



University of New Caledonia

Overview

Founded in 1999, the University of New Caledonia (UNC) is a French and European public institution, with a scientific, cultural and professional focus under the supervision of the French Ministry for Higher Education and Research.

Dr. Gaël Lagadec has been its president since 26 July 2013.

Objectives

The UNC has six objectives:

- initial and vocational training
- scientific and technological research, with the publishing and accreditation of its findings
- orientation and employability
- the spreading of cultural, scientific and technological information
- participation in the development of higher education and research
- international co-operation and the promotion of the French language

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The UNC comprises three initial training departments: Literature, Languages and Humanities, Studies Law, Economics and Management, Sciences and Technology, a department of vocational training, as well as a Tertiary Institution for Masters degrees. The UNC also has a doctoral school connected to the University of French Polynesia (UPF).

A few things about the UNC

3 departments; 1 institute of technology; 1 Phd school; 1 international vocational school for teachers, 3000 students, 107 aresearch tutors, 95 administration and library employees; 6 research teams; 1 campus (Nouvelle).

French, the language of teaching

Courses at UNC are predominantly taught in French.

The study system

UNC has adopted the European system so-called LMD. Students receive credits for the number of hours of official attendance at university each semester (which includes the time spent on their own personal study). These credits are transferable to their own universities.

For any enquiry relating to studies, content, administration, pre-requisites or language

Contacts

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Institute of Technology

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The academic calendar in New Caledonia is as follows:

- February - July: first semester
- July - November: second semester

New Caledonia

Oceanic archipelago situated in the South-West Pacific

Situated 18,000km from France, 2,000km from New Zealand and 1,500km from Australia

Surface Area: 18,875 km²

Population: 269,000 inhabitants (Melanesians, Polynesians, Europeans, Asians)-2014 census

Capital: Noumea (100,000 inhabitants)

Language: French

Status: « Sui generis »; French overseas collective regulated by the Matignon and the Noumea Agreements

Political Organisation: Congress and Government of New Caledonia; three Provinces (South, North and Loyalty islands)

Climate: Sub-tropical

Worldwide Hotspot of terrestrial and marine biodiversity

Lagoon registered in 2008 on the UNESCO worldwide heritage list. Principal

resource: nickel; Money: Pacific Franc (XFP) 119,33 XFP = 1 euro International

prefix: + 687

The UNC is a young university which sees its vocation as the reference point for research in New Caledonia, in accordance with its economic, social and local needs and in partnership with other French research organisations established in its region (IRD, IFREMER, IAC, Pasteur Institute, CNRS, BRGM).

New Caledonia and its region offer an environment that is quite out of the ordinary because of the plurality of its cultures, its languages, its literary and oral expressions, and its traditional and contemporary social and political organisations. Mankind, oceanic societies, biodiversity, and mineral wealth ... these are the subjects chosen for study by a university positioning itself squarely to foster the sustainable development of a region in the midst of rapid social change.

The research policy of the UNC is naturally oriented towards a better understanding of the physical, biological and human environment of New Caledonia, in particular, and more generally, in the South Pacific region.

Situated in the heart of the south-west Pacific region, New Caledonia is rich in terrestrial and marine biodiversity. Its native flora, dating from the time of Gondwanaland, is unique to the region. Its salt-water lagoon (the largest in the world along with the Australian Great Barrier Reef) is surrounded by an amazing coral reef, awarded World Heritage Listing by UNESCO in 2008 and recognised as "extraordinary, universal and priceless".

The existence of nickel deposits and the construction of world class metallurgical factories on the traditional lands of oceanic people call for a collective agreement in favour of development that is both sustainable and respectful of the ecosystem and island societies.

The UNC brings its scientific know-how to assist in this objective.

Scientific potential that is quite out of the ordinary.

New Caledonia is:

A salt-water lagoon comparable to the Australian Great Barrier Reef and endowed with a 23,400 km² coral ecosystem, including 8,000 km² of barrier reefs. A protected marine zone of 128,490 acres.

A place of outstanding biodiversity, sensitive to human impact:

- 1,200 species of reef fish out of 3,000 known species in the world
- 3,380 plant species, of which 80 % are endemic to the region
- 30% of bird species are endemic to the region
- 20% preserved old growth forest

The research teams recognized by the French Ministry for Higher Education and Research develop multidisciplinary approaches in keeping with the expectations of the French State and the communities of New Caledonia. The development of scientific co-operation in the Asian-Pacific region is a priority.

- **Institut de sciences exactes et appliquées de Nouvelle Calédonie (ISEA)**

Domains:

-Biodiversity, environment, plant species, fish, adaptive mechanisms, endemism, ecosystems, lagoons.
-Geosciences, physics, chemistry, informatics, environment, integrated management, mining watersheds, mangroves, integrated management and design for the understanding of coastal tropical ecosystems, sustainable development, modelling of complex systems, global climate change, nano materials, transference and speciation, knowledge extraction, interconnected information systems.
-Theoretical Mathematics and Informatics, optimisation and optimal control, polynomial automorphisms, ergodic theory, logic, image analysis, machine learning and data searching, modelling of spatio-temporal stochastic processes.

- **School of Economics and Law (LARJE)**

Domains:

Comparative Law, Civil Law, Labour Law, Administrative Law, Public Finance and Taxation, Economic and Management Sciences, Employment and Work Economics, Developmental Economics, Economics of Education, Econometrics and Quantitative Methods, Environment, Planning and Urbanism, Public Policy, Sociology of Sustainable Development, Industrial Hazards, Foreign and Local Organisations.

- **TROCA**

- **ERALO**

- **Laboratoire interdisciplinaire de recherche en éducation (LIRE)**

Domains:

Health, life style, physical activity, education, ethnicity

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The international policy of the UNC is strongly influenced by its geographical position in a sparsely populated archipelago of the South Pacific. Being a French institution for higher education, the UNC experiences the obvious constraints of distance from the decision-making centres of France and Europe. The UNC more than makes up for this with its considerable assets:

- Presence in the region of three French overseas authorities (New Caledonia, French Polynesia, Wallis-and-Futuna);
- Proximity to Australia and New Zealand;
- Great potential for research in New Caledonia (ethnic and cultural diversity, history, lagoons, terrestrial and marine biodiversity, mining and nickel...) and the presence of several research organisations;
- Bridging the gap between French and English speaking worlds.

A French and European university in the South Pacific

The UNC is in the unique position of being a French and European university dedicated to the development of New Caledonia and beyond the Pacific region. It guarantees a French presence in the domains of higher education and research and contributes to the promotion of French speaking in the region. Training at UNC adheres to the European LMD system, which guarantees the quality of teaching according to a standard shared by the majority of universities of Europe.

The influence of the UNC and the development of its role in the South Pacific region are therefore organised around four basic priorities:

- A Policy of co-operation in the areas of science and teaching, in conjunction with foreign universities and organisations (Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Hawaii, Japan, South Korea, Europe...);
- Participation in the public policies of regional co-operation of both France and New Caledonia in the domains of training and research;
- Encouragement of mobility - both incoming and outgoing - of lecturers, researchers and students;
- The promotion of French teaching and French speaking.

The UNC's ambition is to develop projects of lasting scientific co-operation around problems of key interest to New Caledonia (mines, erosion, global warming, management of water, waste management, spatial planning, island economies, cultural and linguistic diversity...). These partnerships are to be constructed mainly through relationships with the following countries - Europe- Australia-New Zealand but also with countries of the Asia-Pacific region.

International partnerships

Each year the UNC registers a growing number of university partnerships, mainly in Australia, New Zealand and Europe but also in Asia. There are currently 40 partner universities.

The UNC's priorities on the international stage

In the domain of training:

- To significantly increase the international mobility of students;
- To increase the number of lasting partnership accords in the domains of research and teaching;
- To strive for a geographical diversification of these accords by continuing participation in the Erasmus program, while building ties with Asia and the Americas;
- To welcome students from Australia, New Zealand and wider Oceania by providing specialised courses (Summer sessions, courses in French/English, topical master classes);
- To encourage the mobility of teaching fellows at the UNC and to welcome teaching fellows, doctoral et post-doctoral students in the region;
- To increase the internationalisation of training by proposing masters degrees in French and English that respond to problems in the region;
- To favour the emergence of a centre for French as a Foreign Language which tailors its courses to the needs of students and issues qualifications.

In the domain of research:

- To build a lasting policy – and one with clear objectives - of scientific co-operation with French universities and those of the Asia-Pacific region;
- To facilitate better co-operation between international and local research organisations in the territory, with emphasis on the dynamic relationships of stakeholders (CNRT nickel and its environment and the South Pacific Observatory);
- To foster the emergence of a Research and Higher Education Centre in New Caledonia on the Nouméa campus;
- To become a part of the international research programs of France and the European Union.

For all enquiries relating to international policy (exchanges, partnerships, welcoming of delegations, Summer sessions, French courses, admissions...)

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A university of manageable proportions

Because of its size (3,000 students) and its situation not far from the town centre of Noumea. Every effort has been made by the establishment to create a unique campus at Nouville with an emphasis on the facilities placed at the disposition of UNC and international students to ensure their comfort and success (residence, restaurant, student housing, learning center...).