



# SUMMER SCHOOL 2026



**SCHOLARSHIPS FOR UKRAINIAN  
ACADEMICS AND STUDENTS IN UKRAINE**

**FREE FOR ONLINE PARTICIPANTS**



**29 JUNE – 10 JULY**



**Online in English**

**APPLY  
NOW!**

# The Summer School in a nutshell

## The program goals:

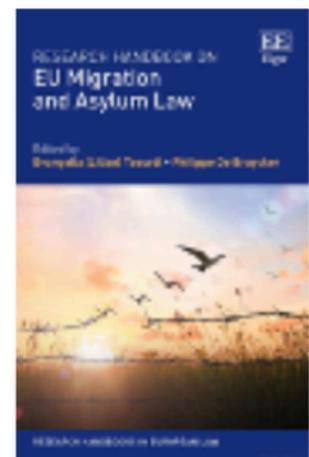
- acquiring a global knowledge of EU Migration & Asylum Law
- legally oriented but accessible to non-jurists
- connecting with high-level professors from many EU Member States as well as practitioners from EU institutions

The program is made of three parts and comprises **courses updated in line with the new instruments adopted in 2024 under the New EU Pact, entering into force in June 2026:**

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

## Including:

- Debates on recent developments regarding migration & asylum policies, such as the draft proposals on return and safe countries in asylum law, as well as the Commission's European Asylum and Migration Management Strategy
- Discussions about complex and controversial issues such as the accountability of Frontex, the scope of application of human rights, law of the sea, etc.
- Seminars exploring PhD projects
- 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:

- **online** version on the Teams platform with courses taught only in **English**

## A program offering:

- 4 grants accessible to PhD students
- Grants for refugee students sponsored by a crowdfunding campaign and with the support of the UNCHR and the Université Libre de Bruxelles
- Free participation for Ukrainians for the **online version**
- Contest made of multiple-choice questions with Odysseus awards
- Crowdfunding campaign to support the participation of refugee students

## The Summer School in 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



The Odysseus Summer School, which celebrated its 25th anniversary, is widely regarded as a must-do experience for professionals working in the field of migration and asylum at the EU level. Over the past 25 years, around 2.550 people have attended this programme, valued by the EU Institutions, who send their staff for training, as well as by recruiters, who see the programme as a strong asset in applicants' CVs. The objective is to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of the European Migration and Asylum policies from a legal perspective, including the latest developments in 2026.

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’s 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 that has published hundreds of posts on the latest EU legal news in the field of migration and asylum. 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 people interested in migration and asylum across Europe, including young professionals, officials from EU and national institutions, PhD and graduate students, NGOs and international organisations representatives, 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 DG Migration and Affairs of the European Commission.

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

## ONLINE VERSION

An online version of the Summer School taught exclusively in English (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 on-site programme. All the courses and events will be accessible live (meaning at the moment they take place in Brussels) online. Online participants will be actively involved in the summer school. **A moderator will give them priority in asking questions and making comments.**

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.

## LANGUAGE



The online course is available exclusively in **English**.

## NEW COURSES

All courses will be entirely updated in relation with the new instruments adopted under the Pact, entering in force in June 2026: 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 draft legislative proposal on return will also be addressed in a debate about the Commission's legislative proposal on return as well as for the Commission's European Asylum and Migration Management Strategy.

## 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 on the [Odysseus Network website](#).



## 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, totalling around 30 hours. Each day typically includes two classes, each of 2 to 3 hours, with a coffee break in between. To enable participants in full-time employment to attend classes, the mandatory courses take place mainly in the afternoon, between 13:00 and 19:00.

## 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 in the EU. Each participant will have access to up-to-date documentation on a digital platform.

Professors encourage **active participation** in class. **To provide the best experience for everyone, questions from online participants will be given priority**

# Programme

<b>INTRODUCTORY LECTURES</b>	<b>MIGRATION</b>	<b>ASYLUM</b>
Opening lecture	Border control	Labour Migration
European institutional framework	European visa policy	Temporary Protection
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	Reception conditions for asylum
External Relations & EU migration policy	European criminal law on migration	Asylum procedure
European databases (SIS, VIS, Eurodac, etc)	Return & readmission	European concepts of refugee & subsidiary protection
Schengen	Law of the sea and migration	EU Asylum 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 in 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, the Fundamental Rights officer of Frontex and representatives of the European Asylum Agency. 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 a list of summer school speakers from previous years below. It is exemplary, even if many of them are likely to appear also in the 2026 program. We thank all speakers warmly for generously giving their time for free.

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

# CERTIFICATE AND ODYSSEUS AWARDS



The program does not require any written assignments to be submitted or exams to be taken. Still, prior readings of the chapters of 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 by email afterwards. A multiple-choice contest based on the lecture content will be organised, and the winner will be awarded an Odysseus prize.

## 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

Continuing the tradition from previous editions, the programme will be offered **free of charge** for those participants **joining us online from Ukraine.**

To apply for the Summer School, please complete the **registration form** available on the Odysseus website **by May 15<sup>th</sup> 2026 at the latest**

**For more information, please contact: [odysseus@ulb.be](mailto:odysseus@ulb.be)**

# APPLICATION FORM



*Odysseus Network*

ULB

Academic Network for Legal Studies on Immigration and Asylum in Europe