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### **1. General overview**

The university of Reunion Island is a French public higher education and research institution, located in the heart of the Indian Ocean. By virtue of its unique geostrategic position it is the only European university in the region. Through its research, international influence, range of courses and student living conditions, the university of Reunion Island has many advantages that enable it to play a key role as an interface between Europe and the Indian Ocean.

It offers courses in 4 main fields:

- Languages ;
- Humanities and social sciences (geography, history, communication, physical education) ;
- Sciences, technology and health (ecology, biology, engineering, building an environment, food sciences, chemistry, computer science, medicine) ;
- Law, economy and business.

Levels of degrees and diplomas awarded are bachelor, vocational bachelor, master, doctorate, engineering, medicine and doctorate.

The university of Reunion Island is based on six sites and composed of 5 faculties, 2 institutes, 1 business school, 1 Engineering School, 1 Teacher School, 1 Observatory of the Sciences of the Universe, 1 training Centre and 1 language Centre.

### **2. Key figures**

- 15,000 students are admitted every year, 7% of whom are international students.
- 500 teachers (excluding temporary teachers)

### **3. University strengths / key projects**

It is a regional center of French and European culture and learning. Reaching out to all countries of the region, the university maintains teaching and research partnerships with Madagascar, Comoros, Seychelles, Mauritius, Australia, and South Africa. It maintains strong ties with Europe, notably through Erasmus+ exchanges (50 partner universities).

Reunion island has infrastructures identical to that of Northern Europe (health care, road networks, industries, shops, hotels and services,...), an exceptional living environment (sea, mountains, volcanic landscapes and tropical forests...) and a diversity of population, cultures and traditions (a part of the population is of Chinese origin).

Concerned by the fulfilment of our students, the university offers libraries with large collections, effective computer equipment and digital resources. The students' integration and wellness is promoted by a whole range of sport, cultural and artistic activities. Our teaching and administrative staffs take particular care of international students : a personal welcome at the airport on their arrival, identified and experienced staffs dedicated to reply to any query and a student's association help them to integrate with a buddy system and several other social activities...

Our research and teaching sectors of excellence are biodiversity, energy, civil engineering, architecture, health, Agri-food industry, Tourism and French as a foreign language.

Our key projects are: the creation of a federal university in the Indian Ocean; a program of students and staff mobilities between our university and higher education and research institutions in the Indian Ocean; several international research projects (FORWARD in the program SWAFS, REACT in H2020 program...)

#### **4. International strategy**

Our international strategy is set in three directions: developing a culture of internationalization within our university, promoting the brand of our university on an international scale and reinforcing links between higher education and research institutions through our "diplomatic" actions.

As the only French university in the Indian Ocean, the university of Reunion Island seeks to reflect Europe and its democratic policies and practices.

#### **5. Research**

3 Research federations and 21 laboratories :

- The first federation focuses on the field of Arts, Social Sciences and the Humanities ;
- The second federation concentrates on the observation, dynamics and development of natural environments ;
- The third is devoted to the study and enhancement of biodiversity in the south-west Indian Ocean in terms of human, animal and plant health.

All of these research activities are carried out in partnership with leading French institutions, in particular through joint research units. The institute of Research for Development (IRD), the French National Meteorological Service, the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), the Centre for International Cooperation in Agricultural Research for Development (CIRAD), the National Institute of Health and Medical Research (INSERM) and the Institute of Earth Physics of Paris (IPGP). With its partners the University of Reunion Island offers state-of-the-art research platforms, with a plant protection division, a cyclotron, a satellite-assisted environmental monitoring station and an atmospheric observation station.

#### **6. Entrepreneurship**

Our university is well integrated in the professional sector through its involvements in social and professional organisations (MEDEF, CGPME, ADIR, CESER, Club export...). All our schools and faculties offer vocational degrees. P2ER is our service dedicated to help students to develop their entrepreneurial skills.