



Organisation & Governance



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INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES



INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES (IAS)

1. Context & Mission

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

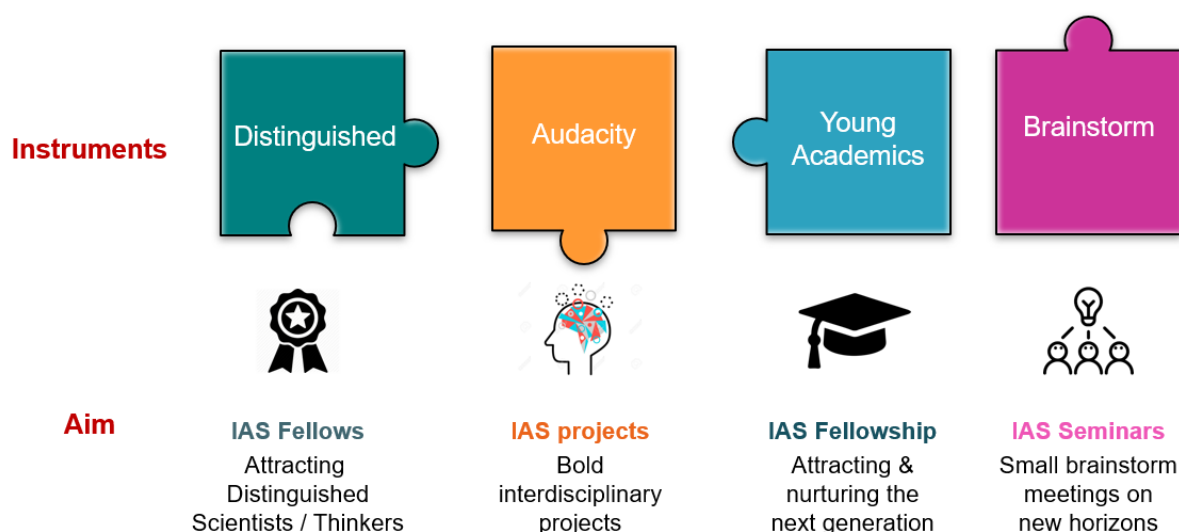
UL has established the Institute for Advanced Studies (IAS) - Luxembourg in 2020 to further enhance its research performance, its intellectual environment and interdisciplinarity. The IAS - Luxembourg is aligned with the concept of international examples of Institutes for Advanced Studies, which are recognized benchmarks for combining excellence, interdisciplinarity and internationality, and as *fora* for sharing knowledge and experience. The IAS has 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 achieves 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 UL research groups to engage with distinguished international scientists, but also individuals from a wider public, including policy makers, and representatives of the arts, the government or the industry. *Distinguished* fellows strengthen UL's activities and reinforce the development of new ideas in research and innovation, teaching approaches and in addressing global challenges, thereby enriching Luxembourg's academic and intellectual environment. In order to ensure that a wide cross-section of the University community and Luxembourg society benefits from the impact of the visit, IAS Visiting Fellows take part in activities such as: (i) conducting interdisciplinary research, including the preparation of research projects and proposals with UL members (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 are assessed by the Evaluation Committee of the IAS fellows. The duration of stay ranges between 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 funders such as the FNR, Horizon Europe, ERC, ESA etc. Securing such follow-up funding is considered as a success measure of the *Audacity* instrument.

Selection principles. The IAS launches an annual call for projects with a maximum lifespan of 4 years. The Scientific Council of the IAS, composed of UL-internal and UL-external experts, select the project proposals after oral presentations by the applicants potentially supported in their task by international experts. 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 following year (1 year) 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, bringing together distinct UL departments (faculties), research groups (ICs), or entities. Their interdisciplinary project is supervised by two academic staff members holding thesis supervision rights (ADR). 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 and lectures in transversal skills.

Selection principles. Applicants to Young Academics are selected by the Scientific Council of the IAS, potentially supported in their task by international experts. The selection criteria are the excellence of the candidate and the quality of an interdisciplinary project.

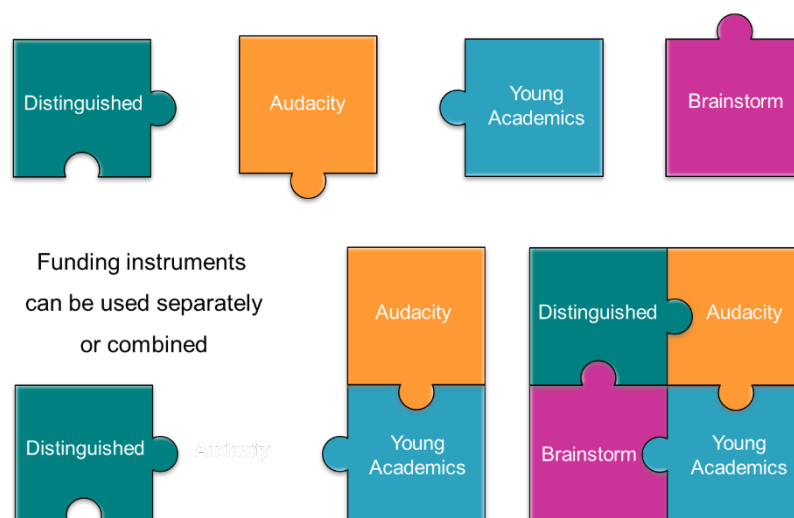
Professors affiliated with UL (in the sense of Professeurs affiliés, Law on the organisation of the University, Art. 28) are eligible to co-supervise Young Academics of the IAS together with UL ADR-holders, under the conditions that the doctoral position is co-funded by, and contracted with, their respective institution. Young Academics co-supervised by an Affiliate Professor will undergo the same selection process and will be integrated into the community of doctoral candidates of the IAS – Luxembourg.

2.4 Brainstorm

Description. The IAS supports small-size brainstorm meetings (minimum 5 and maximum 15 people all together incl. Coord-PIs), which are considered as the ideal forum for exchanges on emerging research fields, 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 a 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 are assessed by the Evaluation Committee 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 initiatives.

These four instruments form the core of research funding 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

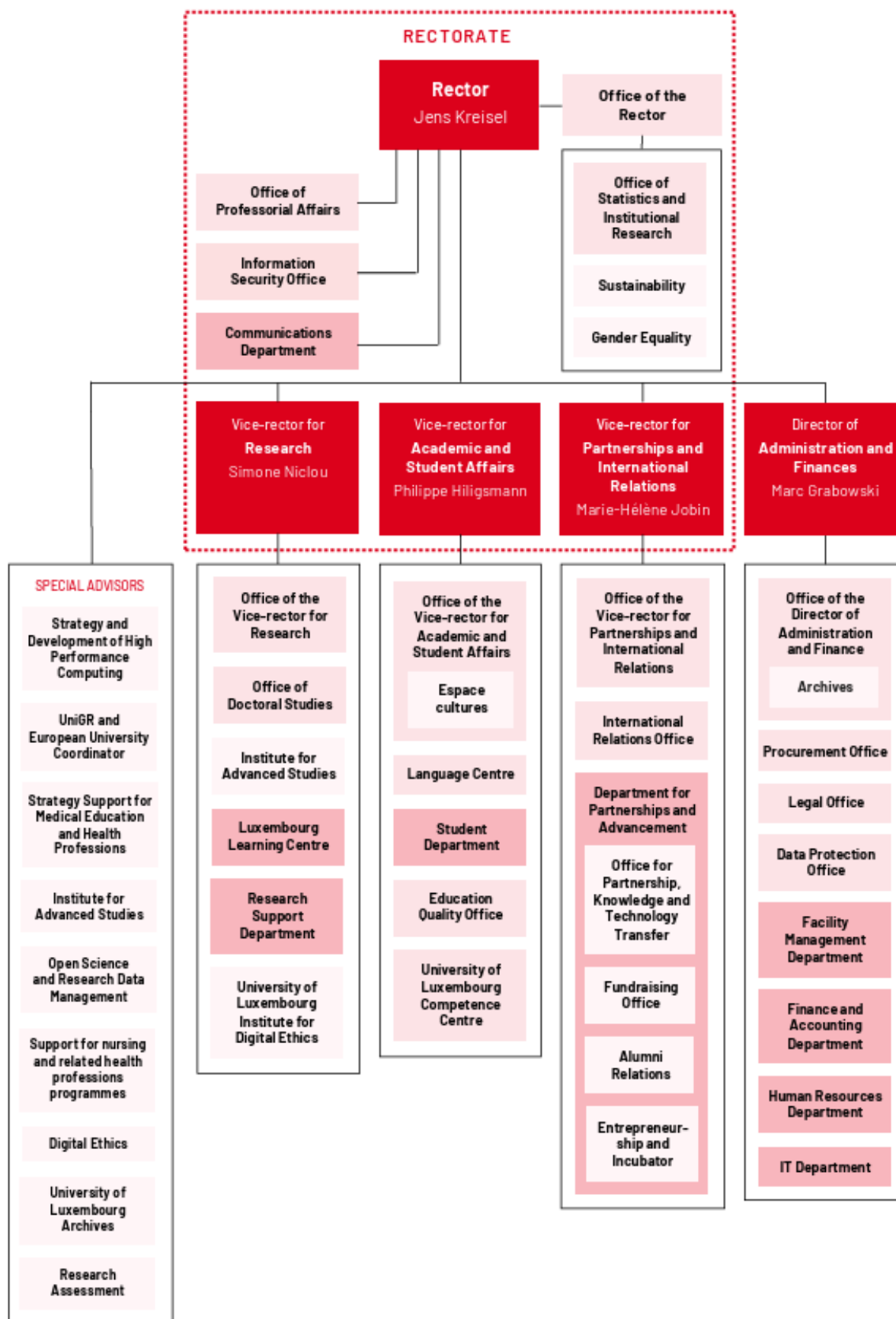
The Governance of the IAS - Luxembourg is composed of the following instances:

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

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 an annual basis within the overall budget of the University of Luxembourg.



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, annual 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.

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 is 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, chaired by the Head of IAS, meets twice per year and has the following responsibilities:

- 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 that assesses and ranks Audacity and Young Academics projects;
- 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 Evaluation Committee that 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 in 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 are further promoted in the IAS - Luxembourg through the presence of the Gender Equality Officer in the Scientific Council. 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 UL-staff are eligible for nomination 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 recommend projects for funding. 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 may also participate in evaluations of proposals submitted to the Brainstorm and Distinguished programs if the number of projects exceeds the capacity of the Evaluation Committee.

In case additional expertise is required (for example if a proposal cannot be evaluated because of a conflict of interest), the IAS reserves the right to appoint evaluators outside of the Scientific Council or the Evaluation Committee of the IAS.