



SUMMER SCHOOL ON EU MIGRATION AND ASYLYM LAW AND POLICY

26th EDITION

**Applications
are now open!**



**Gain the
knowledge
needed for
the entry into
force of the New
Pact's
legislations**



29 JUNE – 10 JULY 2026



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

Grants available for refugees and PhD students

The Summer School in a nutshell

The program goals:

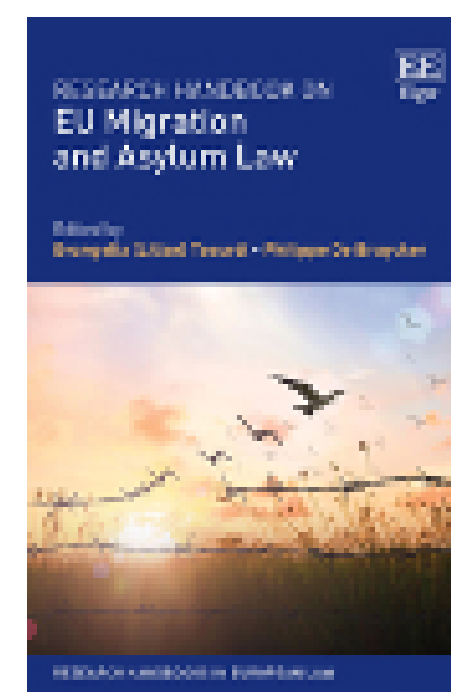
- acquiring a global knowledge of EU Migration & Asylum Law
- legally oriented but accessible to non-jurists
- connecting with high-level professors from many EU Member States as well as practitioners from EU institutions

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:

- **on-site** on the campus of the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB) with courses taught separately both in **English** & in **French**
- **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
- 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.

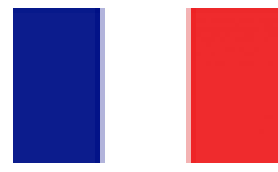
Discover the Summer School with [this video](#).

ONLINE AND ONSITE VERSIONS

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.

All participants are allowed to mix the online and onsite versions of the summer school, so they can decide to attend classes at home or in Brussels, depending on 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.

LANGUAGES



The courses onsite are taught separately in **English** AND in **French**, allowing participants to attend classes in the language they prefer, except for guest lecturers, who will teach only in English. The online course is available exclusively in **English**. The organisers may ask French-speaking participants who chose the English group to transfer to the French-speaking group to balance the number of participants between the groups.

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**

LANGUAGE



The online course is available exclusively in **English**. The organisers may ask French-speaking participants who chose the English group to transfer to the French-speaking group to balance the number of participants between the groups.

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Programme

INTRODUCTORY LECTURES	MIGRATION	ASYLUM
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 & 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 RIJPMAN, DG Migration & 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 Autonom 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>Ireland</p> 	<p>Professor Ciara Smyth Irish Centre for Human Rights School of Law</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>				



REFUGEE-STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS CAMPAIGN

The objective of this initiative, which dates back to the 2015 asylum crisis, is to offer a group of Refugee-Students the opportunity to participate in the summer school and complete their education, which may have been interrupted when fleeing their home country. Several refugees working in NGOs have already benefited from it. The initiative RefYOUgees, 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 PhD Seminars, which offer 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 PhD students in law. Still, candidates in political science or international relations whose theses include legal aspects can be accepted, subject to the organisers' agreement. These sessions are generally held in English. However, they may be organised in French upon request.

The selected PhD 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.

Among the selected PhD students, only four will be awarded a grant, based on academic record and financial needs. The grants cover the registration fee (excluding the €350 subscription fee) 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 **15th June 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 safe countries knowledge in the asylum policy and the European Asylum and Migration Management Strategy 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 additional events are added to the program over time, you are kindly invited to consult our website for the latest information. Registered participants for the summer school will receive notifications of the latest news 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 digital platform on TEAMS, which contains all documents used during the courses, including PowerPoint presentations by 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. 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 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 students, PhD researchers, or trainees is based on the salaries they may earn. 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.

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

To apply for the Summer School, please complete the registration form available on the Odysseus website by May 15th 2026 at the latest. Candidates must then pay a registration fee of €325, €350, or €500, depending on the category to which they belong, as mentioned above, to officially submit their application. Only candidates who have paid that amount by **June 15 2026** at the latest will be considered. To guarantee their place, participants should pay the balance of the fee by bank transfer to the account below **by at the latest June 15 2026**.

This amount will be reimbursed only if the Odysseus Network does not select the applicant to participate in the summer school, while it will not be reimbursed if the candidate withdraws, except in 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.

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

COORDINATION

ACADEMIC COORDINATOR

Prof. Philippe DE BRUYCKER
Université libre de Bruxelles

ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATION

Nicole BOSMANS
Administrative Coordination
Réseau ODYSSEUS

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APPLICATION FORM

