Bachelor en Cultures Européennes: English Studies

Guidelines for Referees

About the Bachelor en Cultures Européennes: English Studies

What is different about our programme?

At a time where European institutions and traditions are at the forefront of public debates, this bachelor programme provides students with the unique opportunity to combine a <u>strong specialisation in a traditional academic field (English literature and linguistics)</u> with project-based learning and an <u>integrated</u> critical reflection on the origins, development, and future(s) of Europe and European cultures. Our emphasis on critical and interdisciplinary thinking is designed to promote the autonomy of our students and to encourage them to develop their own academic voice from the beginning of their university careers. We believe that in a context in which digital tools of all kinds are altering how we view language, its study, and its applications, these skills simply matter.

Your role in the Admissions Process

The *Bachelor en Cultures Européennes* challenges students in a variety of manners, and we wish to make sure our students are well equipped to meet the academic, linguistic, and cultural demands of the programme.

In our admissions process, we try to evaluate how well applicants will fit into our programme and whether they will be able to deal with the combination of highly specialised field-specific and interdisciplinary approaches. Before we admit them, it is important for us to assess whether they will be able to thrive in this environment. Your help, in this process, is invaluable. We hope that the fact file and guidelines below will prove helpful in this process.

Bachelor en Cultures Européennes Fact File

In short, the BCE provides:

+ a Bachelor qualification in one of six specialisations: **English**, **French**, **German** or **Luxembourgish Studies**, **History** or **Philosophy**;
+ an interdisciplinary reflection on **European Cultures**;
+ a **bi- or trilingual** degree in an international and intercultural environment;
+ the possibility of developing a **second disciplinary focus** in an additional academic field (max. 60 ECTS);
+ a strong emphasis on **critical and contextualised close reading** and on **crafting complex and critically informed lines of argument;**
+ a focus on **digital and AI literacy** through direct engagement with generative AI, as well as the challenges and opportunities such developments present for students and future graduates in the Humanities and adjacent fields.

Academic Reference / Recommendation

Personal Qualities

Please provide information about the applicant's personal qualities.

+ **context of your relationship with the applicant**: how long have you known the applicant; in what capacity?
+ **the applicant as a person and student**: how well do you know the applicant? What can you share about their personality and general qualities? Do they have any extra-curricular activities that might be of relevance? How well do they deal with challenging situations or constructive criticism?

Academic Skills

Please provide information about the applicant's academic performance, including, if possible, predicted grades, their language competences, and any progress you may have observed.

+ **language skills**: We are primarily interested in the applicant's level of <u>English</u>, but will also appreciate information on other languages they are fluent in. Does the applicant have a good grasp of English? Are they able to articulate complex ideas in English? Will they need extra support, if they are admitted to our programme (e.g., grammar, syntax, academic writing, etc.)?
+ **analytical / critical skills**: Please comment on the applicant's ability to engage with texts and their experience with literature. For instance, have they worked with literary texts in the past? Are they able to make connections between texts and their contexts? What kinds of projects have they participated in or completed?
+ **suitability and motivation**: As described above, our programme combines a major in English Literature and Linguistics with an interdisciplinary approach to European cultures. This is not something all students appreciate as they start their studies with us. Do you think the applicant will be able to adapt to and thrive in this environment?
+ **teamwork and classroom behaviour**: We promote critical thought and active participation. Do you think the applicant would feel comfortable in this environment? Do they have prior experience with collaborative learning environments and situations?
+ **any further relevant information**: Please provide any information that you feel comfortable sharing and that might help us in our evaluation of the applicant's suitability and needs.

We understand that not all these dimensions will apply to your student(s). Please select aspects that will help us to determine whether the applicant will be a good fit and what we might need to provide to help them to adapt to the academic requirements of our programme.

Formal Aspects

Typically, references are between 400-600 words in length, type-written or word-processed, and signed in blue or black ink. They provide the applicant's full name as well as the referee's full name and contact information (institutional address and email address).

<u>You are free to decide whether to send the reference to the BCE Admissions Team via email or to hand it to the student</u>.

When they initiate the online application process, applicants are issued a **Student ID number**. If at all possible, please include this ID number in the reference, and if you send it to the BCE Admissions Team directly, in the subject line of the email as well.

BCE Admissions Team: bce.office@uni.lu