From the base of Napoleon’s great oak, walk down to the stone bench situated nearby.

1. CONTROL AND MAINTENANCE OF TREES
The trees on campus are lovingly tended by the UNIL Parks & Gardens Group. Below are some of the guidelines and practices in connection with their control and maintenance:

- Plant indigenous species.
- Check the state of health of trees on a regular basis.
- Where possible preserve the tree’s natural deportment when pruning.
- Cut back rationally to protect the tree (mainly dead wood) making clean cuts and cuts of small cross-sectional diameter to avoid the onset of rot.
- Look after century-old trees, not least Napoleon’s great oak, which is more than two centuries old. To stabilise the tree, 120 metres of guy ropes were installed in the early 2000s.

This system, changed in 2012, is a so-called static system. A second example is the giant sequoia located near the Anthropole building, which was struck by lightning around ten years ago. It has since grown some new shoots however and is regularly checked to monitor its growth. A third example is the avenue of plane trees, which also receives special attention.

From this bench, walk up the pebble path and continue straight on. At the crossroads where the trees and shrubs end, turn left along the straight path. After 100 metres, follow the path on the right which takes you down to the Biophore building and cross a small car park. At the fork in the paths, turn right. At the next fork, you arrive at a sort of roundabout.

2. PRESENTATION OF DIFFERENT AREAS AND THEIR MANAGEMENT BY THE PARKS & GARDENS GROUP
Presentation of different areas and their management by the Parks & Gardens Group

The campus extends over 90 hectares, most of which is green space. Leaving aside its infrastructures, it consists of six types of green area which blend harmoniously together (from this roundabout you can see the first four types in the list below):

- Farming areas consisting of fields and meadows, where the grass is kept short by sheep or cattle. Pastureland is situated in particular near the main buildings (Internef, Amphipôle, Biophore, etc). To show that this type of extensive maintenance is the fruit of policy rather than simple neglect, the edges of grassland bordering footpaths are marked out by regular mowing.

UNIL was founded in 1537. In the 1960s, the State of Vaud purchased the land of the Dorigny estate from a well-established family. The decision to locate the University outside the town was based on a bold projection of major increases in student numbers, which ultimately proved accurate (+600% in 40 years). Despite this large increase, the campus has retained the rustic feel of the former estate, with a stunning mosaic of green landscapes maintained by the Parks & Gardens Group.
- Ecological compensation areas, which can be found for example behind and in front of the Unithèque building and near the Biophore building (to the right of the Amphipôle from this roundabout). Here, haymaking does not take place until after 15 June and sheep graze only from 1st September to encourage biodiversity, allowing insects to reproduce for example.

Relaxation areas, where the grass is mown 12 to 15 times a year. In these areas, traditional lawns are increasingly being replaced with meadows. This is the case for example around the farm and the Château de Dorigny.

Wooded areas extending over 12 hectares which are operated by UNIL (although they are administered by the forest ranger). Three aspects are highlighted in their management: ecology (preservation of undergrowth behind the Unithèque, consisting of old trees such as beech, oak and ash, encouraging new growth, etc), safety (regular checks on trees within a radius of 30 metres of footpaths) and public access (through the creation of new forest paths).

A small vine-growing area (near the Anthropole building).

Extensive sports grounds (near the lake).

Generally it is fair to say that with each passing year, these different areas are managed with ever greater tolerance for nature. Where possible, large areas (meadows and ecological compensation areas) favourable to biodiversity are encouraged. No green spaces have been chemically treated since 2011, except for some plots of lawn, where such practices are nevertheless strictly controlled.

The general principle applied to all vegetation (trees, shrubs and plants) is based on encouraging indigenous species. For plants, more perennial, hardy varieties are preferred to annuals. Quickset hedges (where undergrowth is not cut) consist of blackthorn, hornbeam, viburnum, dogwood, yew, etc.

From this roundabout, continue straight on. At the next crossroads, follow the narrow footpath ahead of you (starts slightly to the right). Follow this winding main path. At the very end of the path and the building, turn right up a wider, climbing path. At the top of the incline, follow the path which takes you closest to the wooden building.

At the top of the steps, veer sharply right by the side of the metro track. But before this, cast your eyes across the tracks to Mouline Farm.

PARKS & GARDENS GROUP AND ITS MAIN TASKS
The Parks & Gardens Group is part of the UNIBAT Service which is based at Mouline Farm. In 2015, it is composed of eight full-time employees who carry out a wide variety of tasks throughout the seasons. Some of these, such as the pruning of large trees, require help from outside firms. Before detailing some of the main tasks carried out by gardeners, it is worth noting that green spaces on the UNIL campus (with the exception of sports grounds) undergo no chemical treatment. This policy creates more work for the gardeners, but ensures preservation of the natural surroundings as well as encouraging biodiversity.

Throughout the year, gardeners keep the Dorigny site looking its best by maintaining the different green areas (lawns, meadows, woods, vines, etc) as well as the campus’s different access roads and footpaths (including de-icing in winter). They are also in charge of keeping the site clean. Spring is the time for planting flowerbeds, fruit trees, etc, and the first lawn mowing. In summer, plants are watered where necessary and meadows are mown. Shrubs and bushes are cut back in the autumn, while this job is reserved for fruit trees and larger trees more generally in the winter.

Follow the metro track, then at the fork follow the small road down to your right. At the bottom on your right you will see some vines.

DORIGNY VINES
Planted in 1991 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the conversion of the Academy of Lausanne into a University, these vines consist of around 400 vine stocks of Chasselas, the region’s leading grape variety. One bottle per year and per stock is produced under the supervision of a wine-grower, Mr Pellichet from Féchy. Stamped Dorigny, the bottles contain a white wine which is served at UNIL events. The vines have been grown organically since 2012, although the grapes are not made into wine using an organic process.

Continue along the small road and cross over the river by the bridge. Then take the path immediately on your left. This path quickly divides into two. Keep to the right along the small curved path.

HEDGES AND FLOWERS
To round off the general impression of greenery on the campus, particular attention is paid by the Parks & Gardens Group to hedges and flowers. This is the case on both sides of the path, with hedges and boxtree coppices, small trees such as hornbeams, but also periwinkle on the ground and hydrangeas, with large sculpted leaves and pink flowers with four petals. As opposed to annuals or bi-annuals, hardy plants (or perennials) last for several years. They germinate most often at the start of the summer, develop stems and leaves which generally die in winter; however in contrast to annuals, they reappear the following spring, and repeat this cycle.

Pass by the terrace of the Château de Dorigny with its white facade, then turn right after crossing a double boxtree hedge. Climb the steps facing you, then continue straight on. At the Unicentre building, look to your right slightly above ground level.

INSECT HOTELS
In 2012, nine insect hotels made out of larch by the Parks & Gardens Group were installed on campus. This system encourages solitary bees, ladybirds, earwigs, etc. In winter, it can serve as a refuge for species that feel the cold, while in spring it allows certain species to reproduce. Over and above this direct action to encourage biodiversity, the introduction of these wooden insect hotels also has an undeniable impact on the landscape; it also encourages questions from curious passers-by.

Here from the Unicentre building, you can see the imposing Napoleon’s oak in the distance.