

CHARTER OF THE PROTESTANT UNIVERSITY CENTRE *PLANÈTE BLEUE*

Planète Bleue, the earth seen from space consisting of several continents inhabited by diverse peoples and cultures, caught up in a great common adventure. Members of this residence Planète Bleue will share in the awareness of the planetary dimension.

Why Planète Bleue

The University of Lausanne (UNIL) and the Swiss Polytechnic School of Lausanne (EPFL) offer students exceptional premises and infrastructure in the suburbs of the City. However this geographical location and the academic rhythm cause students with heavy schedules go home immediately after work and it is not always easy to create contacts and communicate with others. This sometimes results in a loneliness and a strong absence of communal and social life.

Taking this situation into account, the student residence *Planète Bleue* mainly aims at offering its lodgers the opportunity to live the adventure of a communal experience. The ambition of *Planète Bleue* is to promote contact with a view to human, cultural and intellectual enrichment.

Vocations of Planète Bleue

The aim of *Planète Bleue* is to be a ***Centre***, that is a place of rest, of meeting, of exchange, a place of support. *Planète Bleue* offers different spaces : private rooms combined with communal spaces; the apartments. Each apartment groups several rooms around a kitchen and a common living room. In the middle of the house, where all flats converge, a large space, the patio, promotes meetings, exchanges and gatherings. It is the heart of *Planète Bleue* and acts as a link between lodgers and a bridge towards the outside world.

Planète Bleue is a ***University Centre***. It is intended for students especially. It also serves the whole academic community through the activities it offers. A link between city and campus, *Planète Bleue* must convey and reflect the debates and questions that these spaces generate. In an environment that honours thought and the acquisition of knowledge, the specific vocation of *Planète Bleue* is to take into account human beings globally, promoting interactions between knowledge, savoir-faire and good manners, while integrating the spiritual dimension of human beings.

Finally, *Planète Bleue* is a ***Protestant University Centre***. This term refers to its protestant identity, which in the contemporary protestant reflection, wishes to open to a plurality of life forms, religions and cultures, to a meeting of different thoughts, experiences and people in order to study the roots and heritage of them all. It follows the path of an open-minded church that keeps a close watch on the challenges of today's world. If the Gospel has something to tell the contemporary world, the contemporary world also has something to teach it. The strong present wish for ethics coupled with our questions about society, the demands related to a global education of individuals, the convergence of different cultures, interreligious dialogue as well as the quest for an incarnated more personal and free spirituality with respect to the traditional structures are as many challenges that have to be taken up.

Whom is Planète Bleue for

Planète Bleue attaches much importance to welcoming foreign students. It cares for students from far abroad, more particularly from third world countries and countries from the eastern part of Europe. However, it must ensure a good balance between Swiss, European and non-European students. Confessional adherences cannot be a criterion of admission, but it is necessary to people who wish to live at *Planète Bleue* to accept to belong to a multicultural community and to take an interest in a project of responsible communal life.

Generally, the length of stay at *Planète Bleue* is limited to 2 years.

Planète Bleue, roles and responsibilities of all partners

The house manager ensures lodging functioning, initiates, proposes and coordinates activities that encourage meetings and exchanges between student-lodgers and other members of the university community. The manager welcomes the tenants and helps students when necessary, ensures cooperation between the different apartments, represents authority, and acts as a mediator.

The lodgers stay at *Planète Bleue* first of all to study. Their room, a private space, allows them to work and rest. But *Planète Bleue* also proposes a project that focuses on care and open-mindedness towards others, respect of others, solidarity and sharing of experiences and responsibilities. To achieve this aim, lodgers take part in the house life. Each will find the kind of commitment that is agreeable to her-him, the manner in which s-he wants to share her-his experience and culture, he-his enthusiasm and interests. All lodgers can take part in the activities of the Centre or organise and animate an evening, a meeting or a week-end on a regular basis or from time to time.

Planète Bleue, a different student house

Welcoming students in their differences and cultural, religious and human richness, *Planète Bleue* contributes to the development of personal respect, solidarity between people, cultures and religions. It is intended to be a living sign of goodwill and conviviality.