

## Country Profile - Luxembourg

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### Job market

#### What are my chances of getting a job?

The economy of Luxembourg remains stable despite the current economic conditions and there is reasonably low unemployment. For foreign workers, the greatest employment opportunities lie in the jobs held by cross-border and foreign residents, in areas such as construction, services to businesses, manufacturing, hotel and catering, and services.

- **Typical problems encountered:** some employers may require you to have experience in addition to a degree and/or professional qualification. Any such requirements are usually made clear in advertisements.
- **How to improve your chances:** research the background and culture of potential employers carefully. Knowledge of German and French is important.
- **Language requirements:** the three most widely used languages are: Luxembourgish (national and official language), French and German (official languages). English is spoken in Luxembourg City itself, but less so elsewhere. Competence in at least one foreign language is preferred or essential for many employers, but the need to speak French or German varies according to the employer and job sector. Learning French or German before you go to Luxembourg could be useful. Use the [National Careers Service Course Search](#) to find a course near where you live. Your university may also run modules in some foreign languages. Self-study and distance learning courses are available through organisations such as [Euro Talk](#).

#### Where can I work?

- **Major industries:** banking and financial services, telecommunications, iron, steel, rubber and chemicals, information technology, cargo transportation, food processing, metal products, engineering, tyres, glass, tourism.
- **Major companies:** ArcelorMittal (steel and mining), BGL BNP Paribas (finance), Cactus (retailing), Cargolux (air freight), Delphi (powertrain systems), Dexia (banking), Ferrero (chocolate), Group CFL (Luxembourg railway), Intelsat (satellite communications), P&TLuxembourg (postal and communications), RTL Group (European entertainment group), SES (satellite communications).
- **Search for more companies:** the [American Chamber of Commerce in Luxembourg](#), the [British Chamber of Commerce for Luxembourg](#), [Kompass Luxembourg](#), [Yellow.lu](#) and [Wikipedia - List of companies of Luxembourg](#) can also provide information about companies operating in Luxembourg.
- **Major cities:** Luxembourg (the capital - also known as Luxembourg City), population approximately 90,000.

#### What's it like working in Luxembourg?

- **Average working hours:** 40 hours per week and eight hours per day. The working day may not exceed 10 hours.
- **Holidays:** at least 25 working days' paid leave per year. In addition, there are 10 public holidays.

- **Tax rates:** income tax rates are progressive and range from 0% to 39%.
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## Applying for jobs

It is possible to apply for jobs via the Internet before going to Luxembourg, or you can apply when you are in the country. Speculative applications are common, particularly amongst graduates contacting large companies.

Applications generally include a CV and covering letter, as in the UK. The covering letter is usually hand-written. Online applications are common with multinational organisations.

Applications for an advertised position should be written in the language of the advertisement. For speculative applications, use French, or English if applying to a multinational company.

CVs are usually one or two typed pages (A4) and generally include:

- a photograph;
- details of training and previous work experience;
- languages spoken and proficiency;
- computer/office skills;
- interests.

As elsewhere in Europe, CVs are considered a marketing tool and should be accurate and succinct. They should also be tailored to the job in question with the aim of persuading the employer to invite you for interview. See the [Europass](#) website for details on how to create a CV easily understood in other European countries.

Knowledge of several languages is important when applying to many jobs. Depending on the role, French, English, German and Luxembourgish are either essential or preferred. Dutch, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese are also useful. Proficiency in at least two languages, particularly the official languages (Luxembourgish, French and German), is advisable.

The interview process is usually comparable to UK recruiters' procedures. Small companies may use a single interview, while larger multinational companies may employ a variety of methods from interviews to psychometric tests or assessment centres.

See the [EURES - European Job Mobility Portal](#) (Living and Working in Luxembourg) website for general information on applying for jobs.

## Will my UK qualifications be recognised?

The [Centre de Documentation et d'Information sur l'Enseignement Supérieur](#) has information on the professional recognition of foreign qualifications (in French). It is the Luxembourg centre within the National Academic Recognition Information Centres (NARIC) network. See also the [ENIC-NARIC](#) website.

The [UK National Europass Centre \(UK NEC\)](#) gives information on how to make your skills and qualifications easily understood in other European countries, including Luxembourg.

## Do I still need to pay UK tax and National Insurance?

If you are planning to live and work in Luxembourg, check your UK tax and National Insurance position with [HM Revenue & Customs \(HMRC\)](#) to ensure that you are not losing any UK pension rights.

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## Vacancy sources

### Job websites

- [EURES Job-search](#) - provides information about job vacancies, living and working conditions, and labour markets in Luxembourg, as well as a CV-posting service for jobseekers.
- [Jobs.lu](#) - permanent, temporary and contract vacancies in English, French and German.
- [Jobsearch.lu](#) - vacancies mostly in French, but depends on the advertising company.
- [Monster \(Luxembourg\)](#) - English, French and German.
- [Moovijob](#) - vacancies mostly in French, but depends on the advertising company.
- [Optioncarriere.lu](#) - search engine that collates jobs in Luxembourg.
- [Yellow.lu](#) - vacancies mostly in French, but depends on the advertising company.

### Recruitment agencies

The [ULEDI \(Union Luxembourgeoise des Entreprises de Travail Intérimaire\)](#) is the professional body for employment agencies in Luxembourg. Visit their website for a list of member agencies.

### Newspapers

- [Luxemburger Wort](#) - available in German, French and English. Job vacancies on Saturdays.
- [Tageblatt](#) - in German. Job vacancies on Saturday.
- [Kidon Media-Link](#) includes links to a range of Luxembourg newspapers and news sources.

### Other sources

[ADEM \(Agence pour le développement de l'emploi\)](#) is the website of the Luxembourg public employment service. Visit their office for job hunting support and access to vacancies.

The [University of Luxembourg](#) has a careers service accessible to students studying at the university. Services include help with CVs and covering letters and job/work placement alerts.

## Hidden vacancies

As Luxembourg is a small country, a lot of recruitment takes place through informal contacts, so networking can be beneficial. Speculative applications are commonly used. Professional bodies and associations often have lists of members, which can be useful for speculative applications: See, for example:

- [ABBL \(Association des Banques et Banquiers, Luxembourg\)](#) - banking and finance;
- [Fedil - Business Federation Luxembourg](#) - industry and business services;
- [Horesca](#) - hotel and catering.

See the 'job market' section for details on where to find more lists of companies for speculative applications.

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## Work experience

### Work placements and internships

- [IAESTE \(International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience\)](#) provides summer placements for science and engineering students.
- [AIESEC \(Association Internationale des Etudiants en Sciences Economiques et Commerciales\)](#) offers young people the opportunity to participate in international internships, in areas such as management, technology, education and development.
- Placements with large multinational companies may be advertised on their websites. It is also worth contacting employers direct. See the 'job market' section for details on where to find lists of companies for speculative applications.

### Exchange programmes

- Your institution may be involved in the [Leonardo da Vinci Programme](#) through which vocational training exchanges and work placements are arranged with partner organisations in other countries, including Luxembourg. Contact your institution's international office or your careers service for more information.
- If you are already in a job with an employer that has a branch or headquarters in Luxembourg, you can ask about possible temporary transfers.

### Teaching schemes

As there are only a few private language schools in Luxembourg, there are not many opportunities for English language teachers. Visit the Luxembourg public employment service - [ADEM \(Agence pour le développement de l'emploi\)](#) - to find out about vacancies.

### Volunteering

Volunteering is a good way to gain experience and to learn more about the society and culture in Luxembourg and will improve your language skills. The [Youth in Action](#) programme, for example, is funded by the European Commission and provides young

people with a variety of opportunities to experience Europe. The [European Voluntary Service \(EVS\)](#) is part of this programme and offers young people (18-30) the opportunity to volunteer in a range of countries, including Luxembourg, for a period of two to twelve months.

The [Agence de Bénévolat Luxembourg](#) (site in French) is the public volunteering agency that helps match volunteers and organisations seeking voluntary workers. Visit their website for details of opportunities in Luxembourg.

## Casual work and short-term opportunities

- A number of employers in both the public and private sectors recruit staff on short-term contracts.
  - Some employers, such as EU institutions, have specific processes for recruiting temporary staff and eligibility criteria will apply. Selection competitions are usually run by the individual institutions and agencies. See the [European Personnel Selection Office \(EPSO\)](#) for more information.
  - Semi-skilled and unskilled job vacancies are also available in some sectors, many on a seasonal basis. See, for example, [iAGORA](#) - entry-level jobs and internships, searchable by country.
  - There are some opportunities to work in Luxembourg for short periods. Look out for terms such as 'Praktikum' or 'stage' in job adverts.
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## Postgraduate study

### How does the higher education system work?

The [University of Luxembourg](#), founded in 2003, is the only university in Luxembourg. Courses are usually offered in two languages, either French/English or French/German, although there are some trilingual degrees available and some taught entirely in English.

The institution offers courses at Bachelors, Masters and PhD level. Courses generally last for between one and four academic years, as in the UK, depending on the programme. Some courses are available on a part-time basis and so will take longer to complete.

### What courses are available?

There are three faculties and two interdisciplinary centres at the University of Luxembourg:

- Faculty of Science, Technology and Communication;
- Faculty of Law, Economics and Finance;
- Faculty of Language and Literature, Humanities, Arts and Education;
- Interdisciplinary Centre for Security, Reliability and Trust (SnT);
- Luxembourg Centre for Systems Biomedicine (LCSB).

Research areas focus on: international finance; secure, reliable and trustworthy information and communication technology (ICT) systems and services; systems biomedicine; European and business law; and learning and development in multilingual and multicultural contexts.

See the [University of Luxembourg](#) website for a full list of courses at Masters and Doctoral level.

## Where can I study?

- [University of Luxembourg](#)
- It is possible to study for an MBA with Internship in Luxembourg at the US-based [Sacred Heart University Luxembourg Campus](#). The Institute also offers four Graduate Certificates in corporate finance, global investments, leadership and modern business management.

## Applying for postgraduate study

You usually need to hold a relevant Bachelors degree to enrol on a Masters course at the [University of Luxembourg](#). Applications are made online direct to the university. Check with individual courses for closing dates.

Enrolment on to a doctoral programme is open all year round. Applicants need to hold a Masters or equivalent degree and have found a dissertation supervisor. They also need to select their method of funding (e.g. self-funding or University of Luxembourg funding) and apply online.

## Fees and scholarships

There are no tuition fees for foreign students at the [University of Luxembourg](#). Enrolment fees are generally €200 per semester. Check with individual courses, however, for details of enrolment fees. Additional costs include accommodation, insurance, food, travel, study materials and entertainment. The cost of living is quite high, although the cost of consumer goods, e.g. food, is comparable with other large European cities. You will need approximately €1,000 per month to cover all costs. See the University of Luxembourg website for a breakdown of costs. Check the university website for possible sources of funding. Eligibility criteria will apply.

## Are there any exchange programmes?

UK students on undergraduate degree programmes or postgraduate Masters and some PhD programmes may be interested in spending time studying in Luxembourg through the [Erasmus](#) programme. This programme is open to all subject areas, but check with your institution's Erasmus coordinator first (usually based in the international office) to see which countries they have links with and in what subject areas.

## Will my qualification be recognised in the UK?

Full details on comparing international qualifications are available from [UK NARIC \(National Recognition Information Centre for the United Kingdom\)](#), which provides

information about the equivalency of qualifications and skills from overseas to the UK's national qualifications frameworks.

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## Visa and travel information

### Visa requirements and applications

Most EU nationals do not need a visa or work permit. However, citizens of the new EU accession countries should check with the [Ministère des Affaires Etrangères \(Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Luxembourg\)](#) to find out whether any restrictions apply.

EU citizens wishing to stay in Luxembourg for longer than three months must obtain a residence permit from the local town hall.

If you are a non-EU national, contact the Luxembourg embassy in the country where you are currently residing about how to obtain visas and work permits. If you are living in the UK, visit the [Embassy of Luxembourg in London](#) website.

### Help in an emergency

In emergency situations, UK citizens can often get help from the [British Embassy Luxembourg](#). See the website for details of the types of support available.

The single European emergency telephone number, available everywhere in the EU free of charge, is 112. You can use this number when you require an ambulance, the fire brigade or the police. See [112 - The European emergency number](#) for more information.

In Luxembourg you can also use:

- 112 - medical and general emergencies;
- 113 - police.

### Travel advice

Check the [Foreign and Commonwealth Office \(FCO\)](#) website before travelling for up-to-date travel advice.

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## Country overview

### Geography

- **Full country name:** The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.
- **Population:** 517,660 (2012 est.)
- **Border countries:** Belgium, France and Germany.
- **Climate:** generally temperate, with mild winters and cool summers. The South is drier and sunnier than the North. Winters can occasionally be severe.
- **Terrain:** landlocked country with mostly gently rolling uplands and broad valleys.

## Living in Luxembourg

- **Cost of living:** overall quite high. Rents are quite high, although the price of consumer goods is comparable with those of other large European cities. A sandwich, for example, will cost on average EUR 3, coffee in a bar EUR 1.50, and a set meal in a local restaurant less than EUR 10.
- **Internet domain:** .lu
- **Health:** good health system. Health standards and services are similar to those in the UK. Before going to Luxembourg make sure you obtain a free European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) to be eligible for emergency medical treatment. It is also important to take out comprehensive travel and medical insurance before travelling.
- **Laws and customs:** standards and rules of law enforcement are broadly comparable to the UK, as are general social customs and patterns of daily behaviour.

## Economy and finance

- **Currency:** Euro
- **Type of economy:** free market
- **Health of economy:** stable with high income, resulting in low unemployment and low inflation. Depends on international trade and cross-border workers.
- **Unemployment rate:** 5.5% ([Eurostat](#), Jul 12).
- **Main exports:** steel products, chemicals, rubber products, glass.

## Culture

- **People:** approximately two-thirds of the population are Luxembourgers. Other significant minorities include Portuguese, French, Italians and Germans, often commuting from border countries for work.
- **Major religion:** the majority of Luxembourgers are Roman Catholics, but there are also Protestant, Jewish and Muslim minorities.
- **History:** See [BBC Timeline: Luxembourg](#).

## Politics

- **Type of government:** hereditary Grand Duchy with a parliamentary system operating with a single legislative chamber.
- **Major political parties:** Action Committee for Democracy and Justice (ADR), Christian Social People's Party (CSV), Democratic Party (DP), Green Party, Luxembourg Socialist Workers' Party (LSAP), Marxist and Reformed Communist Party (Dei Lenk - the Left).

## More information

- [Embassy of Luxembourg in London](#)
- [BBC Country Profile - Luxembourg](#)
- [The World Factbook](#)
- [XE Universal Currency Converter](#)

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