Founded in 1875, Facultés libres de l’Ouest is a comprehensive university that offers academic programs leading to diplômes d’état (French state diplomas) and diplômes d’université (university-specific credentials). UCO enrolls more than 12,000 students on six campuses: the main campus in Angers and branches in Vannes/Arradon, Guingamp, Laval, La Reunion and Papeete. The combined faculty numbers more than 400.

Main programmes of study

Biology and environmental studies, mathematics, computer science, languages, French as a foreign language, literature, history, fine arts, psychology, sociology, business management, business administration, environmental management, ecology sustainable development, communications, education and teaching methods, physical education and athletics, theology and religious studies, music.

Research

Research is being carried out under the auspices of the Centre for Research. This research cluster consists of 4 departments:

- Letters, languages, history, and arts
- Humanities and social sciences
- Science and technology
- Theology and religious studies

Strengths

The university’s international office welcomes, supports, and advises international students (French as a foreign language, exchange programs, and so on). Each year, UCO’s Centre International d’Etudes Françaises (CIDEF) welcomes more than 1,500 students who come to study French language and culture. The university maintains a health center that provides medical services, housing assistance, and counseling.

Location

Facultés libres de l’Ouest is located in the center of Angers, a city of 156,000 residents, of whom 30,000 are students. Accessible in size and rich in history, Angers has a youthful, university-town atmosphere. Angers is an hour and a half by train from Paris. The Angers airport provides direct service to Charles de Gaulle Airport at Roissy.