machine) or from your home computer. Banks offer a wide range of services, including personal and commercial banking, investment and insurance services, and personal, commercial and mortgage loans. Most larger banks have websites containing information about the services they offer, including online banking, and in some cases application forms.

Despite the spread of electronic banking, it’s still necessary to have at least a current account (compte à vue/zichtrekening) in your country of residence, as cross-border bank transactions can be expensive and complicated, even when everything is denominated in euros. Online banking, using bank-supplied software or via the Internet, is gaining in popularity, but in Belgium there are also e-banks (banks operating entirely online, where you can open an account from the comfort of your home and never actually see your banker). Some online banks offer a full range of investment and loan services, complete with downloadable application forms.

Personal accounts are generally more expensive in Belgium than in the UK or USA but cheaper than in France or in Italy. You should expect to pay between €50 and €100 per year for a standard current account that includes debit and credit cards, plus ATMs and Internet banking facilities. However, students are usually subject to different rates. Banks usually charge for every service separately, as well as for each
transaction, although they may offset charges by paying a (very small) rate of interest on your average account balance each month (provided you remain in credit). Most banks offer a variety of package programmes which include the fees for the various bank cards, online banking access, a number of transactions at bank machines and often some form of account insurance, all for a single annual fee.

You can arrange to receive bank statements at regular intervals (daily, monthly, quarterly or annually) or to pick them up at your branch (in which case you avoid being charged a mailing fee plus postage) or simply print them at a bank machine or from your home computer (and not be charged at all). Bank fees are usually deducted directly from your account either quarterly or at the end of the year.

Most banks are open from 9am to 4 or 4.30pm Mondays to Fridays and a few are open on Saturdays. Many smaller branches close for an hour at lunchtime (usually 1 to 2pm).

**Student Matters**

**Student Life**

Social activities are part of students’ life. The FUNDP campus has a lot to offer: a sports hall, a radio station, a choir, community housing for students sharing the same cultural or social experience…..Various activities are organised on the campus such as sports competitions, tournaments, music and visual arts, language courses, and concerts. Life is lived to the full in Namur.

**Student Tips**

Erasmus is full of excitement and adventure, but also uncertainty and nerves. Although the International Education Office in UCC and the International Relations Department in Namur will help you as much as possible, nothing can beat the experience of being in your shoes. So here are some tips and tricks from UCC students who have studied in Namur.

**Academic Matters:**
- Take the chance to learn new things.
- Try and take some courses that allow you to learn more about Belgian life, culture, or history. You’ll never have quite the same opportunity in Ireland.
- Keep up with your reading. It will make it much easier when it comes to exams.
- Make use of the French class for foreign students offered throughout the year.
- Realise that Belgian French is slightly different from that spoken in France and the accent may take awhile to get used to.
Accommodation:
- After arranging your accommodation, check the time you are able to move in at so you can either arrange to arrive in Namur during these times or make alternative accommodation arrangements for your first night.
- Bring pictures of home to put on the walls.
- Bring a 2-pin plug adaptor for any Irish electrical products.

Travel:
- Remember generally the earlier you book the flights the cheaper they are.
- The International House organises cheap day and overnight trips.
- If you are coming home for Christmas, it is a good time to bring back excess luggage.
- A ‘Go Pass’ is a Belgian train pass that entitles students to ten train rides at very competitive prices.

Bureaucracy:
- Bring multiple photocopies of any documentation you might need.
- Bring your European Health Insurance card.
- It is a good idea to carry some sort of ID with you at all times.

Social:
- Buy local newspapers and magazine, and listen to local TV, radio, and music.
- Immerse yourself in the culture.
- There is a great international student community.
- Take advantage of any orientation programmes the college offers.

General:
- Bring a good French dictionary.
- Unlock your mobile phone before you leave Ireland if you want to put a Belgian SIM card in it.
- Brings some books in English – although you can buy some English language books in Belgium, they can be expensive, and it is handy to have some for travelling and for when you first arrive.
- Look into phone cards – they are one of the cheapest ways to phone home.
- If you have a laptop and Internet access in your accommodation, look into getting Skype or other Internet phone packages.
- Set up Internet banking.