VUB CHAIRS
WITH EXTERNAL PARTNERS

VUB. EVERY DONATION RETURNS.
VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL IN FIGURES

ESTABLISHED

ULB 1834
VUB 1969-1970

€ 92.000.000 RESEARCH BUDGET
€ 240.000.000 REVENUE

1.804 DOCTORANDI
IN 3 DOCTORAL SCHOOLS

31 BACHELORS
74 MASTERS

23 MASTER AFTER MASTERS
21 POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

8 FACULTIES
16.374 ENROLMENTS
OF WHICH >20% INTERNATIONAL
SPREAD OVER 3 CAMPUSES

>60.000 ALUMNI

>60.000 ALUMNI

UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATION BRUSSELS

BRUSSELS HUMANITIES, SCIENCES & ENGINEERING CAMPUS

>120 NATIONALITIES
3.322 STAFF MEMBERS

BRUSSELS HEALTH CAMPUS
+ UNIVERSITAIR ZIEKENHUIS BRUSSEL

369.410 CONSULTATIONS
3.691 STAFF MEMBERS

30.330 HOSPITALISATIONS
721 BEDS

20.000 STUDEN
(VUB + Erasmus- hogeschool Brussel)
A chair brings companies or other external partners, scientific research and education together around new developments in domains that are important for society. The collaboration between a partner and the university results in an important cross-fertilisation of academic knowledge and socially relevant research questions. That is undeniably valuable.

Caroline Pauwels, Rector
A chair is a partnership between the VUB and a company, social organisation, or donor. The partner allocates an amount for the university with which the holder of the chair (a professor at the VUB) sets up the research and/or education on a socially relevant theme. The results of the research are for the benefit of society.

A chair is the ideal way for a company to broaden its insights via the VUB research team. The VUB gets the chance to practically test these insights!

Hugo Thienpont
Vice-rector Innovation & Industrial Policy
What a chair IS √

• A gift or form of sponsorship. Gifts are fiscally deductible, i.e. the donor will receive a tax certificate. On all external income from the university, an overhead of 17% is charged.* In the case of sponsoring, there is also 21% VAT charged.

• A way of supporting independent research at the VUB. The results that arise from the chair remain the property of the VUB and may be freely published.

• A partnership. Together with the VUB, the partner shapes their own expertise centre. We involve the partners and the employees in guest lectures, workshops and symposiums. The partner participates in the community debate and stimulates research and development in their name.

• A marketing tool. Mention is made of the partner in all communication from the VUB relating to the chair. In consultation, a launch event may also be organised. The partners may, in turn, actively present their academic anchoring with the VUB, for the theme related to the chair, in their communications.

• A bridge to knowledge and talent. The partners may expand on the research by themselves, thanks to the talented VUB research teams. Furthermore, the partner, with an eye to future employment, may develop very early name recognition with VUB students.

What a chair is NOT X

• A contract research or research assignment (17% overhead and 21% VAT) under which the following obligations or conditions may be imposed:
  - Setting of a work plan with research milestones;
  - Achieving specific project results;
  - Arrangement of a property transfer or (commercial) licence;
  - Publication conditions or postponement;
  - Making financing of the research dependent on evaluation reports.

*The overhead is used to cover all indirect costs.
When a chair is set up, a partnership is established between a company, a non-profit organisation, a government partner, a private individual, or another partner, and the VUB. In this partnership, the partner finances the research (research chair), education (education chair) or both (research & education chair) around a particular socially relevant theme. This way the partner builds up relevant knowledge and receives access to a network of academics, students, alumni, partners and opinion leaders. Thanks to the collaboration with the partner, the VUB is given the opportunity to test insights and hypotheses in practice.

**CONDITIONS**

- A minimum commitment of two years
- Minimum annual contribution of €50,000

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**RESEARCH CHAIR – FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AND THE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION**

A life without the internet. It’s something we can no longer imagine. Internet-based services, including platforms, have never played such an important role in the organisation of economic, social, cultural and political life.

With this chair, established in 2017 with partner Microsoft and positioned within the research group Law, Science, Technology & Society (LSTS), chairholder prof. dr. Joris van Hoboken (Faculty of Law and Criminology) aims to offer a better understanding of the current European regulation on digital services. In particular, his research targets the protection of fundamental rights.
RESEARCH CHAIR MIREILLE AERENS – FOR ALTERNATIVE RESEARCH METHODS WITHOUT LABORATORY ANIMALS

In 2015, 84-year-old Mireille Aerens donated a part of her private fortune to the VUB to study how test animals could be replaced though in vitro methods with stem cells. With this donation, we have given two young researchers the opportunity to commit themselves to in vitro research at the VUB for four years; it’s an interdisciplinary collaboration between the research group of chairholder em. prof. dr. Vera Rogiers (Faculty of Medicine & Pharmacy) and the photonics research team under prof. dr. ir. Hugo Thienpont (Faculty of Engineering).

By establishing a chair, I can enjoy the successes and progress the VUB makes as a result of my support. It’s a double pleasure. The enjoyment of donating to an institution that I have a strong respect for, and at the same time, supporting research that can eliminate animal testing.

RESEARCH CHAIR – ANDULLATION CARE RESEARCH

This research chair, established in 2018, aims to increase the quality of life of the growing number of cancer patients. The prevalence of cancer is increasing, but fortunately, there is also a lower mortality rate within this pathology. The quality of life of this large group of chronic patients has also been considered increasingly important in recent years.

Chairholder prof. dr. Nele Adriaenssens (Faculty of Physical Education & Physiotherapy) and partner Home Health Products investigate how Andullation® technology can positively influence prevalent complications in cancer treatments (pain, stress, insomnia and lymphedema) through preventative intervention.
In 2011, when the European Year of Active Ageing was approaching, the Faculty of Psychology & Educational Sciences decided to proactively establish the chair Fostering Active Ageing.

Chairholder prof. dr. Dominique Verté and prof. dr. Tinie Kardol (Faculty of Psychology & Educational Sciences) focused on questions about actively ageing. The chair Fostering Active Ageing was made possible by the like-named foundation from the Dutch city, Vught.

The goal of the chair is to scientifically investigate everyday practices—in relation to living, well-being and care—in Dutch elderly-care facilities, and to provide frameworks and guidelines that improve the quality of life of elderly people who require care. In doing so, an exchange of knowledge takes place between the chairholder and Belgian and Dutch parties that are involved in providing care for the elderly.

Prof. dr. Tinie Kardol, titular chair Fostering Active Ageing
At the end of 2015, the Faculty of Social Sciences & Solvay Business School established the Chair of Social Entrepreneurship in collaboration with Close the Gap, Wolters Kluwer and Euroclear as partners. BNP Paribas Fortis later joined as a partner. This chair brings the academic and business worlds together in the search for sustainable business models for social entrepreneurship.

Chairholder prof. dr. Nikolay Dentchev would like to use the chair to create a platform that helps social entrepreneurs to move forward by providing access to a relevant network and supporting them with advice and actions. Students who follow the subject Introduction to Business are closely involved.

As a bank and a large employer, we attach great importance to education in the broader sense. Maintaining a close bond with the university is not just important for recruiting, but also for the further development and training of our employees. By supporting a university chair, we focus on bringing scientific research, education and business together around new developments that are of importance for the Belgian economy.

Martine Hendrickx, Project Manager CSR BNP Paribas Fortis
At the start of the 2018–2019 academic year, the research groups MOBI (VUB), IGEAT and Batir (ULB) partnered with the Federation of Belgian Enterprises to establish the education chair ‘Transitioning Belgian Companies into Circularity’.

Chairholders prof. dr. Cathy Macharis (Faculty of Social Sciences & Solvay Business School) and prof. dr. Wouter Achten (ULB) are going to use the chair to create a framework that will help companies to switch to a circular economy. Together with their colleagues dr. Maarten Messagie (VUB-MOBI), prof. Ahmed Khan and prof. Tom Bauler (ULB), they want to ascertain which circular typology creates social benefit and identify any obstacles to putting it into practice. The transversal research methods of the research groups that are involved will be constructively implemented, in collaboration with the Belgian companies that are involved. The research focuses on a number of Belgian companies that are active in a number of specific sectors (the automobile, logistics, energy and construction sectors). The findings of the investigation will be recorded in various courses within the VUB and the ULB, with a seminary series on circularity organised every year.

Despite three laws that are related to the ending of a life—the laws relating to patient rights, palliative care and the euthanasia law—the quality of death is still in stark contrast to the quality of life in Belgium. The chair End of Life Care was established in 2011 to contribute to the enhancement of this quality in order to reduce avoidable misery. This is done by providing information, care and advice to the population, training and educating professionals, stimulating scientific research and as a signal function to the government.

Through this chair and with partner deMens.nu, chairholder prof. dr. Wim Distelmans (Faculty of Medicine & Pharmacy) is striving for optimal respect for the rights of those suffering from serious incurable illnesses, not only at the end of life, but during the entire disease progression.
Our society is very diverse, with Islamic communities making up an important part of it. Nonetheless, minorities in many societal domains are not always treated equally: media, education, housing, employment, etc. In order to correct this situation, the diversity of our society must be central in research, education and social services.

This is what chairholder prof. dr. Iman Lechkar (Faculty of Social Sciences & Solvay Business School) hopes to accomplish with the Fatima Mernissi Chair, established in 2017. Like Fatima Mernissi, globally renowned for her fight for gender equality, the VUB wants to build bridges between the academic world and society.

Flemish Minister for Culture, Media, Youth & Brussels, Sven Gatz and Darna vzw (a Flemish-Moroccan cultural institution) are partners of the chair.
Join us in building the mobility of the future. This is the call made by Infrabel in attempting to draw qualified persons, in areas such as engineering, to apply for jobs with the railway company. Infrabel invests enormously in innovation, raising a need for qualified engineers. The chair Infrabel Railway Technology, a collaboration between VUB, ULB and Infrabel, fits in perfectly with this strategy.

The goal of the chair, established in 2007, is to take the course that includes railway technology a step further. The students in the first year of this course follow the course segment ‘Railway Infrastructure Technology’. They are given the opportunity to execute a project (1st master) and thesis in collaboration with Infrabel in the domain of railway technology. In collaboration with Infrabel, chairholder prof. dr. ir. Philippe Lataire (Faculty of Engineering) organises lectures and company visits for the students.
1. Contact the VUB Foundation (contact details are on page 15). The VUB Foundation coordinates the setup of new chairs and oversees their correct execution. As well as advice, there is legal support provided.

2. The setting up of a new chair—through an agreement between the VUB and the external partner—should be submitted to the Education Council and/or the Research Council and approved by the Innovation and Valorisation Council of the VUB.

The Education Council advises the Innovation and Valorisation Council about the instalment of chairs with educational goals, and the appointment of the chairholder.

The Research Council advises the Innovation and Valorisation Council on the instalment of chairs with research goals and the appointment of the chairholder.

The Innovation and Valorisation Council decides on the instalment of chairs and the appointment of the chairholder, after receiving favourable advice from the Education Council and/or the Research Council.

3. After the approval of the setup of a chair, the VUB Contract Management cell arranges for the agreement to be signed by all parties.

4. The VUB Foundation arranges the drafting of the chair page on the Foundation website (www.vubfoundation.be) and for visibility in the annual report for the VUB.
• **Chair Mireille Aeren** for alternative research methods without laboratory animals – Mireille Aeren - Em. prof. dr. Vera Rogiers

• **Chair Corporations and Sustainable Mobility** – Acerta cvba, BFFMM, Belgische Leasingvereniging vzw, FEGARBEL, vzw Koninklijke Belgische Touring Club, Traxio, VAB, Febiac vzw, Solvay Alumni asbl, Renta Solutions nv - Prof. dr. Joost Vaesen (Brussels Studies Institute)

• **Chair Fostering Active Ageing** – Stichting leerstoel Bevordering Active Ageing - Prof. dr. Dominique Verté

• **Chair Casterman & Hamers: History and Philosophy of Sciences** – Em. prof. Cécile Casterman & em. prof. Raymond Hamers - Em. prof. dr. Jean-Paul Van Bendegem

• **Chair De Berekuyt - Exercise Immunology & Chronic Fatigue in Health and Disease** – De Berekuyt, European College for Decongestive Lymphatic Therapy (ECDLT) - Prof. dr. Jo Nijs

• **Chair Fatima Mernissi** – Flemish Minister for Culture, Media, Youth and Brussels (Sven Gatz), Darna vzw - Prof. dr. Iman Lechkar

• **Huawei Chair for Contemporary China Studies at the Brussels Academy for China and European Studies (BACES)** – Huawei Technologies (Netherlands) B.V – Belgium Branch - Prof. dr. Romain Meeusen

• **Chair Infrabel Railway Technology** - INFRABEL - Prof. dr. ir. Philippe Lataire

• **Chair International and European Data Privacy and Security Law** – Google - Prof. dr. Christopher Kuner

• **Chair Clinical Senior Citizen Psychology** – Stichting Mondriaan - Prof. dr. Bas Van Alphen

• **Chair Data Protection On The Ground** - BNP Paribas Fortis - Prof. dr. Jo Pierson

• **Chair on Infrastructure Asset Management & Life Cycle Planning in Belgium** – ORI vzw, Antea Belgium nv, Arcadis Belgium nv, Sweco Belgium, Tractebel Engie - Prof. dr. Elvira Haezendonck

• **SOMT Chair Musculoskeletal Anatomy** - SOMT - Stichting Opleiding Musculoskeletale Therapie (NL) - Prof. dr. Aldo Scafoglieri

• **Nobel Biocare Chair** – Nobel Biocare nv - Prof. dr. Jan Cosyn

• **Chair of Social Entrepreneurship** - Wolters Kluwer nv, Euroclear nv, Stichting Close The Gap, BNP Paribas Fortis nv - Prof. dr. Nikolay Dentchev

• **Chair Human Resources Data Analytics** - Acerta Consult cvba - Prof. dr. Wouter Verbeke

• **Medtronic Chair** – Medtronic Belgium nv - Prof. dr. Carlo de Asmundis

• **Chair Radiology Bracco** – Bracco Imaging Europe B.V.-Prof. dr. Johan De Mey

• **Chair in Public-Private Partnership** – Deloitte, SWECO Belgium nv, KBC, Laga cvba, Triodos Bank nv - Prof. dr. Lieven De Moor

• **Chair Thermo-Mechanical Innovation for Fluid Machinery** – Atlas Copco Airpower nv - Prof. dr. ir. Björn Verrelst

• **Chair on Smart Cities** – Joyn Belgium nv, Thanksys nv, Belfius nv - Prof. dr. Pieter Ballon

• **Chair Fundamental Rights and the Digital Transformation** – Microsoft Corporation - Prof. dr. Joris Van Hoboken

• **Chair End of Life Care** – deMens.nu - Prof. dr. Wim Distelmans

• **Chair Andullation Care Research** – Home Health Products bvba - Prof. dr. Nele Adriaenssens

• **VBO-FEB VUB-ULB Chair: Transitioning Belgian companies into Circularity** – Federation of Belgian Enterprises - Prof. dr. Cathy Macharis

• **Chair Asia-Pacific Studies** - Aviation Education Foundation (AEF) - Prof. dr. Kim Van der Borght

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Next to chairs with external partners, there are also chairs at the VUB formed as series of lessons on a specific theme. In these cases, a chair is often assigned by the VUB (VUB Chairs by Name) or by third parties (Honorary Chairs by name) to a (guest) professor.

**VUB Chairs by Name:** Chair Emile Lorand, Chair Gommaar van Oosterwyck, Chair Willy Callewaert, Chair Emile Verhaeren, Chair Vloeberghs, Chair VUB.

**Honorary Chairs by name:** Chair Francqui, Chair UNESCO - Cultural Heritage, Chair UNESCO - Adult Education.

At the VUB Foundation, we are happy to take the time to listen to any questions and queries you may have about a Chair at the VUB. It is our aim to find the perfect match for you, as a company, governmental partner, institution or private individual, within our research groups. We are wholeheartedly committed to supporting our researchers in the realisation of a successful partnership in which free research is a central pillar.

Do you have questions or would you like further information about the opportunities within the VUB? Contact us. **We are happy to help you!**

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