

Quarterly
Newsletter
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EURAXESS NORTH AMERICA Contents

1	EURAXESS Country in Focus: LUXEMBOURG - heartland of Europe that embraces diversity	2
1.1	Meet LUXEMBOURG – an Inspiring Place!.....	2
1.2	LUXEMBOURG Policy and Strategy.....	2
1.3	Innovation	3
1.4	Recruitment Opportunities	3
1.5	Funding Opportunities.....	4
1.6	Important Information for Incoming Researchers.....	4
1.7	Interview with Dr Tonie Van Dam: an American researcher in Luxembourg.....	5
2	Interview with Simon Jones – Director of Research Features .	6
3	HOT TOPIC: Interview with Vitae – Realising the Potential of Researchers	8
4	In case you missed it.....	11
4.1	Event Outlook.....	11



1 EURAXESS Country in Focus: LUXEMBOURG - heartland of Europe that embraces diversity

1.1 Meet LUXEMBOURG – an Inspiring Place!

Strategically located in the heart of Europe, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg is a strategic smart business, **research and innovation location** with a national character of openness, dynamism, reliability. For centuries, the country has been at the heart of a multitude of cultural influences, partly because of its geography but also because of trade, industrialisation, and **immigration**. It has protected its woodlands, shaped its landscapes with winegrowing, farming, and architecture. It has cultivated linguistic diversity, cultural originality, and economic freedom. It was also considered for a long time that the prosperity of Luxembourg was due to the richness of its soil. Once one of the main steel plant sites of Europe, the country became a financial place over the years due to the steel crisis in the seventies, before morphing recently into a research and innovation hub. Today, Luxembourg is **one of the most attractive countries in the world for working and living**, and a genuine societal laboratory.

Source: FNR. Luxembourg National Research Fund. Press Kit. September 2017.

1.2 LUXEMBOURG Policy and Strategy

LUXEMBOURG IS A DYNAMIC COUNTRY, WHERE RESEARCH HAS BECOME A CENTRAL ISSUE

Public research in Luxembourg is young and dynamic with research policy contributing to the transition of the country towards a knowledge-based society. The overarching rationale behind research policy is to strengthen innovation as a driver of sustainable socioeconomic development and to contribute to a further diversification of the economy by developing new and strengthening existing high added-value economic activities. In this sense, research and innovation policy has been one of the major priorities of the Government since 1999 with Government budget outlays rising from 28 million euros in 2000 to approximately 400 million euros in 2016. This **proactive and committed policy approach puts Luxembourg firmly on the map of European research.** This is illustrated among others with the position of the University of Luxembourg, while only created in 2003, ranging 11th in the latest “Times Higher Education” ranking of the 200 universities under 50 years.



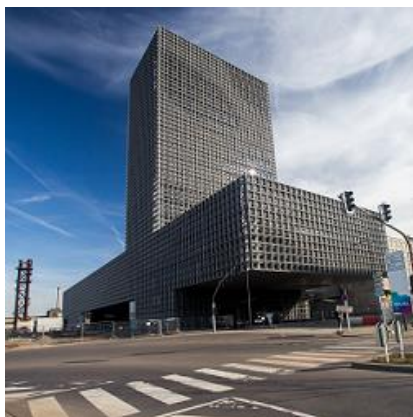
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Welcome to Luxembourg - [video](#)



© 2016, Le gouvernement du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg

Belval – the City of Science



© SIP / Claude Piscitelli

Luxembourg is becoming an energetic international research center. A great part of this ambition is and will be realised in Belval.



UNIVERSITÉ DU LUXEMBOURG



LUXEMBOURG INSTITUTE OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESEARCH



LUXEMBOURG INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



Max Planck Institute LUXEMBOURG for Procedural Law



LUXEMBOURG INSTITUTE OF HEALTH
RESEARCH DEDICATED TO LIFE

Public research is mostly performed at

- the [University of Luxembourg](#);
- one of the 3 public research centres;
 - [Luxembourg Institute of Technology \(LIST\)](#)
 - [Luxembourg Institute of Health \(LIH\)](#)
 - [Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research \(LISER\)](#)
- the [Max-Planck Institute Luxembourg](#) for International, European and Regulatory Procedural Law

1.3 Innovation



LUXINNOVATION
TRUSTED PARTNER FOR BUSINESS

[Luxinnovation](#) is a key partner for companies looking to engage in innovative activities in Luxembourg or aiming to expand their business at the international level.

1.4 Recruitment Opportunities

Luxembourg is a dynamic country, where research has become a central issue.

Public Sector Recruitment Opportunities

Most researchers in Luxembourg are employed in public sector institutions, with University of Luxembourg being one of the most important employers of research staff. All positions open at the public sector institutions and the University of Luxembourg are published on the [EURAXESS webpage](#).

Private Sector Recruitment Opportunities

The financial sector is the main driving force behind the Grand Duchy's economy. The Grand Duchy's authorities have adopted a policy of diversification of the country's economic fabric by providing support for information and communication technologies (ICTs), logistics, bio- and eco-technologies, research, etc. as well as actively promoting the diversification of the financial marketplace.

Several instruments for investment aid to stimulate R&D activities within companies: grants, loans, venture capital, export credit lowest VAT rate in Europe.

Source: <http://www.luxembourg.public.lu>

Find innovative partners in the [private and public sector](#).



LNS
LUXEMBOURG



IBBL



1.5 Funding Opportunities



Our newly updated [guide](#) includes key topics such as **employment, entry conditions, visa procedures, taxation, social security, health care**, as well as relevant information about **housing and daily life**.

The **Luxembourg National Research Fund (FNR)** is the **main funder of research activities in Luxembourg**. The FNR invests public funds and private donations into research projects in various branches of science and the humanities, with an emphasis on selected core strategic areas. Furthermore, it supports and coordinates activities to strengthen the link between science and society and to raise awareness for research. The FNR also advises the Luxembourg government on research policy and strategy. The FNR has a broad range of international funding opportunities, among which bilateral collaborations with RIKEN in Japan or the NRF in Singapore. Further details are available under the “**International Cooperation**” section of the [Luxembourg National Research Fund website](#).

1.6 Important Information for Incoming Researchers

The [EURAXESS Luxembourg team](#) is at your full disposal.

[EURAXESS Luxembourg](#) provides information and support to international researchers, all services are free of charge. We provide information about **entry conditions, visas** and residence permits, Luxembourg in general, the Luxembourgian research landscape, **job & funding offers**, partnering, events for researchers and much more!

Please read our [Foreign Researchers' guide to Luxembourg](#), a practical guide on living & working in Luxembourg.

ENTRY CONDITIONS:

Please [check if you need a visa](#).

For working and long-term stays, they require a hosting agreement and a residence permit. See all [Luxembourgian embassies and representations](#) around the world.

Fees are waived for researchers from third countries travelling within the EU for the purpose of carrying out scientific research. For additional information on visa issues please visit the [Euraxess Luxembourg website](#).

EURAXESS – Researchers in Motion is an initiative of the European Research Area (ERA) that addresses barriers to the mobility of researchers and seeks to enhance their career development. This pan-European effort is currently supported by 40 countries.



1.7 Interview with Dr Tonie Van Dam: an American researcher in Luxembourg

Tonie VAN DAM – Vice-President for Doctoral Education and Training, Gender, and International Relations
Professor in Physical Geodesy - University of Luxembourg, American, Married, 2 children



© David Laurent / Université du Luxembourg

How did you hear about Luxembourg and why did you decide to work in Luxembourg?

The decision to come to Luxembourg was a joint decision between me and my husband. We are both researchers in the same field and we were looking for an opportunity to do our research in the same proximity. Eighteen years ago, the opportunity to work in Luxembourg arrived. We grabbed the opportunity and have never regretted it.

Name three characteristics about research work in Luxembourg or about Luxembourg in general.

- 1) Research: Well supported, proximity to world class researchers, unique blend of theoretical and applied research.
- 2) Luxembourg: Knowledge based society, feels like we are living in a small town but in reality, Luxembourg is a powerhouse in the center of Europe, proximity to the stakeholders in the government.

What role does EURAXESS play in the process of settlement in Luxembourg? (Describe your experience with EURAXESS Luxembourg).

Euraxess is an invaluable resource for researchers in Luxembourg. When my family arrived seventeen years ago, there was no Euraxess for us to benefit from. Still, my Doctoral Candidates and my post-docs who come benefit tremendously from the services offered. And they are able to settle into Luxembourg much more quickly.

A message to anyone who is considering looking for partners in research in Luxembourg or moving to Luxembourg for work?

What are you waiting for? This is a great place to do research and raise a family.





“We are not a scholarly publisher, and we are not a news media organization. We sit somewhere between the two, providing what we feel is a much-needed compromise.”

We serve readers from over 97 countries, covering a truly diverse user group. From young students in India, through to heads of lab within the most prestigious universities. Our goal is to promote research freely, and accessibly in a highly professional package, to anyone who has an interest in the topics covered.



2 Interview with Simon Jones – Director of Research Features

EURAXESS North America: What is Research Features (RF) and who is your target audience?

Simon Jones: Research Features is a free to access digital and printed platform, encompassing both a magazine and an online feature repository. All our content is published under the Creative Commons BY guidelines.

The goal has always been to breakdown two barriers between the mass audience and research information.

Firstly, the paywall – we focus mainly on featuring government-funded research, and we believe tax payers who fund this research should have access to information for free.

Secondly, the language barrier. We applaud the rise of scholarly open access publishing, but feel strongly that research should be presented to the masses in a language and format which is engaging and accessible.

Each feature article we produce is not only featured within *Research Features* magazine, but is also used to create a highly accessible webpage with a unique URL. This allows us to promote each individual feature as a standalone piece across our platforms.

EURAXESS NA: There has been an increase on both researchers' & institutions' part in engaging science communication. How is RF reframing science communication now?

SJ: We are taking a wider view and attempting to bring together many elements of differing forms of science communication. For example, we feel animation has a huge role to play in the future of science communication and we aim to produce animations which are engaging and respectful of the research being promoted.

We are investing very heavily in targeted social media promotion of the content we create. This provides both a platform for dissemination, but also discussion and comment. As social media is now a platform accessed by the vast majority of the digitally connected world, we feel this has the biggest part to play in broader outreach. We have two rapidly expanding social media platforms which have been seen by over 4.6 million users across the globe within the last 12 months.

EURAXESS NA: What would you answer people who say paying to publish your work loses its credibility?

SJ: We do understand those concerns from researchers who are used to publishing for free in academic journals protected by a paywall. However, we feel very comfortable with our decision to charge researchers in order to allow anyone who is interested to read about their work. We could have chosen to fund the magazine through advertising but I genuinely feel that a magazine



“If you have access and support to fund this type of professional media, and you understand the benefits of reaching a huge audience with high-level production and targeted distribution methods, then we are here to help.”



EURAXESS North America was featured in the Issue #114 of Research Features. Read the full article [HERE](#).

“Digital media is an increasingly crowded space, standing out amongst that crowd is proving ever more difficult. This is why we employ techniques used by leading commercial and entertainment-focused media agencies.”

crammed full of adverts is distracting and would detract from the work we feature.

We feel that the highly professional service we offer is ‘worth’ something to those who wish to benefit from our platform and services, and I mean this in terms of the quality of the writing, the illustration and design of each production and the extended reach we offer through our social media distribution.

EURAXESS NA: Can we hope for a RF base out of North America?

SJ: Approximately 85% of the research we publish is managed within North America. There are several reasons for this.

Firstly, we feel the research communities in North America have embraced social media and public outreach more readily than those in Europe. Secondly, there is also more financial support within those research communities to engage on a professional level. Perhaps you could say the research landscape is more competitive in North America, and thus promotion and branding for researchers is more important.

We have developed strong links with a multitude of major agencies, institutions and societies in North America. We are using these collaborations to ensure our presence ‘over the pond’ is strengthening and established.

In 2018, we hope to collaborate on several events and exhibitions in NA – aside from that, who knows what the future will hold!

EURAXESS NA: How has RF reinterpreted academic publishing?

SJ: We most certainly do not seek to perform any function which is dealt with by scholarly or peer reviewed publishers. Rather, our aim is to compliment researchers’ required academic publishing activity. We feel that in today’s landscape it is more important than ever before to offer a platform which allows researchers to reach a mass audience in an engaging and meaningful way. Tax payers should know more about the amazing research which they fund.

EURAXESS NA: Could you tell us how publishing with you might impact a young researcher?

SJ: Something we encourage within many of our feature articles is recognition for those younger researchers within a lab or centre. The research community is a competitive landscape: NIH grant proposals suggest just 18.1% are successful.

Many activities can help a researcher to accelerate their career. Professional communication and promotion of their work is a key element. We can help researchers stand out from the crowd. But of course, the most important thing will always be the valuable work they produce.



3 HOT TOPIC: Interview with Vitae – Realising the Potential of Researchers

EURAXESS North America: Thank you for joining us. So, Vitae: Tell us the What, the How, and the Why.

Vitae: Vitae is the global leader in supporting the professional development of researchers, experienced in working with over 200 institutions as they strive for research excellence, innovation and impact. We are at the heart of a community of 40,000 researchers.

We are a non-profit programme, part of the Careers Research & Advisory Centre (CRAC) Ltd with over 45 years' experience of enhancing the skills and careers of researchers. We strengthen our members' institutional provision for the professional development of their researchers through research and innovation; training and resources; events; consultancy and membership.

Our partners include governments, funders of research, academies, professional bodies, trusts and foundations, universities and research institutes.

EURAXESS NA: Do you have US based members? If so, what is the percentage of your membership? If not, how does one become a member? (Follow up) You are institutional but can a diaspora (not officially an institution) become a member?

Vitae: We currently have over 1,050 US registrants on the Vitae website.

Individuals are also able to take advantage of our very economical individual subscription at (£24+VAT) to the [Researcher Development Framework \(RDF\) planner](#) to enhance their Continuous Professional Development.

For organisations who train or employ researchers, including doctoral students, postdoctoral fellows and research staff we offer **organisational membership** which enables researchers and relevant staff to access Vitae resources, news, policy intelligence, events and member benefits including dedicated web content. Organisational membership costs are based on the number of doctoral and early career researchers at the organisation. There is also a one-off joining fee for institutions outside the UK, which covers the license to use Vitae resources and programmes. You can get in touch about Vitae membership here: <https://www.vitae.ac.uk/about-vitae-membership/enquire>.

Vitae has four aims:

- Influence the development and implementation of effective policy relating to researcher development
- Enhance higher education provision to train and develop researchers
- Empower researchers to make an impact on their careers
- Evidence the impact of professional and career development support for researchers

Anyone can register to the Vitae website and gain access to a wealth of resources relating to [doing research](#), [careers](#) (including those beyond academia) and [professional development](#).

Everyone can also take part in #Vitaehangouts, #Vitaechats and learn from experts or share practice with other researchers about a variety of topical themes.



Member benefits include:

- Access to 3MT® member competition
- Press-ready booklets and publications for members
- Access to all #Vitaehangouts, #Vitaechats, webinars, podcasts and related resource archives
- Exclusive web pages such as CVs, interview examples and related resource archives
- Bespoke member professional development and training



3MT contestants and judges at the annual conference

Photo Credit: @Vitae

EURAXESS NA: If a European Scientific Diaspora joined Vitae as a member, what do their members get out of it?

Vitae: Vitae membership enables organisations with a stake in realising the potential of researchers to build capacity in developing excellent researchers, bringing benefits to research outputs, innovation, society and the economy. Membership provides access to a wide range of member only services and exclusive access to high quality resources, online advice and generous discounts on event attendance, often as much as 50% less than the standard price.

EURAXESS NA: You just had your annual conference. Tell us a bit about that.

Vitae: In the year that the UK celebrates 100 years of the modern PhD, the 2017 Vitae Researcher, the event brought together 425 like-minded professionals committed to the development of researchers. It provided the latest from the community, including the challenges and opportunities, through a mix of plenary sessions, interactive workshops, special interest sessions, posters and an exhibition. There was of course, the Vitae Three Minute Thesis ® (3MT) competition that took place during the gala dinner, which is often a highlight of the conference. The competition involves doctoral researchers articulating their PhD to a non-specialist audience in three minutes.

The conference was a great opportunity to find out the latest about policy developments; what other institutions are doing, in the UK and internationally, and about future developments in the sector and Vitae. We know from feedback that keynote elements influence both what institutions prioritise and how they organise their researcher development activities.

EURAXESS NA: Last week, you gave us a glimpse of the RDF at the European Research Day 2017 in North America. Can you tell our readers a bit about RDF?

Vitae: The Vitae Researcher Development Framework (RDF) provides a significant strategic and sophisticated approach to developing world-class researchers.

The purpose of the framework is to support the development of individual researchers while enhancing our capacity to build a workforce of world-class researchers within the higher education research base.

The framework serves:

- researchers – to evaluate and plan their professional development
- principal investigators and supervisors of researchers – in their role supporting the development of researchers
- researcher developers, trainers, human resources specialists, careers advisors, senior managers and others – in planning and providing support to researchers



The Vitae Researcher Development Framework Wheel

- policy makers, funders and other organisations – to inform and reinforce policy and strategy relating to researchers
- employers – to provide insight into the unique blend of researchers’ skills and to enable exploration of researchers’ potential benefits to the company as employees.

Vitae has also produced very comprehensive online [tutorials](#) of how the RDF Planner works, from the perspective of a researcher and institutional administrators.

EURAXESS NA: You’ve heard about efforts towards a Joint European Mentoring Initiative (JEMI). How, if at all, might something like RDF facilitate the reframing of mentoring as an integral part of research career development?

Vitae: The RDF can be helpfully used within mentoring conversations to open up the dialogue about areas for development, prioritisation, action planning and gathering of evidence. Both the mentee and mentor can use it to facilitate these development and career conversations. Vitae has been using the framework in this way with African researchers and mentors within the CIRCLE programme, a Department for International Development funded programme managed by the Association of Commonwealth Universities. Researchers within the programme have commented how useful the RDF has been for framing conversations within their mentoring sessions.

EURAXESS NA: How would you say Vitae is reframing Research Development? Is there a particular trend in research career development that you are seeing and can draw a link to something Vitae worked or is working on?

Vitae: Globally, as the research culture shifts, we must support researcher developers and researchers navigate uncertain times, ensuring the supply of highly talented researchers.

EURAXESS NA: Annual Conference, RDF... - what’s next?

Vitae: Particularly relevant to researchers is that Vitae announced its [2017/18 programme](#) at the annual conference featuring a ‘Focus-on’ theme each quarter which will include advice, information and online events for researchers at all career stages and staff supporting researchers.

Another exciting development is that Vitae are co-ordinating EURAXIND with six other European partners. This project aims to encourage intersectoral mobility between the academic community and employers. Surveys have been conducted over the last few months, gauging perspectives and opinions from employers, institutions and researchers – the findings of which will enable practical and useful resources to be developed and promoted through project-specific workshops taking place later in the year and which will be made available through the EURAXESS Service Centres.

Current priorities, emerging trends and hot topics for 2017/18 include:

- Measuring impact and demonstrating the value of researcher development;
- Inclusive researcher development;
- Innovative researcher development;
- Researcher careers and employability;
- Supporting research staff.

By signing up to the Vitae news, which is an option when registering at the website, researchers will get notified when Vitae events are happening, sector news and when new online resources are available. Registration to the Vitae website can be done [here](#).



4 In case you missed it....

4.1 Event Outlook

Event	When	Where	Organized by	Link
SRA International 2017 Annual Meeting	14-18 October 2017	Vancouver, BC, Canada	SRA International	Link
Nature Jobs Career Expo <i>in association with What Can You Be with a PhD?</i>	4-5 November 2017	New York, NY, USA	Nature Jobs	Link
9 th Canadian Science Policy Conference – CSPC 2017	1-3 November 2017	Ottawa, ON, Canada	Canadian Science Policy Center	Link
CAPS 2017 Annual General Meeting	4 November 2017	University of Ottawa, Ottawa, ON, Canada	Canadian Association of Postdoctoral Scholars	Link
CAPA 2017 Annual Conference	5-6 November 2017	Quebec, QC, Canada	Canadian Association of Postdoctoral Administrators	Link
CAGS 2017 Annual Conference	7-9 November 2017	Quebec, QC, Canada	Canadian Association for Graduate Studies	Link

About EURAXESS North America

EURAXESS North America is a network of thousands of European and non-European researchers, scientists, and scholars throughout North America (USA and Canada). This multidisciplinary network includes members at all stages of their careers. It allows them to connect with each other and with Europe, ensuring that they are recognized as an important resource for European research, whether they remain in North America or return to Europe.

For further information about EURAXESS North America, please visit:

<http://northamerica.euraxess.org>.

To sign up for membership in our network, please go to our [website](#) and click on *Sign up and become a member for free* button.

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