

UNIVERSITY OF LUXEMBOURG  
Institute for Advanced Studies

## Institute for Advanced Studies – Luxembourg

*Excellence - Interdisciplinarity - Internationality*



## 1 Preamble

The University of Luxembourg (UL) is a research-oriented University in a country that nurtures and promotes its research and innovation ecosystem, aiming at a knowledge-based economy at the heart of Europe. After only 15 years of existence, UL has become an epicentre for creating new knowledge and technology, and is already ranked among the best young universities in the world and rapidly climbs in international global and topical rankings towards a world-leading University. UL delivers research and innovation with both local and global socio-economic impact.

The University of Luxembourg (UL) wishes to overcome boundaries between disciplines and sectors, and considers that an increased interdisciplinarity is among the stakes of UL's and Luxembourg's next steps in its international research and innovation development.

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

The IAS - Luxembourg has four main missions:

- to leverage bold and interdisciplinary research at the very forefront of science
- to symbolize UL's values of excellence, interdisciplinarity and internationality
- to build bridges in-between the UL community, international visitors and the society
- to contribute to the attraction and retention of international talent

This document describes the UL vision on the IAS-Luxembourg, its role in the academic and private Luxembourg ecosystem, and its position in the international research and innovation scenery. The governance and structure of the IAS are described in a dedicated document.

## 2 IAS – Luxembourg

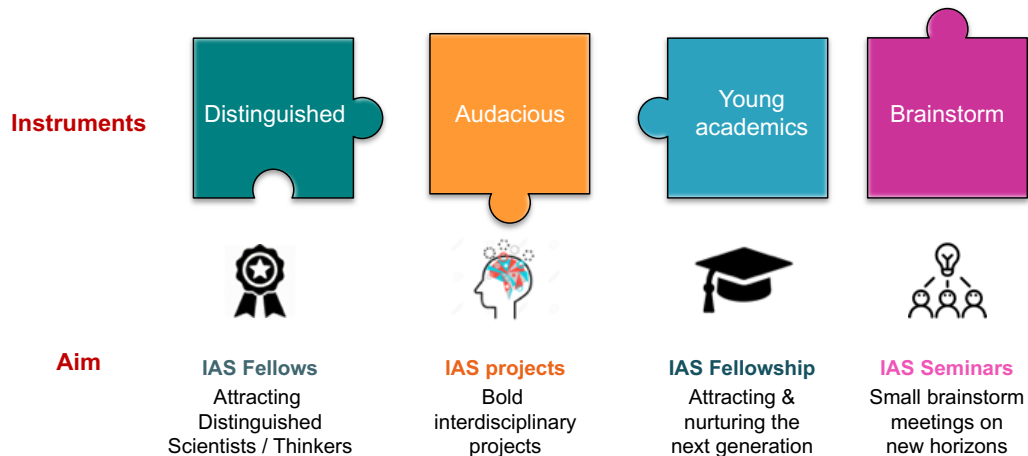
### 2.1 Vision for the IAS - Luxembourg

In its vision, the University of Luxembourg will leverage its research performance, intellectual environment and international outlook through the establishment of an Institute of Advanced Studies (IAS). The IAS-Luxembourg both reinforces and symbolizes the University's values of excellence, interdisciplinarity and internationality, and opens an additional door to the exchange with society. The IAS further positions the University as a strong asset of and for Luxembourg, recognized for its own intellectual resources but also as a magnet for the international academic community.

## 2.2 Strategy & Funding instruments

Towards its missions, the IAS - Luxembourg implements 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-Docs
- **Brainstorm:** Small-size brainstorm meetings on emerging research questions and topics



### A. **Distinguished** – Distinguished Visiting IAS fellows

Description. The purpose of the instrument *Distinguished* is to enable and encourage research groups of the University of Luxembourg to engage with distinguished international researchers, teachers and thinkers. Within the third mission of UL, the instrument can also attract international policy makers, representatives of the arts, government or industry. Distinguished fellows strengthen UL's activities and reinforce the development of new ideas towards fundamental understanding, teaching approaches and for addressing global challenges. By this, they enrich Luxembourg's academic and intellectual environment. In order to ensure that a wide cross-section of the University community as well as the society benefits from the impact of the visit, IAS Visiting Fellows take part in activities such as: (i) research/training events targeted at early career scholars, (ii) interdisciplinary activity, including the writing of audacious research projects aimed at an audience beyond the Fellow's immediate field of specialism, (iii) public events towards the society, together with the University community and other IAS Visiting Fellows, (iv) and, where appropriate, in teaching activities.

Selection principles. Applicants to the *Distinguished* fellowship are selected by the College of IAS Fellows of the IAS - Luxembourg. The duration of stay is eligible from a week to a maximum of 6 months. The selection is based on the quality of the applicant and his/her fit to the hosting research group at UL.

B. **Audacity** – Audacious projects

Description. The aim of the instrument *Audacity* is to enable audacious interdisciplinary research, breaking the walls between scientific disciplines and sectors, and foster collaboration at UL. The projects are expected to be at the forefront of science and to have a distinct risky and audacious character. The projects can act as preliminary studies and by this, enable and reinforce later submissions to external funding instruments used by UL such as FNR, Horizon Europe, ERC, ESA or others. Such follow-up projects will be considered as a success of the *Audacity* instrument.

Selection principles. The IAS opens 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, select the project proposals after oral pitches by the applicants. The presentation of the pitches are open to the community of the University of Luxembourg, and by this make the selection process an open scientific event of the University. 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 during the 2 years following their grant acquisition.

C. **Young academics** – Next generation of IAS fellows

Description. The instrument *Young academics* aims to attract outstanding PhD and Post-doctoral fellows, who wish to conduct their interdisciplinary research in one of the research groups of the University of Luxembourg. This instrument contributes to position the UL as a 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 courses, lectures in transversal skills, or short-term schools.

Selection principles. Applicants to “Young academics” are selected by the Scientific Council of the IAS. The selection criteria are the excellence of the candidate and the quality of an interdisciplinary project to be run under the responsibility of a Professor of the University of Luxembourg.

D. **Brainstorm** – Brainstorming workshops

Description. This instrument supports small-size brainstorm meetings (15 to maximum 30 people), which are considered as the ideal forum for exchanging on emerging research questions, often beyond a single discipline or sector. Such workshops, organised by a member of the UL or an IAS - Luxembourg visiting distinguished fellow, are expected to bring together a restricted number of international scientists to discuss the latest pre-publication research at the edge of the concerned field. The target audience includes international experts, researchers from UL and/or Luxembourgish Public Research Institutes, IAS’ Young academics and PhD candidates or Post-docs of UL. 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, networks or short position/white papers, published on an international level, further increasing the visibility of the University of Luxembourg.

Selection principles. Applications to the *Brainstorm* workshops are selected by the College of IAS Fellows. The selection is based on the attractiveness of the *Brainstorm* idea, the quality of the expected participants and the potential to lead to new ideas and initiatives.

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

