

ENGLISH STUDIES

GUIDELINES FOR REFEREES

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT OUR PROGRAMME

WHAT IS DIFFERENT ABOUT THE BACHELOR EN CULTURES EUROPÉENNES: ENGLISH STUDIES

At a time where European institutions and traditions are at the forefront of public debates, this bachelor programme provides students with the unique opportunity to combine their studies in a conventional academic field, in this case English, with an integrated reflection on the origins, development and future(s) of Europe and European cultures. In line with the tradition of Liberal Arts Education, this combination provides a strong academic specialisation on the one hand and encourages students to leave their comfort zones and engage in multimodal critical thinking and creative problem-solving, on the other.

BACHELOR EN CULTURES EUROPEENNES FACT FILE

In short, the BCE combines the elements below and provides:

- + a Bachelor qualification in one of five specialisations: **English, French, or German Studies, History or Philosophy**;
- + an interdisciplinary reflection on **European Cultures**;
- + a **bi- or trilingual** degree in an international and intercultural environment;
- + the possibility of developing a **second disciplinary focus** in an additional academic field (max. 60 ECTS).

YOUR ROLE IN THE ADMISSIONS PROCESS

As this brief description suggests, the *Bachelor en Cultures Européennes* challenges students in a variety of manners, and we wish to make sure our students are well equipped to meet the academic, linguistic and cultural demands of the programme.

In our admissions process, we try to evaluate how well applicants will fit into our programme and whether they will be able to deal with the combination of highly specialised field-specific and interdisciplinary approaches. Before we admit them, it is important for us to assess whether they will be able to thrive in this environment. Your help, in this process, is invaluable.

ACADEMIC REFERENCE / RECOMMENDATION

PERSONAL QUALITIES

Please provide information about the applicant's personal qualities.

- + **CONTEXT OF YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE APPLICANT:** how long have you known the applicant; in what capacity?
- + **THE APPLICANT AS A PERSON AND STUDENT:** how well do you know the applicant? What can you share about their personality and general qualities? Do they have any extra-curricular activities that might be of relevance? How well do they deal with challenging situations or constructive criticism?

ACADEMIC SKILLS

Please provide information about the applicant's academic performance, including, if possible, predicted grades, their language competences, and any progress you may have observed.

- + LANGUAGE SKILLS: We are primarily interested in the applicant's level of English, but will also appreciate information on other languages they are fluent in. Does the applicant have a good grasp of English? Are they able to articulate complex ideas in English? Will they need extra support, if they are admitted to our programme (e.g. grammar, syntax, academic writing, etc.)?
- + ANALYTICAL / CRITICAL SKILLS: Please comment on the applicant's ability to engage with texts and their experience with literature. For instance, have they worked with literary texts in the past? Are they able to make connections between texts and their contexts? What kinds of projects have they participated in or completed?
- + SUITABILITY AND MOTIVATION: As described above, our programme combines a major in English Literature and Linguistics with an interdisciplinary approach to European cultures. This is not something all students appreciate as they start their studies with us. Do you think the applicant will be able to adapt to and thrive in this environment?
- + TEAMWORK AND CLASSROOM BEHAVIOUR: We promote critical thought and active participation. Do you think the applicant would feel comfortable in this environment? Do they have prior experience with collaborative learning environments and situations?
- + ANY FURTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION: Please provide any information that you feel comfortable sharing and that might help us in our evaluation of the applicant's suitability and needs.

We understand that not all of these dimensions will apply to your student(s). Please select aspects that will help us to determine whether the applicant will be a good fit and what we might need to provide in order to help them to adapt to the academic requirements of our programme.

FORMAL ASPECTS

Typically, references are between 400-600 words in length, type-written or word-processed, and signed in blue or black ink. They provide the applicant's full name as well as the referee's full name and contact information (institutional address and email address).

You are free to decide whether to send the reference to the BCE Admissions Team via email or to hand it to the student.

When they initiate the online application process, applicants are issued a **Student ID number**. If at all possible, please include this ID number in the reference, and if you send it to the BCE Admissions Team directly, in the subject line of the email as well.

BCE Admissions Team: admission.bce@uni.lu