



Odysseus Network

ULB

Academic Network for Legal Studies on Immigration and Asylum in Europe

SUMMER SCHOOL ON EU IMMIGRATION AND ASYLUM LAW AND POLICY

26TH EDITION



29 JUNE – 10 JULY 2026



On-site in Brussels *in English or in French*
& Online *in English*

**Focus on the Pact
on Migration &
Asylum
& Return**

Includes a PHD-seminar with 4 grants available

The Summer School in a nutshell

The program goals:

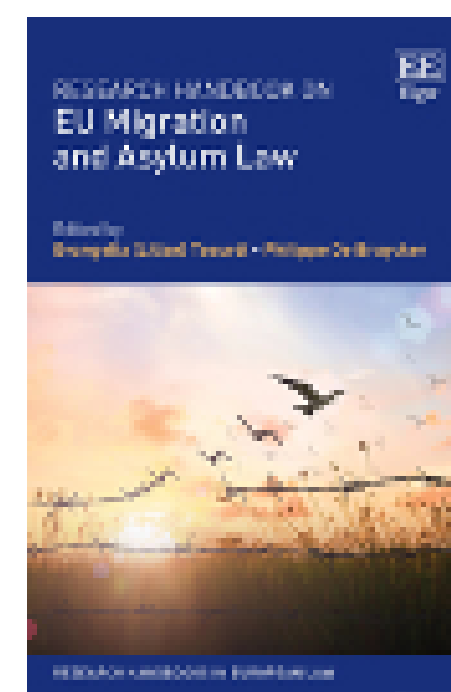
- acquiring a global knowledge of EU Migration & Asylum Law
- legally oriented but accessible to non-jurists
- connecting with high level professors from many EU Member States as well as practitioners from EU institutions

The program is made of three parts and comprises **courses updated in line with the instruments adopted in 2024 under the New EU Pact on Migration and Asylum:**

1. Introduction on EU law in relation with Migration & Asylum
2. Migration, including Visas & Borders
3. Asylum, including solidarity

Including:

- Debates on recent developments regarding migration & asylum policies, such as the Commission's proposal for a new regulation on return.
- Discussions about complex and controversial issues such as the accountability of Frontex, scope of application of human rights, law of the sea, etc.
- PhD seminars exploring how to elaborate a PhD project.
- The companion to the Summer School: participants will receive the **Handbook on EU Migration and Asylum Law** over 500 pages long, which will support them during the courses.



Courses available:

- **on-site** on the campus of the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB) with courses taught separately both in **English** & in **French**
- **online** version on Teams platform with courses taught only in **English**

A program offering:

- 4 grants accessible to PhD students, who are strongly advised to apply
- Contest made of multiple-choice questions with Odysseus awards
- Crowdfunding campaign to support the participation of refugee-students

Brussels is the right place to:

- Meet professionals and students from a group of 100 persons interested in EU Migration & Asylum Law and Policy
- Build and enlarge a professional network!

Introduction



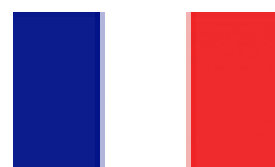
Last year the Odysseus Summer School celebrated its 25th anniversary. It is widely regarded as a must-do experience for professionals working in the field of migration and asylum at EU level. Over the past 25 years, around 2.500 persons have attended this programme, highly valued by the EU Institutions, who send their staff for training, as much as by recruiters, who find the programme a strong asset in the CV of applicants. The objective is to provide participants with a global understanding of the European Migration and Asylum policies from a legal perspective, including the latest developments in 2026. The summer school is made of three parts (introductory courses, migration including visa and borders, and asylum).

The program is organised by the Academic Network for Legal Studies on Migration and Asylum in Europe, known as the **Odysseus Academic Network**, founded in 1999 by Prof. Philippe De Bruycker with the support of the European Commission. Odysseus counts more than 50 members representing EU Member States and Schengen associated countries. The network also organises an “Executive Master in EU Migration & Asylum Law”, a one-year programme taught online in English. Since its establishment the Network has published 20 books and manages a blog on which hundreds of posts on the latest EU legal news in the field of migration and asylum have been published. The Network is also involved in the European Migration Network (EMN). All information is available on the [Odysseus Network website](#).

Beyond high-quality courses, the Summer School offers the opportunity to live a stimulating intellectual experience in a unique European environment, as it brings together one hundred specialists in the field of migration and asylum across Europe, including young professionals, PhD and graduate students, researchers, officials from EU and national institutions, NGOs members and international organisations, lawyers, judges, social workers, etc. The classes are taught by professors who are members or partners of the Odysseus Network from all EU Member States, along with high-ranking officials from European Institutions, particularly the European Commission.

Discover the Summer School with [this video](#).

LANGUAGES



The courses onsite are taught separately in **English** AND in **French**, allowing participants to attend classes in the language they prefer, with the exception of guest lectures which will be only in English. The courses online are available exclusively in **English**. The organisers may ask French-speakers who chose the English group to move to the French-speaking group in order to balance the number of participants between both groups.

NEW COURSES

This 26th edition of the summer school will include new legislative instruments adopted within the framework of the new EU Migration & Asylum Pact. All courses will be entirely updated and cover extensively the screening procedure, Dublin and solidarity between Member States, the border asylum procedure, Eurodac, the crisis, force majeure and instrumentalisation regulation, reception conditions of asylum seekers, standards for the qualification of individuals as beneficiaries of international protection, and the role of the EU asylum agency. The topic of EU return policy will be addressed in a debate about the Commission's legislative proposal on return, other than through a dedicated course.

SPECIAL EDITION ABOUT THE EU MIGRATION AND ASYLUM PACT ON THE ODYSSEUS NETWORK BLOG

Discussions during the Summer School will be enriched by a series of blog posts on the New Migration & Asylum Pact published in 2024 on the [website of the Odysseus Network](#), which will be compiled in a book at the end of 2026 on the basis of the dedicated conference that took place in Brussels in October 2024.



SCHEDULE



The first general part of the program includes around 14 hours of lectures and the second and third special parts on asylum and migration around 30 hours in total. Each day typically includes two classes of 2 to 3 hours, with a coffee break in between. In order to enable participants in full-time employment to attend the classes, mandatory courses take place mainly in the afternoon between 13:00 and 19:00.

ONLINE AND ONSITE VERSIONS

An **online version** of the Summer School taught exclusively in English (so NOT in French) has been created to allow those who cannot travel or reside outside the EU to participate. The online version is run on Microsoft Teams and is identical to the onsite programme. All the courses and events will be accessible live (meaning at the moment they take place in Brussels) online. Online participants will be involved actively in the summer school. A moderator will give them priority to ask questions and make comments.

All participants are allowed to mix the online and onsite versions of the summer school, so that they can decide to follow the classes at home or in Brussels depending upon their preference. To follow the online version you only need a laptop with a camera and a good internet connection. Technical assistance will be available during the summer school and a training session on the use of Microsoft Teams will be provided a few days before its start.

TEACHING APPROACH

The classes have a legal focus and combine theoretical and some practical elements. They tackle the latest legislative and jurisprudential as well as policy developments of the EU. Each participant will have access to up-to-date documentation on a digital platform.

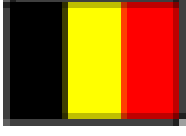
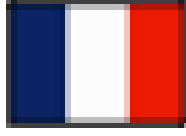
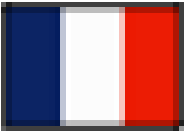
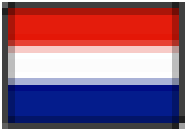
Programme

PART I	PART II	
INTRODUCTORY LECTURES	MIGRATION	ASYLUM
Opening lecture	Border control	Reception conditions for asylum
European institutional framework	European visa policy	Labour migration
Free movement of EU citizens	Family reunification	Member States responsibility (Dublin System) and solidarity
Implications of human rights	Status and integration of third country nationals	Asylum procedures
External Relations & EU migration policy	European criminal law on migration	European concepts of refugee & subsidiary protection
European databases (SIS, VIS, Eurodac, etc)	Return & readmission	
Schengen	Law of the sea and migration	EU agencies: Frontex & Asylum Agency

LECTURERS

The lecturers include members of the Odysseus Network as well as other experts in EU migration & asylum law. The program alternates established professors and young specialists to ensure that all courses, even the most technical, are taught by an expert of the area. The diversity of speakers who come from all over the EU allows the expression of views from different Member States. There are also several speakers from the European institutions (in particular the European Commission’s DG Migration and Home Affairs). Additionally, some panels may include lawyers who are involved in pending cases before the European Court of Human rights or the European Court of Justice.

You will find below a list of speakers of the summer school over the past years. It is exemplary, even if many of them are likely to appear also in the 2026 program.

Belgium 	Prof. Jean-Yves CARLIER, Prof. Sylvie SAROLEA, Université Catholique de Louvain	Belgium 	Prof. Philippe De BRUYCKER, Université libre de Bruxelles	Belgium 	Sarah GANTY, Universiteit Gent
Denmark 	Prof. Jens VEDSTED- HANSEN, University of Aarhus	France 	Prof. Henri LABAYLE, Faculté de Droit de Bayonne	France 	Prof. Ségolène BARBOU DES PLACES, Université Panthéon Sorbonne
France 	Prof. Emmanuel AUBIN, Université de Tours	Germany 	Prof. Daniel THYM, Konstanz Universität	Greece 	Prof. Akis PAPASTAVRIDIS, National & Kapodistrian University of Athens
Greece 	Prof. Achilles SKORDAS, Max Planck Institute, Heidelberg	Netherlands 	Prof. Thomas SPIJKERBOER, Universiteit Gent	Netherlands 	Assoc. Prof. Lilian TSOURDI, Maastricht University
Netherlands 	Prof. Lieneke SLINGENBERG, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam	Netherlands 	Prof. Tesseltje DE LANGE, Radboud Universiteit	EU 	Dr Jorrit RIJPMAN, DG Migration & Home AffairsEuropean Commission
Romania 	Dr Madalina MORARU, University of Bologna	Spain 	Prof. Assoc. Paula GARCIA ANDRADE, Universidad Autonoma de Madrid	Switzerland 	Prof. Vincent CHETAIL, Geneva Graduate Institute
Switzerland 	Prof. Francesco MAIANI, University of Lausanne	Turkey 	Dr Meltem INELI CIGER, Suleiman University	Croatia 	Prof. Iris GOLDNER LANG University of Zagreb
UK 	Prof. Steve PEERS, University of Essex	Luxemburg 	Dr Niovi VAVOULA, University of Luxemburg	UK 	Prof. Violeta MORENO-LAX, Queen Mary University London
UK 	Prof. Valsamis MITSILEGAS, University of Liverpool	EU 	Tineke STRIK, Member of the European Parliament	EU 	Dr Fabian LUTZ, DG Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission
FRA 	Tamas MOLNAR, Fundamental Rights Agency of the EU	Curia 	Nuno PICARRA, Judge at the European Court of Justice	CJEU 	Thomas BOMBOIS, Law Clerk at the European Court of Justice

REFUGEE-STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS CAMPAIGN

The objective of this initiative, which dates back to the 2015 crisis, is to offer a group of Refugee-Students to take part in the summer school and complete their education which may have been interrupted when fleeing their home country. A number of refugees working in NGOs have already benefited from it. The initiative RefYOUNgees, organised with the support of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Université libre de Bruxelles, is based on crowdfunding. Help us with a small or big donation via [Scholarships for Refugees 2026!](#)

PHD SEMINAR – FOUR GRANTS AVAILABLE



The summer school includes a PhD Seminar which offers a group of around ten doctoral researchers the opportunity to present their PhD project and receive feedback from a panel of Odysseus Members. The seminar is mainly for legal PhDs, but candidates in political science or international relations whose thesis include legal aspects could be accepted in agreement with the organisers. These sessions are generally held in English, but may be organised in French upon request.

The selected PhDs students need to register for the summer school and pay the registration fees for their category. They will follow the entire summer school program, in addition to the PhD seminar, which is approximately 10 hours long.

Four grants are available for PhD students or researchers and will be awarded based on academic record and financial needs. The grants cover the registration fee (with the exception of € 350 subscription fees) as well as travel and accommodation costs. Grant beneficiaries are requested to actively contribute to the coordination of the English and French speaking groups of participants. The closing date for applications is **15 May 2026**. In addition to completing the registration form the applicants must complete the [PhD catalogue available on the Odysseus website](#).

DEBATES AND OTHER ACTIVITIES



In addition to the opening lecture and cocktails, a series of optional activities will be organised during the summer school:

- Discussions on the EU return policy and the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, with speakers including lawyers involved in cases before the European Court of Human Rights or the Court of Justice of the EU, MEPs, judges, senior European officials, Justice and Home Affairs Advisers from Member States, as well as representatives of international organisations and NGOs.
- A “Who is who?” session for socialisation and networking between the participants of the summer school.
- Sessions with presentations of PhD projects;

As other events will be added to the program over time, you are kindly invited to consult our website for the latest information. Persons registered to the summer school will be kept informed via email.

VISITS OF THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS

Staying in the capital of Europe is a unique opportunity to discover the EU institutions and to meet high-level officials who come to lecture at the summer school. A visit to the European Parliament will be organised. Participants can also enjoy a moment in the heart of the European quarter, Place du Luxembourg, where officials and trainees from EU institutions go for an after-work drink.



European Parliament

Practical information

FACILITIES

Participants will have access to the summer school's private digital platform under TEAMS containing all documents used during the courses, including Powerpoint presentations of the speakers and recordings of the courses. Participants are encouraged to bring their own laptop. They will also have access to the various university facilities (wifi, libraries, cafeterias, medical and sports facilities, etc.)

CERTIFICATE AND ODYSSEUS AWARDS



The program does not require any written assignments to be submitted or exams to be taken, but prior readings on the Research Handbook on EU Migration and Asylum Law are recommended. Participants who signed the attendance register for at least 80% of the courses will receive a certificate of attendance. The presence of online participants will also be checked. The certificate will be delivered at the closing cocktail or sent afterwards by email. A contest based on multiple-choice questionnaires on the content of the lectures will be organised at the end of the programme to test participants' knowledge, with an Odyssey award for the winner.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must have some legal background. They must have either completed a university degree (at least a BA or equivalent with 3 years of studies) in Law, Political Science, European Studies or International Relations (graduates of other disciplines will be considered depending upon the legal courses they have followed) or have an equivalent professional experience in a relevant field.

REGISTRATION PROCEDURE AND FEES

	STUDENT	NGO/PHD/TRAINEES	PROFESSIONALS
DEPOSIT FEE	325 €	350 €	500 €
BALANCE	300 €	500 €	1000€
TOTAL	625 €	850 €	1500 €

The classification of individuals as a Student, PhD researcher, or Trainee is based on their salary level. It is required to **provide proof of your eligibility for the chosen category**. If you receive a salary, Odysseus will determine which category you belong to. Please note that individuals with a regular salary do not qualify for these categories. Please take into consideration that all speakers generously give their time freely.

The fees are the same for the onsite and the online version of the Summer School.

To apply for the Summer School, please complete the registration form available on the Odysseus website **by May 15 2026 at the latest**. Candidates must then pay a registration fee of €325, €350 or €500 Euros depending upon the category to which they belong as mentioned above) to officially introduce their application.

Only candidates who have paid that amount by **15 May 2026** at the latest will be taken into consideration. This amount will be reimbursed if the applicant is not selected by the Odysseus Network to participate in the summer school, while it will not be reimbursed if the candidate withdraws, except in the case of “force majeure”.

Fees cover the cost of classes, handbook, access to university facilities, visits, cocktails and coffee-breaks. Fees do not include travel, food and accommodation. A limited number of student rooms on the campus will be available at a low price. In order to guarantee the place, payments should be made by bank transfer to the account below at the latest on 15 May 2026.

Account name: Réseau ODYSSEUS Bank: BNP Paribas Fortis Bank Branch: Agence Ixelles Université Address: Chaussée de Boondael, 466, Bruxelles 1050, Belgique	IBAN: BE63 0012 1223 8908 National Bank Account: 0012 1223 8908 BIC: GEBABEBB Reference: 2026 Summer School & your name
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COORDINATION

ACADEMIC COORDINATOR

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Marta VOLPE
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ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATION

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APPLICATION FORM

