INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES (IAS)

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INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES

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1. Context & Mission

The University of Luxembourg (UL) wishes to overcome boundaries between disciplines and sectors and considers that increased interdisciplinarity is one of UL's and Luxembourg's key instruments in advancing its international research and innovation development.

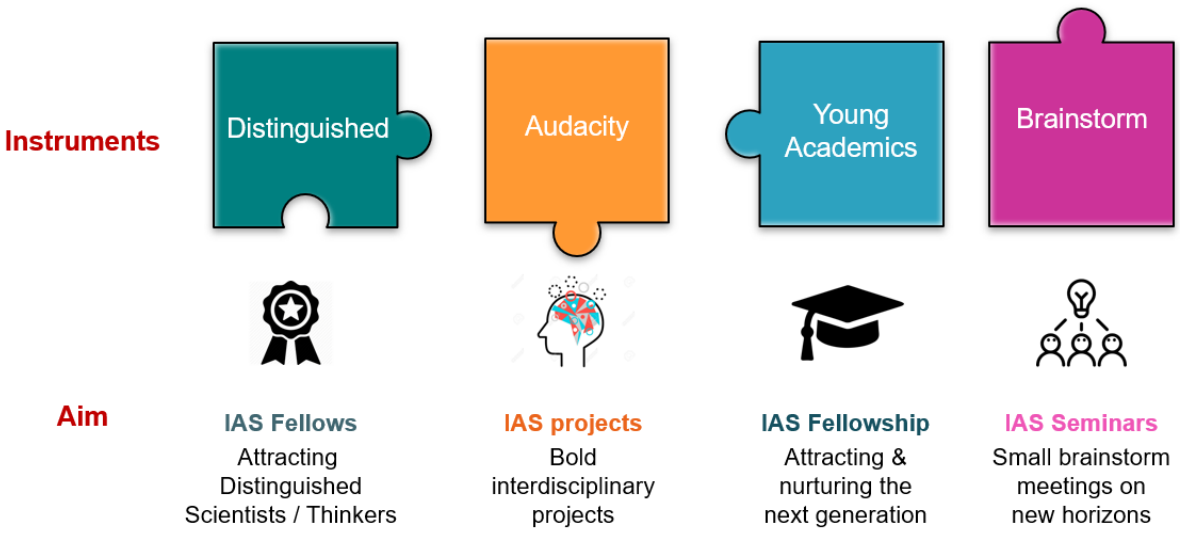
UL has the ambition to leverage its research performance and intellectual environment by establishing an Institute for Advanced Studies (IAS) - Luxembourg. The IAS - Luxembourg will mirror the concept of international examples of Institutes for Advanced Studies, which are recognized benchmarks for combining excellence, interdisciplinarity and internationality, and as *fora* for sharing knowledge and experience. The IAS - Luxembourg will have four main missions:

- to leverage bold and interdisciplinary research at the very forefront of science.
- to represent the University of Luxembourg's principles of excellence, interdisciplinarity and internationality.
- to build bridges between the University's community, international visitors, and Luxembourg society.
- to contribute to the attraction and retention of international talent.

2. Instruments & selection principles

The IAS - Luxembourg will achieve its missions through four strategic funding instruments:

- ***Distinguished***: Attraction of distinguished international visiting fellowships
- ***Audacity***: Leveraging bold and interdisciplinary projects at the very forefront of science
- ***Young Academics***: Attraction of talented PhD candidates and Post-Doctoral researchers
- ***Brainstorm***: Small group brainstorm meetings on emerging research questions and topics



2.1 Distinguished

Description. The aim of the instrument Distinguished is to enable and encourage research groups of the University of Luxembourg to engage with distinguished international scientists, but also wider personalities, including policy makers, and representatives of the arts, government or industry. Distinguished fellows will strengthen UL's activities and reinforce the development of new ideas in research and innovation, teaching approaches and for addressing global challenges, thereby enriching Luxembourg's academic and intellectual environment. In order to ensure that a wide cross-section of the University community as well as Luxembourg society benefits from the impact of the visit, IAS Visiting Fellows will take part in activities such as: (i) conducting interdisciplinary research, including the preparation of research projects and proposals with members of UL (ii) training events targeted at early career scholars, (iii) public events to engage society, together with the UL community and other IAS visiting fellows, (iv) and, where appropriate, in teaching activities.

Selection principles. Applicants to the "Distinguished" fellowship will be assessed by the College of the IAS fellows. The duration of stay can be from a minimum of 2 weeks to a maximum of 3 months. The selection is based on the quality of the applicant and their fit with the host research group at UL.

2.2 Audacity

Description. The aim of the instrument *Audacity* is to enable audacious interdisciplinary research, breaking the barriers between scientific disciplines and sectors, and fostering increased collaboration at UL. The projects are expected to be at the forefront of science and to have a distinctly bold and audacious character with a high element of risk. The projects can act as preliminary studies thereby enabling and reinforcing later submissions to external funding instruments used by UL such as FNR, Horizon Europe, ERC, ESA etc. Securing such follow-up funding will be considered as a success measure of the *Audacity* instrument.

Selection principles. The IAS will open a yearly call for projects with a maximum lifespan of 4 years. The Scientific Council of the IAS, composed of UL-internal and UL-external experts, will select the project proposals after oral presentations by the applicants potentially supported in their task by international experts. The presentations will be open to the UL community, thereby making the selection process an open scientific event of the UL. The selection criteria are the excellence, audacious character and interdisciplinarity of the submitted projects. Principal Investigators having been granted an IAS Audacity project are not eligible to submit a new project for the 2 years following their grant acquisition.

2.3 Young Academics

Description. The instrument *Young Academics* aims to attract outstanding PhD candidates and Post-doctoral researchers, who wish to conduct their interdisciplinary research in a consortium grouping distinct UL's departments (faculties), research groups (ICs), or entities. Their interdisciplinary project would be run under the responsibility of two academic staff holding Thesis supervision rights. This instrument contributes to positioning UL as the place to be for interdisciplinary research, and as an attractive employer with appealing working conditions. For their career development, the selected *Young Academics* will benefit from schemes such as the University of Luxembourg Leadership Academy (ULLA), a catalogue of interdisciplinary and short courses or lectures in transversal skills.

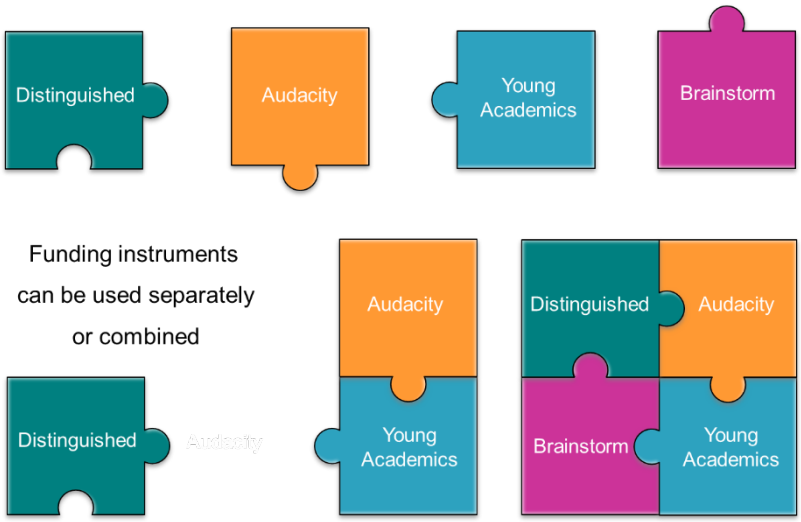
Selection principles. Applicants to "*Young Academics*" will be selected by the Scientific Council of the IAS, potentially supported in their task by international experts. The selection criteria are excellence of the candidate and the quality of an interdisciplinary project.
Professors affiliated to the University of Luxembourg (in the sense of Professeurs affiliés, Law on the organisation of the University, Art. 28) are eligible to co-supervise Young Academics of the IAS with UL ADR-holders, under the conditions that the doctoral position is co-funded by, and contracted with, their respective institution. Young Academics co-supervised by an Affiliate Professor will undergo the same selection process and will integrate the community of doctoral candidates of the IAS – Luxembourg.

2.4 Brainstorm

Description. The IAS will support these small-size brainstorm meetings (minimum 5 and maximum 15 people all together incl. Coord-PIs) considered as the ideal forum for exchanges on emerging research reflexion, often covering more than one discipline or sector. These workshops, organised by a member of the UL or an IAS - Luxembourg DISTINGUISHED Visiting Fellow, are expected to bring together a select group of international and UL scientists, to discuss the latest pre-publication research and innovation at the edge of the concerned field. Targeted participants include international experts, UL researchers including UL Doctoral or Post-doctoral researchers and YOUNG ACADEMICS from the IAS. Junior participants will gain new understanding of emerging fields through dialogue with more senior experts. The BRAINSTORM workshops are expected to lead to new research projects, initiatives, networks or short position/white papers published internationally, further increasing UL's visibility.

Selection principles. Applications to the *Brainstorm* workshops will be assessed by the College of IAS fellows. The selection is based on the quality of the *Brainstorm* idea, the international recognition of the participants, and the potential to lead to new ideas and initiates.

The above-described four instruments are the essence of the IAS. They can be used individually or, where appropriate, and with a well-argued case, in a combined fashion, as illustrated below.



3. Governance and organisation

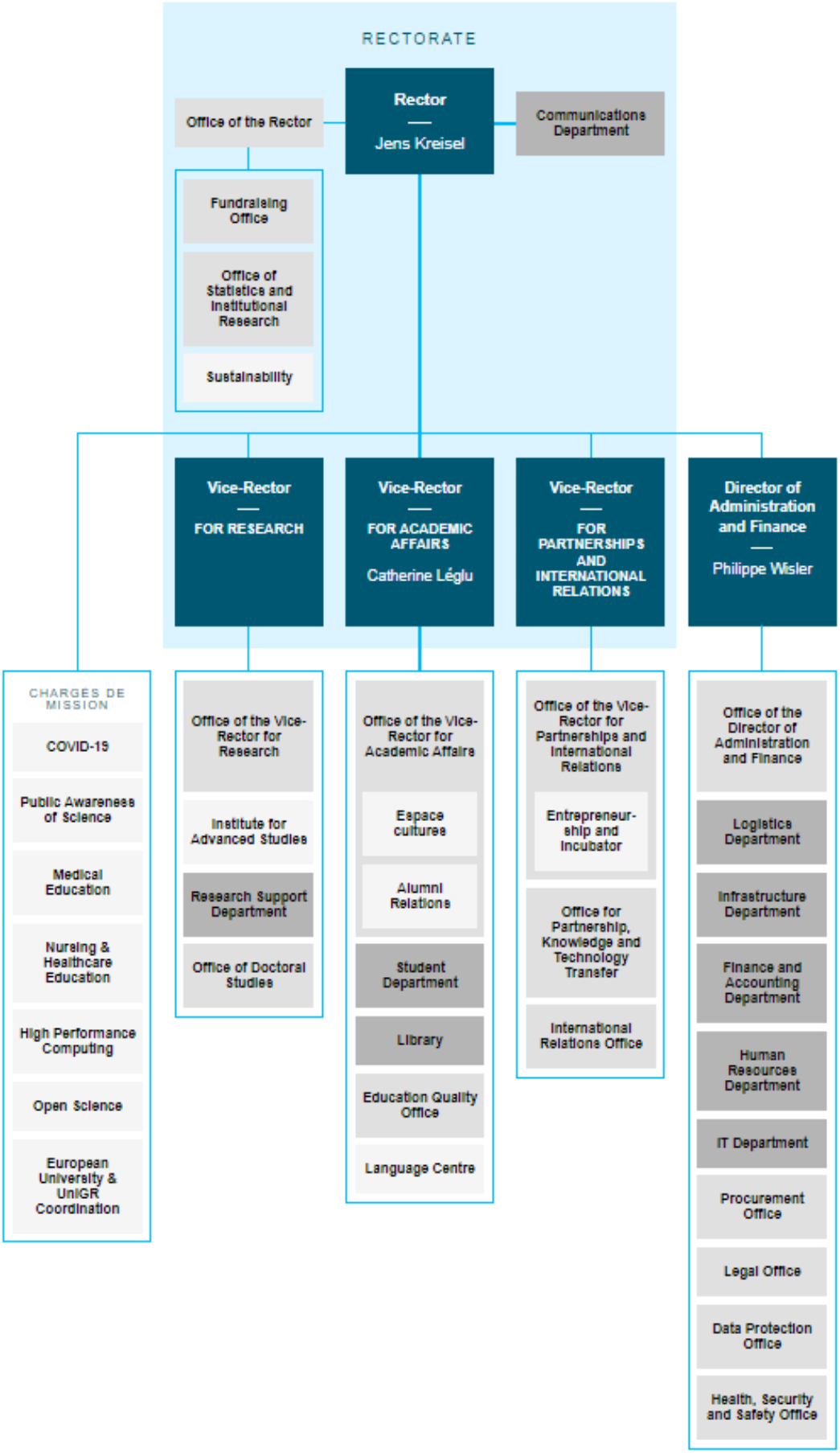
The Governance of the IAS - Luxembourg is composed of the following instances:

- Vice-Rector for Research
- Head of IAS - Luxembourg
- College of IAS Fellows
- Scientific Council

3.1 Positioning within the University of Luxembourg

The IAS - Luxembourg is a unit of the University of Luxembourg under the authority of the Vice-Rector for Research (figure below). As part of the University of Luxembourg, the IAS enjoys the academic freedom guaranteed by Art. 19 of the modified Law of 27 June 2018 of the University.

The IAS - Luxembourg is funded by a dedicated budget line, allocated on a yearly basis within the overall budget of the University of Luxembourg.


RECTORATE
Rector
Jens Kreisel
Office of the Rector
Communications Department
Fundraising Office
Office of Statistics and Institutional Research
Sustainability
Vice-Rector
FOR RESEARCH
Vice-Rector
FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
Catherine Léglu
Vice-Rector
FOR PARTNERSHIPS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
Director of Administration and Finance
Philippe Wisler
CHARGÉS DE MISSION
COVID-19
Public Awareness of Science
Medical Education
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Infrastructure Department
Finance and Accounting Department
Human Resources Department
IT Department
Procurement Office
Legal Office
Data Protection Office
Health, Security and Safety Office

3.2 Head of IAS – Luxembourg

The Head of IAS - Luxembourg:

- is a full professor who is staff of UL and nominated by the Rector;
- elaborates the strategy, yearly plan, 4-year working program and other key activities of the IAS;
- leads the acquisition of additional external funding for the activities of the IAS;
- proposes a yearly budget allocation to the Vice-Rector for Research.

Under the authority of the Rector, the Vice-Rector for Research will act as the founding Head of IAS during the launching phase of the four funding instruments of the IAS. The objective of the launching phase is to facilitate the setting up of the Scientific Council and to ensure a smooth start to the IAS instruments and activities.

After this initial phase, the Rector will appoint, based on a recommendation of the College of the IAS fellows, a professor as Head of IAS – Luxembourg. The mandate of the Head of IAS - Luxembourg is for a period of two (2) years, renewable once. The mandate cannot be accumulated with that of Dean or Vice-Dean of a Faculty, or Director or Vice-Director of an Interdisciplinary Centre. The Head of IAS - Luxembourg reports to the Vice-Rector for Research.

The Head of IAS will be nominated "chargé de mission" during the duration of his/her mandate as Head of IAS.

During the period of his/her mandate, the Head of IAS cannot submit or participate in a new IAS project.

3.3 College of IAS fellows

The College of IAS fellows is composed of all Principal Investigators of on-going *Audacity* projects.

The College of IAS fellows, presided by the Head of IAS, meets twice per year and has the following attributions:

- provides an opinion on the strategy, yearly plan, budget, 4-year working program and other key activities of the IAS;
- proposes a Head of IAS for nomination by the Rector;
- elects, guided by a gender-balanced target and a simple majority of attendees, representatives among the eligible members of their college to be members of the Scientific Council;
- assesses and ranks "*Distinguished*" and "*Brainstorm*" projects. The Head of IAS and the Vice-Rector for Research submit these to the Rector for final funding decision;
- proposes to the Head of IAS and the Vice-Rector for Research international experts for the Scientific Council.

The Vice-Rector for Research participates ex officio as an observer to the meetings of the College of IAS fellows.

The Evaluation Committee for Distinguished and Brainstorm projects is composed of 6 members elected for 2 years.

3.4 Scientific Council

The Scientific Council is composed of thirteen (13) members as follows:

- Head of IAS - Luxembourg; *ex-officio* with a casting vote;
- Five (5) elected representatives of the College of IAS Fellows, nominated by the Rector;
- Five (5) international experts nominated by the Rector;
- Gender Equality Officer, *ex officio* as non-voting observer;
- Vice-Rector for Research, *ex officio* as non-voting observer.

Gender equality and awareness will be further promoted in the IAS - Luxembourg through the presence of the Gender Equality Officer in the Scientific Council. In this line, the composition of the Scientific Council respects a gender balance namely the proportion of members of each gender may not be less than forty (40) percent.

Deans of Faculties and Directors of Interdisciplinary Centres of UL cannot accumulate their mandate with that of being a member of the Scientific Council. Vice-Deans of Faculties and Vice-Directors of Interdisciplinary Centres are eligible to be a member of the Scientific Council.

Members of the College of IAS fellows who are staff of UL are eligible to be nominated as elected representatives of the College of IAS Fellows in the Scientific Council. The mandate of member of the scientific council can exceed the duration of their Audacity project, but is limited to two (2) years, not renewable. The mandate is renewable once for the international experts. The Rector nominates new members following proposals from the College of IAS fellows.

The Scientific Council meets at least once per year and its role is to:

- rank the "*Audacity*" and "*Young Academics*" projects, and decide which projects will be funded. The Head of IAS and the Vice-Rector for Research submit the selection to the Rector for final funding decision;
- provide an opinion on key activities of the IAS;
- contribute to the international visibility and reputation of the IAS - Luxembourg.

Members of the Scientific Council can accumulate their mandate with their participation in the evaluation of Brainstorm and Distinguished projects.