



**Université
Catholique
de Lille** 1875

Institut Catholique de Lille: A Rising Leader in Research

Breaking Boundaries to Advance Innovation
and Science on the International Stage

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Introduction

ICL's Commitment to Global Research Excellence

International engagement is a cornerstone of the Institut Catholique de Lille (ICL) research strategy. This vision is realized through support for academic mobility, publications in leading international journals, and active participation in global projects, such as Horizon Europe and other international programs. It also includes hosting and attending international conferences and fostering ongoing dialogue with global partners and organizations, amplifying ICL's international impact and collaborations.

To achieve these goals, ICL has developed a cross-departmental collaboration model inspired by the concept of a "Grant Service." While not formally institutionalized, this approach emphasizes teamwork among internal entities, leveraging their expertise to support applications for international funding and equip researchers and staff with the skills to identify and secure the right opportunities.

Driving Forces Behind This Initiative:

The Vice-Rectorate for Research, which coordinates project engineers, administrative and financial teams, and the communications office to support, oversee and manage research projects.

The Hub Financement, led by Maryline Rousselle, which provides strategic, financial and administrative guidance for projects.

The Vice-Rectorate for International Development and the International Relations Office (IRO), which collaborate closely to strengthen ICL's global presence, facilitate connections with international organizations, and nurture strategic partnerships.

This synergy enhances the visibility of ICL's research priorities, helps identify funding opportunities (e.g., calls for proposals, national priorities in partner countries), and supports the internationalization of key services, such as human resources and financial affairs directorates. The Erasmus+ program also plays a vital role in advancing mobility, exchanges, and collaborations within and beyond Europe.





Cross-Disciplinary Research Themes

ICL's research is built around four interdisciplinary themes that confront today's global challenges, placing the human experience at the forefront:

- **Ethics and Integral Ecology:** exploring ethical issues arising from technological and environmental challenges across all dimensions of ecology—human, social, political, and economic.
- **Vulnerabilities and Fragilities:** studying human dignity through themes such as aging, end-of-life and beginning-of-life issues, dependency, childhood, illness, disability, discrimination, abuse, and more.
- **Risks and Geopolitics:** examining emerging risks, particularly geopolitical ones, and the development of associated regulatory frameworks.
- **Contemporary Societal Transformations:** addressing societal shifts driven by algorithmic processes, including impacts on state security, privacy, education, marketing, entertainment, solidarity, care, and spirituality.

These themes highlight ICL's commitment to multidisciplinary research informed by ethical, societal, and future-oriented perspectives.



Key Initiatives

Information Sessions

The Vice-Rectorate for Research with the Hub Financement host regular sessions to help researchers and support staff, regardless of career stage, understand funding programs and international opportunities.

ERC Grants: Collaborative sessions with the regional Europe Research Innovation Network (RERI) provide insights into jury expectations, application formats, and strategies. These events often feature insights from ERC grantees, national contact points, and representatives of the ERC Executive Agency.

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA): Workshops focus on «Postdoctoral Fellowships» and «Staff Exchanges,» offering practical advice and real-world examples.

Other sessions, offered directly by the Vice-Rectorate for Research, provide an introduction to the fundamentals of ERC grants and other funding programs and support researchers in crafting competitive proposals.

These initiatives equip researchers with tools to prepare competitive proposals while enhancing the skills of research support staff in handling complex funding applications.

ResearchConnect Platform

ICL provides access to ResearchConnect, a premium platform designed to streamline the search for national, European, and international funding opportunities. Accessible through institutional credentials, this valuable tool is an essential resource for researchers and project engineers of ICL to strategically identify and pursue funding opportunities.

SMOS Mobility Programs

ICL supports scientific mobility through two complementary initiatives:

SMOS-IN: Attracts international researchers to foster academic collaborations and encourage European project submissions.

SMOS-OUT: Enables ICL researchers to collaborate with global institutions, access cutting-edge facilities, and expand their international networks.



These two components of SMOS Program work in synergy to promote internationalization and scientific excellence. The first wave of the program supported five researchers, facilitating collaborations with institutions such as the Max Planck Institute (Germany) and SOAS's Center for Jewish Studies (UK). It also welcomed researchers from Italy (University of Trieste), the Netherlands (Utrecht University), and Hungary (ELTE Budapest University) into ICL's research units such as ESPOL Lab and ETHICS EA7446 in Lille.

My Experience Applying to the SMOS-OUT Program

“ This program provides significant added value for advancing research at any stage of an academic career (PhD students, postdocs, HDR holders, etc.). Personally, I applied for funding to support a research stay at the renowned and highly effective Max Planck Institute for Private Law to complete the writing of a book on Business Accountability. I was thrilled to have my application accepted—this is truly a valuable opportunity! The efforts of our Vice-Rectorate for Research and Nicolas Vaillant clearly demonstrate how our university actively supports the quality of our research. The required formalities were reasonable, and the process was clear and well-organized. I also benefited from unwavering support from my colleagues at the Faculty of Law, which was instrumental in successfully submitting my application.

Andra COTIGA

Professor and Director of the Master's Program in International Business and Competition Law at the Catholic University of Lille



The new wave of the program has been launched with expanded accessibility for researchers at various experience levels, alongside a more targeted thematic focus for the SMOS-IN component, aiming to attract top-tier researchers and renowned experts in their respective fields.



Tailored Project Support

The Vice-Rectorate for Research, the Funding Hub, the Vice-Rectorate for International Development and the International Relations Office, and research unit representatives work together to offer personalized support for developing European and international research projects.

Services include:

- Targeted strategic monitoring of funding opportunities
- Coordination and management of projects from initiation to submission and implementation
- Tools and resources for proposal development and project management
- Networking and partnership building
- Assistance with preparing and submitting applications that meet funder requirements
- Alignment of projects with scientific priorities and evaluation criteria
- Logistical support for organizing scientific events such as conferences, workshops, and seminars

The IRO also promotes international mobility by offering intercultural training and showcasing ICL's research achievements through its network affiliations.

Looking Ahead: Strengthening International Research and Collaboration

ICL is committed to strengthening its global engagement and collaborative research through several strategic initiatives:

Strategic Partnerships

ICL plans to expand its collaborations by developing joint projects, hosting academic exchanges, organizing interdisciplinary workshops, and building long-term partnerships in various research fields. This includes identifying strategic academic partners who share our values and have common interests in ICL's four priority research areas. Beyond mobility programs for students and staff or pedagogical initiatives (such as double degrees or joint degrees), we seek to establish strong research partnerships, including joint PhD supervision and collaborative project proposals, particularly within the framework of Horizon Europe or other international funding opportunities.

Digital Resources

An online toolkit is available on the Université Catholique de Lille website, in section dedicated to research, offering practical guides, international funding resources, and methodological advice to help teacher-researchers and researchers access essential information more efficiently.

Thematic Working Groups

The university supports the creation of interdisciplinary working groups to drive collaborative European and international projects, fostering scientific exchange and enhancing the competitiveness of project proposals.

Expanded Scientific Mobility

ICL aims to increase inbound and outbound scientific mobility, providing financial support and facilitating integration into global research networks.

This strategy reflects the Université Catholique de Lille dedication to advancing innovation and excellence in international research.





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or contact us?**

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ET ETABLISSEMENT D'ENSEIGNEMENT SUPERIEUR PRIVE D'INTERET GENERAL (EESPIG)
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