Dear Colleagues, Dear Partners,

In the present circumstances, we first would like to thank all of our partners for the cooperation we have experienced all along this very special academic year 2019-2020. We are writing to you now, to inform you about the end of this academic year, and mostly, about the upcoming (fall) semester or year.

Like all universities, we’ve had to adapt since Mid-March to the COVID-19 situation. Many of our incoming students stayed in Belgium throughout the semester and others left the country to go back home. In any case, all students were able, if they wanted to do so, to continue their courses on-line as of Mid-March and to take their exams since they are organized online as well. For those who will have to re-take their exams in August or September, we can already inform you that all exams will continue to be on-line and therefore, incoming students can register for these exams if they need or wish to do so.

Concerning the upcoming academic year, we are really pleased to inform you that we have decided to welcome incoming students. Because government regulations remain at this point unclear with regard to the start of the next academic year, we believe it is our duty to inform you as good as possible and to allow your students to make the decision that fits them best. Below are the various points we would like to share with you. Please be assured that we will, of course, contact all students that have been nominated to our university individually to inform them personally.

1. We do not cancel incoming mobilities for student exchanges; so nominated students who would like to come to our university for a semester abroad can do so and we are extending the deadline to confirm their stay until June 25.
2. We do not know at this point which courses will be taught face-to-face or on-line as it very much depends on government regulations and required social distancing. The final study programs in all our Faculties will most probably be a mix of face-to-face and online courses. Precise information will become available before the start of the academic year.
3. Because of the possible government regulations and requirements, it may be possible that some elective courses are not given this Fall semester (September to December 2020) and that others may be split in groups to be given face-to-face. It is also possible that attendance might be limited for some courses.
4. In order to help exchange students, we can already confirm that specific courses aimed at exchange students like French for Foreigners, French culture (taught in French) and the Seminar on International Organizations (taught in English) are scheduled both for September and for February and will be taught, no matter the situation. We’ll do our best to organize face-to-face teaching for these specific courses, but we hope that you understand that we are unable to guarantee the teaching method at this point.
5. If possible for a student, a cautious option would be to postpone the semester abroad, scheduled for September to January, to the Spring semester, that is from February to June 2021. All students accepted for the Fall semester (September) will automatically be accepted for the Spring semester (February) if this is what they prefer and if their home university agrees (student lodging may be an issue in a city like Brussels).
6. We would also advise exchange students to be careful about expenses. We strongly recommend that they book and pay their plane tickets and confirm their accommodation only when they made their decision and after having received the information from their university and their country that they are allowed to travel. We will unfortunately not be able to intervene financially as far as rental issues, plane tickets and travel restrictions go. We will however intervene in academic matters and make sure that the student is able to take the exams in the best conditions possible if external elements (like pandemic resurgence) occurs during the semester.

We, at Université Saint-Louis – Bruxelles, deeply value your partnership and strongly believe that an international experience is a major asset for all students. Even though we are still uncertain about what the world will be like in a few months or what we will be allowed to do in terms of teaching and cultural activities for international students, we want to assure you that we will do our best to welcome your students.

Pierre Jadoul
Rector

Bertrand Hamaide
Vice-Rector for International Relations

June 5, 2020