RENNES 2
Creating and building the future
A city where students feel at home
A showcase for the Arts, Literature, Languages, Human and Social Sciences
Bienvenue. Bienvenido. Welcome to Rennes 2
A haven for creative thinkers and artists
Digital humanities for augmented learning
Spotlight on 5 research projects
Among the universities of north-west France, Rennes 2 University offers a unique blend of courses, in fields ranging from fine arts and literature, to languages, human and social sciences and sports science. Our university is firmly rooted in Rennes and in Brittany and is a vibrant driving force, both at the regional level and nationally, thanks to the variety of courses on offer, the quality of its research and its lively arts and culture scene. The courses available to our 24,000 students include an exceptionally wide range of modern languages, with 19 different languages and cultures to choose from.

The university has a truly international outlook, and has exchange programmes with 265 partners worldwide. 3,000 international students enrol each year, and most of them follow French language and culture courses with the CIRREFE Centre. The university is a major player in the French-speaking world, helping enhance its influence and visibility. It maintains close teaching and research links with partners in the Americas, including Quebec, the USA, Brazil and Chile, but also in Europe (Germany, the UK, Spain, Italy), Africa (in particular North Africa) and Asia (China and Japan).

Rennes 2 University is a founding member of the regional higher education group, université Bretagne Loire (UBL), comprising 7 universities, 15 engineering and business schools and 5 research bodies. Through this partnership, which aims to pool its members’ specific competences and coordinate international projects, Rennes 2 University helps promote higher education in the Brittany and Loire regions as well as worldwide.

Our aim is to enhance the international dimension of our programmes by offering courses in languages other than French, by increasing the number of joint Masters degrees and by promoting student and staff mobility. In turn, this will reinforce our international research partnerships, in particular in Europe.

Olivier David
President of Rennes 2 University
Every year, Rennes features in the top five most attractive university towns in France. Its reputation extends well beyond Brittany, with 40% of its Masters and doctoral students coming from other parts of France or from other countries. Easy access to the city centre from the railway station or the airport is one of its attractive features. With a direct underground link between the campus and the city centre, students are within easy reach of any part of the city.

Rennes 2 University also has a campus in Saint-Brieuc, on the north coast, and is thus one of the driving forces for higher education in Brittany, a region proud of its roots.

Rennes 2 University maintains close ties with the city and is a local intellectual hub. The campus offers an annual programme of concerts, films, exhibitions and public lectures, catering for a wide range of tastes and interests, and providing a stimulating artistic and intellectual environment for students and the local community alike. Rennes 2 is recognised as an incubator for a number of artistic non-profit associations with a local or national following like Mythos, Travelling or Elektron[k]. The university helps energise the city and its environment and enriches the public debate through workshops, symposia and conferences.

A CITY WHERE STUDENTS FEEL AT HOME
Rennes 2 is renowned for its activity in the fields of the arts, literature, languages, human and social sciences and sports science. All these subject areas can be studied at Bachelor’s, Master’s or PhD level, and courses aim to equip students with the knowledge and intellectual agility they need to better understand present-day challenges and those of tomorrow’s world.

Students can gradually define and fine-tune their career objectives through job discovery events, internships and combined work and study courses.
Making students and researchers feel at home is a cornerstone of the University’s international policy.

To achieve that goal, the international relations office helps new arrivals acclimatise as soon as they set foot on campus.

The welcome week organised by the international relations office

This is a key event organised twice a year, in September and in January. The office steers international exchange students through all the administrative procedures, and helps them find accommodation and choose the right courses. A range of social events and city visits are also organised.

« The buddy system is really useful: you get to know a student who may not be on the same course as you but who knows the university really well. That way, you very quickly get to know your way around. »

Myriam, Bologna (Italy)
combination of French language classes with a whole range of cultural and social events. Students can take part in music and drama groups, have fun at a true Breton fest-noz, go on excursions, see a play or even go to a football match! »

Hervé Salaün, Director, CIREFE

Improve your French at the Rennes International Centre for the Study of French as a Foreign Language

Located at the very heart of the campus, in recently renovated premises, the Rennes International Centre for the Study of French as a Foreign Language (CIREFE) welcomes students of almost 80 different nationalities, who get to know each other well thanks to tuition in small groups.

The International Mobility Centre

In the brand new Cité Internationale Paul Ricoeur, offering 79 studio apartments, the International Mobility Centre provides services for international undergraduate and post-graduate students and researchers who come to Rennes. Its main remit is to help them settle in and overcome any administrative hurdles.
A Haven for Creative Thinkers and Artists

Giving pride of place to creation, innovation and artistic experimentation

Meeting artists, taking part in workshops and competitions or doing voluntary work: these are some of the ways in which students can play their part in the lively arts and culture scene on campus (over 50 student societies).

Sport at the university

Rennes 2 University gives students access to all kinds of training facilities on campus, both in Rennes and Saint-Brieuc (a swimming pool, a dojo, a gym hall, an athletics stadium) and engage in over 40 different sports, including rowing, diving, aikido or even circus arts.

The university is also proud to have over 130 elite and top level sportmen and women among its students.

Le Tambour: a venue for concerts and films

The auditorium, known for its exceptional acoustics and fitted with the latest digital projection technology, organises 50 film screenings every year. French and international cinema classics as well as documentaries, animated films or experimental short films: there is something to suit all tastes. The programme is managed by a student society, giving its members the opportunity to run an art-house type film theatre.

The auditorium is also the venue for twenty or so concerts every year, as well as meetings with authors, readings and lectures organised jointly by professors and students.

La Galerie Art & Essai

The experimental gallery is a showcase for contemporary art exhibitions open to students and the general public.

Focus

Talking about jazz

Erwan Boivent, in charge of the university’s Big Band

« We’re delighted to have Steve Haines, double-bass player and head of the jazz department at the University of North Carolina - Greensboro. This week, he’ll be playing with the Big Band at the Tambour as well as taking part in impromptu outdoor jam sessions and giving a master class at the Rennes Conservatoire. He’s here under an international partnership with UNCG, but it’s mainly about musicians getting together to play! »
The university has invested heavily in digital technologies, encouraging new approaches to teaching and learning and giving students even more opportunities. Virtual classrooms, for instance, enable students to follow classes online. The technology is used intensively by the Distance learning service (SUED). It can also be used as a complement to face-to-face teaching and learning. “The virtual classroom encourages dialogue and combines theoretical input with practical applications. Students can view a course unit as many times as they like” says Elsa Chusseau, digital learning engineer at Rennes 2.

**A high-tech building in the heart of the campus.**

The Rennes-Villejean digital technology centre has been designed and built with both students and academics in mind. It is leading to new ways of communicating and working together. It provides innovative online services and the very latest digital technologies:

- a FabLab learning platform (Edu-lab)
- 1 immersive telepresence room, a telepresence videoconferencing room and 2 distance teaching and learning rooms
- an advanced digital art production system (complete with sets and studios...)
- 10 Digital Humanities classrooms (particularly at Master’s level) and the future Research Institute on innovation and digital society

**L’aire d’u, the university’s webmedia platform**

This online platform has been awarded a number of national or international prizes, and provides a wide range of video, audio, image and multimedia content. Live or recorded contents, including a wide range of artistic, cultural and scientific events (concerts, operas, public lectures, etc.) are made available to everyone via the platform.
SPOTLIGHT ON 5 RESEARCH PROJECTS

Adapting vineyards to climate change

35 vineyards in 15 European countries have been fitted with sensors designed to capture temperature variations throughout the year. The aim is to keep track of local climate changes and to help these European vineyards devise adaptation strategies. A network of measurements and a web platform enable wine-growers to assess the impact of climate change on their own vineyards, to simulate adaptation scenarios and to measure greenhouse gas emissions depending on their wine-growing methods.

Reducing sport performance-related risks

Immermoov is one of the world’s largest immersive rooms dedicated to sporting activity analysis. Rising young French tennis players undergo performance tests for several years in a row, involving motion capture, muscle-activation measurement and supporting forces. All these measurements are then used to design health-risk reduction strategies.

The resurgence of fanaticism in modern societies

The “New forms of fanaticism” project explores the resurgence of religious beliefs, organised religion and modern forms of scientism in the guise of conservative and security-obsessed ideologies, and the changing nature of social relations. This is an international research project dedicated to the study of the underlying mechanisms behind current examples of human suffering and how they affect the most vulnerable in society, i.e. children, women, migrants, unqualified workers, etc. or “post-human” development as exemplified by the quest for the perfect body.

Late Arthurian literature in Europe

This project is supported by the Institut universitaire de France and recognised by The Human Sciences Institute in Brittany. It aims to examine the body of Arthurian literature produced between 1270 and 1550. Some of these little known and unpublished texts, written long after the standard works of Chrétien de Troyes, could be published for a wider audience. The project aims to assemble, consolidate and make available the whole corpus of Arthurian literature.

Contemporary animal liberation

This research project studies the impact of Peter Singer’s ideas. The Australian philosopher is one of the founders of the animal liberation movement and a pioneer in raising ethical issues on the role animals play in contemporary culture. The project focuses on three main concepts: the principle that all sensitive beings deserve equal consideration of their interests, the rejection of discrimination on the grounds of species and the need to end animal exploitation.