Univ. Grenoble Alpes University of innovation

university: Welcome people in Exile



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A word from the president

The Université Grenoble Alpes community has put steps in place over several years to welcome students and researchers in exile.

True to their principle that education should be open to all, these Grenoble institutions aim to welcome, support and integrate these often-vulnerable groups.

Aware of the particular issues faced by these groups, the community of Université Grenoble Alpes have committed to making their welcome straightforward by putting in place political measures, relevant administrative procedures and dedicated support projects.

All of these activities have come to fruition thanks to the commitment shown by the stakeholders, teachers, staff, students, and associations.

The «refugee» committee led by Université Grenoble Alpes is now the driving force behind this work, which is continuing and growing. I would like to thank all of the staff and students involved. We will be at their side. This booklet gives us the opportunity look into our present and future actions. Much has been done, but much also remains to be done.

Lise Dumasy

President, Université Grenoble Alpes Community

An engaged university community

The Université Grenoble Alpes community, with its commitment to humanism and openness, has been working since 2015 to create a working group with the aim of welcoming refugees*: the Refugee Committee. Through these numerous initiatives, the university hopes to fulfil its societal role in terms of training, research, integration and cultural education.

The following institutions, organisations and associations are involved in this project:

- ENSAG (School of Architecture)
- Grenoble School of Management
- Crous Grenoble Alpes
- Universités Sans Frontières network
- Université Grenoble Alpes
- Grenoble INP (School of Engineering)
- Sciences Po Grenoble

The objectives of the Refugee Committee are to:

- Get involved in all areas relating to the hosting of refugees in order to improve practices
- Put in place joint actions and projects
- Validate all political requests relating to the welcome of refugees
- Respond to joint calls for proposals
- Raise awareness of the issue of refugees within the university community (students, teachers and staff)
- Connect to local, regional, national and international institutions

The committee meets approximately every two months to monitor ongoing projects, exchange ideas on issues, and improve practices. Many of the projects covered in this booklet have emerged from the committee discussions.

^{*}Regarding the term 'refugees': 'refugees' was chosen over other possible descriptions in order to capture the idea of a place of refuge or welcome. The term is not restricted to people with refugee status but includes all students in exile: that is, people with refugee status, asylum seekers, or those who have been granted subsidiary protection.

Language classes at CUEF

he University centre for French studies (CUEF) is open throughout the year.

French as a foreign language (FLE) courses: 10 refugee students are accepted per month

Gateway University Diploma (DU) for students in exile

The diploma was created in 2015 as part of the scheme for refugee students set up by the university community.

An intensive training programme covering language, culture and university methodology, it gives students a route to studying in a French university. Students who have been forced to interrupt their previous studies are taught linguistic, cultural and methodological skills that will allow them to integrate into a higher education course in France. Students can therefore resume the studies that have been interrupted by their exile.

Students who pass the exam receive a university diploma called a "Gateway University Diploma for students in exile Objective B2" and a document showing their results.

Objectives: the acquisition of linguistic, cultural and methodological skills (level B2), allowing students to integrate into a programme at the university.

Details of the course:

- University diploma course including 641 hours of study, from August to May
- 299 hours of language lessons, 91 hours of classroom-based lessons in French for Academic Purposes (FOU) and 78 hours of cultural lessons.
- Workshops on university integration, plus cultural and sports activities, complete the training





- Number of sessions organised: one per year
- Duration of training: two semesters
- Number of students: 15 to 20 per session

Student acceptance criteria

- Has refugee status, is an asylum seeker or has been granted subsidiary protection
- Aims to reintegrate into a course of study
- Holds a Bachelor's degree or equivalent OR has already begun studies in the country of origin
- Currently has a minimum of B1 level in French language
- Housed in Grenoble (particularly for asylum seekers who are unable to benefit from the CROUS)
- A limited number of places are available

Business model:

- Participatory financing
- Université Grenoble Alpes Foundation
- Calls for projects (Francophonie University Agency)
- Institutional contribution

Number of refugee students who have taken French courses at CUEF: 36

Number of students enrolled in the Gateway University Diploma: 75 to date. The pass rate is 81%.

At the end of their training all students have been able to register for further studies.

More informations: cuef.univ-grenoble-alpes.fr/du-pass

The Gateway university diploma conforms to a new national model which offers eligibility for CROUS scholarships and housing for refugee students, from the start of the 2019 academic year.

Manager of Gateway university diploma :

Christelle Berger – christelle.berger@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr



Introduction of relevant administrative steps

Registration fee exemption

One of the first measures agreed by university presidents in 2017 was that students with refugee status, granted subsidiary protection or seeking asylum would be exempt from tuition fees.

Exemption from tuition fees is automatic upon registration with proof of status.

The status of 'audit' students was established in 2016 (CFVU decision) by the President of the Université Grenoble Alpes. These students benefit from the same exemptions. Note that audit students are not allowed to sit exams.

University credit

Teaching units can be validated, but at the moment this does not grant student status

An exemption for the DAP (preliminary request for admission to L1) has been set up for the same community (plus stateless persons)

These steps to facilitate access to higher education for refugees are supported by the presidents/directors of the universities within Université Grenoble Alpes.

These steps are in addition to measures that have recently been put in place nationally, such as eligibility for grants based on social criteria and housing for refugees enrolled in the Gateway training courses, the coordination of which has been set up between the universities and the Crous Grenoble Alpes.

A welcome guide in 4 languages

To help refugees on arrival on our university campuses, we have put together a guide in 4 languages: French, English, Arabic and Farsi. The guide, which is available online, includes the following information:

- The level of French required
- French language classes in Grenoble
- Taking part in a training course at Université Grenoble Alpes
- Your rights within Université Grenoble Alpes
- How to apply for scholarships/student housing

Hosting scientists in danger

PAUSE programme

The PAUSE programme (programme to provide an emergency welcome for scientist in exile) was created on 16 January 2017 by the Collège de France and grants subsidies for public higher education and/or research institutions looking to host scientists who are in crisis situations.

The increasing incidence of conflicts internationally and the authoritarian excesses of some regimes are fuelling the "refugee crisis" in Europe. Scientists and intellectuals, whose aim is to seek the truth, are by their nature opposed to the arbitrary decisions and lies that fuel such crises, and find themselves the target of repressive practices.

To date there has been no national support system to welcome researchers and university professors in France, unlike in the United States, the United Kingdom or Germany. Thierry Mandon, Secretary of State for Higher Education and Research, therefore announced on 13 October 2016, during the Collège de France back-toschool conference on "Migration, Refugees, Exile", that a programme would be created to provide emergency assistance to scientists in exile (PAUSE).

With initial funding of one million euros from the Ministry of National Education, Higher Education and Research, the programme is run from the Collège de France and housed within the Chancellery of Paris Universities. The three institutions signed an agreement to create the programme on 16 January 2017. The programme is supported by a prestigious sponsorship committee co-chaired by Edith Heard, a professor of the Collège de France, and Alain Prochiantz, chairman of the Collège.

After an evaluation process, the programme issues grants to public higher education and research institutions planning to host foreign researchers and teacher-researchers in crisis situations. These take the form of a co-financing grant, varying from 20,000 to 60,000 euros, to help with recruitment.

PAUSE aims to grow based on public and private support. A subscription fund has been set up for the programme at the Fondation de France. This has been providing extra support for researchers since 2019, through an induction programme that should lead to better integration over time.

Université Grenoble Alpes has been involved in this project and has hosted several refugee researchers in its laboratories. Annual calls for candidate applications are issued to the wider scientific community by the Refugee Committee.

PAUSE Grenoble contact:

Elisa Glangeaud – elisa.glangeaud@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr

Current projects

Thanks to the efforts of the Refugee committee and the commitment of its members, several projects are underway across the whole of Grenoble university. Note that the activities and the scope of some projects overlap when addressing common themes, complementing one another and increasing synergies.

COLIBRI project:

Aim: Refugees who approach the university community looking to integrate, either as students or looking for support for professional integration, are often confused as to what steps they need to take. The main objective of this project was therefore to make the process smoother by creating a unique space that would serve as an entry point and help orient people within the community.

Université Grenoble Alpes has a unique system for welcoming international students – the ISSO (International Students & Scholars Office) service, which is shared across all of its institutions. The ISSO service comprises 4 departments, whose role is to manage arrival, settling in, and integration. The service has a "right of residence" department with a dedicated team that speaks several languages. This 'one-stop-shop' system is helped by an on-campus Prefecture office.

To include refugees in this system, a welcome desk, the colibri, was set up at the start of the 2018 academic year, and is staffed by a student employee. This welcome desk, which works often with associations such as RUSF, also operates as the central connection point between the different serivces that the community can provide.

Objectives of the welcome desk:

- To be the entry point for all administrative and educational procedures for students
- To direct students to different university services, to help with registration, reregistration and continuation of studies at the university
- To refer students to social services (of the Crous Grenoble Alpes, particularly) for social support, access to housing and emergency help.
- To provide support to students in identifying and understanding registration and other administrative procedures.
- To raise awareness among different university departments and act as a link between stakeholders to help integrate students into the university.
- set up professionalisation workshops (CV writing, cover letters, job interviews) with relevant university services.

A toolkit in both English and French was created to keep track of all administrative and educational steps taken.

Funding:

- Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF): awarded in 2018-2019 and renewed for 2019-2020
- Université Grenoble Alpes

Website: www.colibri.univ-grenoble-alpes.fr (website currently under construction)

Contact details and information:

info-migrants@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr; Office number 9 of IRMA Tower 51 Rue des Mathématiques, Campus Saint-Martin-d'Hères



Erasmus Project + EUCRITE: European Centre for Refugee Integration in Higher Education (supported by Grenoble INP)

Aim: the project aims to improve the reception and integration of refugee students at the university.

Partners : Politecnico Di Torino, TU Graz, KU Leuven, Aalto university, Grenoble INP

Project objectives:

- To monitor good practice in the reception of refugees (students and academics) at universities
- To conduct surveys on the questions and needs of university staff in relation to the reception of refugees (Grenoble INP is responsible for coordinating this)
- To create mini modules for awareness-raising and to train university staff in how to meet identified needs (this includes short videos)
- To centralise the documentary resources, FAQs and other project information on a website



Completed actions:

- A report has been put together looking at how things now stand, to highlight existing good practices in each institution and project partner country. In particular, this report highlights the needs of refugee students who are enrolled or who wish to enroll in higher education institutions.
- A survey of administrative and academic staff in the project member institutions highlighted the needs and difficulties felt by everyone involved (from teachers, to schools, to CROUS, and refugee students) when a refugee student wants to enter a higher education institution.
- This survey allowed the production of mini-modules that could help with or respond to the difficulties and needs that had been expressed. These mini modules were presented during a staff week that was set up by the members of the EUCRITE project and could be joined by anyone who felt the subjects were relevant to them.

Expected benefits of the project: The aim of the consortium is to share expertise in order to give refugee students better and faster access to higher education institutions (HEIs). By promoting intercultural competence in their staff, HEIs effectively invest in social engagement by, in turn, fostering students' civic skills.

Funding: Erasmus +, strategic partnership (Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices, Action Strategic Partnership)

Duration: 26 months (September 2017 to October 2019)

A range of reports, models of the mini models and videos is available on the project website: www.eucrite.eu

EUCRITE project manager:

Audrey Berriot - audrey.berriot@grenoble-inp.fr

« Career booster » : professional integration workshops

(led by Grenoble Ecole de Management-GEM)

Project objectives: To support refugee students after a higher education course in order to help them integrate into a professional environment.

Project content: to improve the employability of students by offering a series of workshops on: careers, communication, and integration, helping them prepare to look for career opportunities.

Details: 4 sessions of 2 hours offered over 3 months

Group size: between 15 and 24 people. Several of the sessions have been cocreated and co-facilitated by a refugee student and the Grenoble Ecole de Management's careers department.

Session leaders also train volunteer student facilitators who will lead activities in break out groups during the sessions.

Target students: refugee students in initial training following a higher education course relating to management/business/administration at Grenoble.

Funding : Grenoble Ecole de Management, co-funded by the Grenoble Metropole as part of an agreement with the DIAIR (Inter-ministerial Delegation for the Reception and Integration of Refugees).

Career Booster Manager at GEM:

Rikke SMEDEBOL - rikke.smedebol@grenoble-em.com



GEM Refugee Grant Program

Grenoble Ecole de Management has set up a programme allowing candidates to apply through the 'normal' procedures. Application and registration fees are waived. This programme is open to all candidates with refugee status or granted subsidiary protection by OFPRA.

GEM shows its commitment to refugees by:

- Welcoming up to 10 student "refugees" each year and allowing them to take up (or continue) their studies in one of our programmes at GEM.
- Extending the framework of skills sponsorship to cover actions in aid of refugees. GEM employees can now choose to spend 1 to 5 days a year tackling problems faced by migrants.
- Working with refugee students on their integration into a higher education course, thereby helping them to establish themselves professionally.
- Actively collaborating with the Refugee Committee of Université Grenoble Alpes and with local associations engaged with it, as well as with the "Ensemble" project of the GEM student association.
- Raising public awareness, both internal and external, of migration issues.

An advisory committee meets once a year to work on these issues, monitor the processes, take stock of how things stand, identify what can be improved and confirm new processes. The programme has welcomed 9 refugee students since it was set up in 2016. Two are currently being recruited.

GEM Refugee Grant Programme Manager:

Jaclyn Rosebrook-Collignon - jaclyn.rosebrook-collignon@grenoble-em.com

Raising awareness in academia

Creation of a website page covering the current actions being undertaken, including film clips about welcoming migrants, planned staff training days by the Welcoming Asylum Seekers association (ADA), and case studies

Involved students and staff

Several researchers, some of them active members of the Refugee Committee, take part in this integration work through their research activities. Professors are also involved and take part in integration activities. Students can also have a key role in welcoming students in exile. The student vice-president of Université Grenoble Alpes is a full member of the Refugee Committee.

RUSF 38 (Universities Without Borders network)

This is a network of students and staff at Université Grenoble Alpes that helps students with administrative procedures, and campaigns to defend the rights of foreign students.

Meets every Tuesday from 12.00 to 14.00.

CO-FORMER project: this project, funded by an Idex project, started in February 2019. It lets students volunteer to provide courses to refugees, supervised by research professors from the university. These courses are open to the general public.



Beneficiaries: all refugees can take advantage of these courses, with the exception of the "methodology" training given by the Faculty of Economics and Management. Registration is through the Colibri welcome desk.

Proposed actions within the project:

- Computer use classes: getting to grips with computers, from daily use (internet, Office suite etc) to simple software tools. There will be several groups at different levels.
- English language classes: writing and conversation, with groups at different levels depending on demand.
- French (FLE) language classes: several groups at different levels depending on demand
- Methodology course and tutoring in economics/management for asylumseeking students who are taking this course
- Maths classes

Format: 2 hours a week, but each class will work differently, depending on what is needed. Training lasting at least 2 months, adjusted to requirements.

Master's students can have 3 ECTS credits added to their course, and doctoral students can have up to 20 training hours accepted by their doctoral college.

Other disciplines may be added in future.

Funding: IDEX, the «Bienvenue en France» scheme, and AUF

Contact details: accueil.coformer@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr; Office number 9 of IRMA Tower 51 Rue des Mathématiques, Campus Saint-Martin-d'Hères

Website: coformer.univ-grenoble-alpes.fr

COFORMER Project Manager: Grégoire Charlot – rusf38@gresille.org

Project around delivering a certificate on the rights of foreigners

(led by Sciences Po Grenoble)

A certification project called «Clinical Methodology of Law», looking at the rights of foreigners, will be tested from the start of the 2019 academic year.

This certificate, which is intended for 4th year (Master 1) and 5th year (Master 2) students is unique to Sciences Po Grenoble and will award 6 ECTS credits. This is a "transmasters" programme for students from different Masters courses at Sciences Po Grenoble. The certification project is looking for partnerships with other institutes and is beginning work with US NGO, Scholars at risk.

The Clinical Methodology of Law (for foreigners) certificate has two components – theoretical and practical.

The theoretical side of the course covers French and European asylum law: analysis of the procedures for granting international protection resulting from the Geneva Convention, and study of the criteria for granting subsidiary protection resulting from the European legal framework. It also deals with administrative law regarding foreigners: looking at placement in administrative detention centres, conditions for issuing an obligation to leave French territory, and the issue of residence permits. This theory training is provided by magistrates from the Administrative Court of Grenoble – lawyers specialising in law regarding foreigners – and by public law teachers and researchers.

Practical training consists of interviews carried out throughout the year, in pairs, with lawyers and asylum seekers. These interviews are based on a questionnaire and will be transcribed and analysed by the students in order to study the facts, dealing with legal rules, and geopolitical research.

The final evaluation involves a report on an issue relating to the law on foreigners.

This project, which involves the study of documents as well as helping students develop though practical work, will be carried out in partnership with the ADA (Welcoming Asylum Seekers) association.

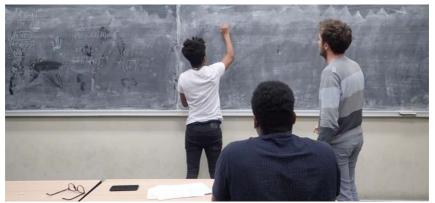
The agreement with the Scholars at risk NGO will also provide support, publication of studies in English for the students, and access to documents and international expertise.

Certificate Project Manager:

Dorian Guinard / Sandrine Vernet - sandrine.vernet@sciencespo-grenoble.fr

Other student initiatives

Many student organisations across the university campus are involved in projects and activities aimed at helping migrants. Regular collections are organised to accept material donations. As part of putting together the welcome toolkit, a tutored project has been set up with a group of students. A solidarity grocery shop will be opened, managed by students, on Crous premises from January 2020.



Some figures

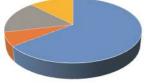
A total of 84 migrant students (of all statuses) enrolled at Université Grenoble Alpes in 2018, including:

- 7 students who took the Gateway B2 course
- 66 in Bachelors courses and first year courses/18 Masters

Gender Distribution

Men Women

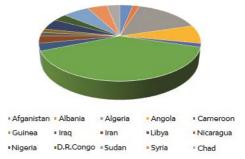
Distribution by administrative statue



Asylum seeker

- Refugee and subsidiary protection
- Without documentation (including those who seek refugee status)
- Other

Distribution by country of origin



Strong regional links

International relations offices at Université Grenoble Alpes have forged strong regional links. In particular, they have been working with the city for several years to exchange information and participate in joint refugee-related events. In 2019 the members of the Refugee Committee were invited to take part in working seminars to sign a convention between the Grenoble Alpes Metropole and DIAIR (Interministerial Delegation for the Reception and Integration of Refugees). Under this agreement, several projects run by the region could now be funded at the university.

Members of the Refugee Committee have also been invited to the Foundation for the Reception of Refugees, alongside local associations and communities.

The ADA also trains a group of university staff each year on the rights of migrants.

Engagement at a national level...

The Refugee Committee of Université Grenoble Alpes has been involved in the Migrants in Higher Education Network since it was set up in September 2017.

This highly active network brings together higher education bodies, associations and public or private organisations to develop a proactive policy on welcoming students and researchers in exile.

Around 40 French universities are currently members of the network.

The objectives of the network are:

1. To carry out political action that:

- Speaks for all members of the group
- Questions public authorities on all matters relating to migrants
- Gives agency to anyone working in the field and coordinates their actions
- Integrates France into international networks in this field

2. To promote communication between members by:

- Circulating information between members
- Valuing individual and collective actions
- Helping to share best practice
- Communicating openly, both with the education and higher education communities and with fellow citizens
- Helping to collect consolidated, reliable data

4 working groups have been set up based on the main areas relevant to welcoming refugees into the university. These groups are to identify the main problems and propose solutions to them based on the following topics:

- French as a Foreign Language (FLE) for migrants and access to classes
- Recognition of prior education and diplomas
- Coordination of work with institutional and association partners, locally and nationally
- Reception and support for researchers in institutions and organisations

Université Grenoble Alpes has ratified the Charter of the MEnS (Migrants in Higher Education) network. This affirms the values that our policies should be based upon, especially in the current situation

Grenoble MEnS contact:

Elisa Glangeaud – elisa.glangeaud@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr

... and at an international level

At the international level, the members of the Refugee Committee regularly attend conferences, staff weeks etc, to improve the work that is being done.

In 2019, GEM and UGA were recognised at the national level in the Responsible Campus trophies, sponsored by the Grenoble Ecole de Management.

They then went on to be nominated among 7 global finalists at the UN Green Gown awards in July 2019 at the HESI (Higher Education Sustainability Initiative) in the «positive impact on society» category:

https://www.greengownawards.org/2019-finalists

This recognition has been made possible by the enthusiasm of the Refugee Committee and the staff, students and researchers who are involved, at all levels of the university.

The best recognition remains the day-to-day success and integration into our university system of the students and researchers who have been welcomed here.



Scholars at Risk (SAR)

Université Grenoble Alpes is a member of the NGO Scholars at Risk. Scholars at Risk is an international network of higher education institutions and individuals working to protect researchers at risk, prevent attacks on higher education, and promote academic freedom and related values. The network is headquartered in New York (New York University).

Member rights and obligations

- Commitment to academic freedom: researchers must have the right to work without fear or intimidation
- An official SAR representation: a senior representative is designated to communicate with the SAR head office and network. This includes receiving information about researchers seeking temporary assistance and other network activities.

Activities and opportunities (optional):

- Host lectures, panels and other events including the SAR Speaker Series, in which SAR researchers participate
- Provide a voice for imprisoned, detained or unjustly prosecuted researchers through the "Scholars in Prison Project" or student seminars organised by teachers
- Promote academic freedom through the "SAR Academic Freedom Monitoring Project" and other related research
- Temporarily host threatened researchers (refugees) from countries at war, as temporary visitors, students, researchers or professors. For the most part, universities in the countries concerned have been destroyed (e.g. Syria)
- Participate in SAR conferences and workshops
- Opportunities for student internships and alumni engagements
- Help shape SAR priorities and direction

And there's still a lot to do...

All these actions and projects carried out by Université Grenoble Alpes Refugee Committee are only the start, and unfortunately cannot respond to all the situations that arise, nor to those yet to come.

There is a lot of improvement still to be made in welcoming refugee students and researchers.

Actions that are needed urgently include the recognition of diplomas, the creation of a university certificate for refugees, the financing of FLE diplomas, better integration, scholarship programmes for students, specific aid with housing, greater involvement of students, and improved awareness among university staff...

Welcoming refugees is a major challenge for university missions, but although difficulties remain and are likely to increase, the commitment of the institutes' Presidents and staff ensures that work will continue to improve the situation.

We must focus on cooperation with all national and international partners, associations and communities, as this will help us to put the best possible support systems in place.



Financial partners of the aforementioned projects



Publication date: March 2020

Contact information for students in exile/ COLIBRI welcome desk: info-migrants@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr

Contact information for researchers: communaute-chercheurs-refugies@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr

Website: www.colibri.univ-grenoble-alpes.fr (currently under construction)

Refugee Committee Coordinator: Elisa Glangeaud, Director of International Outreach, Université Grenoble Alpes



Communauté



