

Who are we?

Facts & Figures

In the French panorama of Higher education our higher Education institution is special and atypical.

Country with a population of 68 million inhabitants, France has very few catholic higher education institutions which don't hide their identity and deepen it.

A small college

With almost **500 students** Ircom is one of the smallest and oldest French College that came into being in **1984**.

40 years of future!

We have a small number of students with friendly, family-like and good-humored atmosphere. We boost strong peer connections, great friendships, life-long bonds. Our Tight-knit community is opened to the world.

Small classes which it provides closeness and interactions with teachers, stronger student's engagement...

Ircom makes up of nearly 300 **workers**:

- 40 full-time faculty and staff members work at Ircom.
- We employ about 250 non-tenured faculty.

Our **operating budget** is in 2023-2024 5 million of euros.

Number of living **alumni**: 3,000+.

The impact of our work is visible and invisible but effective.

A worldwide alumni and professional network: a leverage far greater than our size.

We are a drop of calcareous water, a stalactite building its work of calcite which with humility is of service to the nation and to the world.

Development strategy

When we reach a critical size (350-400 students in the same campus) – which is the size that allows us to monitor and help students and maintain a family spirit and that allows us to avoid anonymity – we only plan to expand elsewhere like cell division process.

In the years ahead we plan to open a new campus in Bordeaux.

Our degrees respond to needs we have heard and that were expressed to us, they were created to meet demand. We go where opportunities and Providence call us.

Where are we? Ircom's locations

Our Main campus (4 hectares) is situated in France, in the town of **Angers**.

Angers ranks first among French most attractive – for quality of life – cities excluding Paris;
Best French large city for quality of student life;
Greenest French city.

A few kilometers from **Loire Valley World Heritage**;

► 90 km from Nantes, 140 km from Atlantic Ocean;

► **300 km southwest of Paris**;

► **By High-Speed Rail: 1 hr, 20 min from Paris**; 2 hr, 30 min from Paris-Charles de Gaulle airport; 1 hr from Nantes-Atlantique airport.

An Area of outstanding universal cultural value: History, Châteaux, Gardens, Vineyards (the Loire Valley wine region is the 3rd French vineyard);

Cradle of the Plantagenet dynasty (Eleanor of Aquitaine, Richard I known as «Richard the Lionheart»)...

Anjou reigned in England, Jerusalem, Naples, Sicily, Hungary; founded Montreal...

Within a radius of around 150 kilometers lived all French monarchs in the XV and XVI centuries, Saint Hilary of Poitiers, Saint Martin of Tours, Saint Gregory of Tours, Joan of Arc, Leonardo da Vinci, François Rabelais, Joachim Du Bellay, Pierre de Ronsard, Honoré de Balzac, Alfred de Vigny, Jules Verne, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, Anatole France, Jean Bodin, René Descartes, Théophraste Renaudot, Ambroise Paré, René Laennec, Denis Papin, Amédée Bollée, Louis Renault, Bertrand Du Guesclin...

We are an Angers Loire Campus member <https://angersloirecampus.fr/> : an organization, a local network gathering 19 higher education and research institutions of Angers Loire Metropole Urban Community.

Angers is the

- 3rd biggest student town in France in terms of the ratio of students to the general population;

- 4th French city for the wide range of higher education programs;

- 5th biggest student town in France

<https://www.angers-developpement.com/meet-angers/higher-education-research/?lang=en>

Our 2nd campus is situated in France, in the town of **Lyon**.

Lived in Lyon the roman emperors Claude, Caracalla and Gratien; François Rabelais; Antoine de Jussieu; Jean-Baptiste Say; André-Marie Ampère; the brothers Auguste et Louis Lumière; Antoine de Saint-Exupéry; Paul Bocuse; Saint Irenaeus; Saint Blandina; Blessed Pauline Jaricot; Blessed Frédéric Ozanam...

The Historic Site of Lyon is inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Lyon is the 2nd largest student city in France.

Our 3rd campus is situated in Cameroon, in the capital city **Yaounde**.

Our smallest one opened in September 2014 for African students from Central-West Africa.

Mission & Vision – Catholic identity

We are a private coeducation catholic-inspired higher education institution that was launched for the purposes

- of helping students to thrive, to become fully flourishing human persons,
- of giving them confidence in the future,
- of encouraging and training independent thinkers, changemakers, enthusiastic students of keen intellect to take on responsibilities and to commit themselves to the common good in service to human society.

We are not dependent on any Church institution;

We try to have a catholic vision of humanity and education. This spirit is the impetus of our work;

Mass, rosary and daily adoration of the Blessed Sacrament are proposed;

One retreat program is proposed annually;

One yearly pilgrimage is proposed;

80 % of our undergraduate students are practicing catholic and about 60 % of our MA students, we welcome a diverse body of students;

We increase student awareness on ethical issues to enrich professional practice;

Our teaching is rooted in the catholic social teaching and steeped in the catholic intellectual tradition, in the western intellectual heritage.

Ircom was toyed with the idea of founding a sort of experimental, laboratory at a human scale, vibrant, joy-filled, agile, versatile, without anonymity, with reduced red tape, to serve an integral approach to education and to human person formation.

Ircom is devoted to pursuing intellectual and professional excellence, active growth of individual talents and skills and to opening student's hearts to others. Teachers, academic advisors, academic staff, students well-taught and well-loved are being asked to raise the bar for themselves.

One of our former motto was: «*La personne pour vocation*, the person as vocation».

We put the dignity of the human person as a foundational value.

Now we highlight that Ircom is the school of humanities and management: management can't live without the humanities, but the humanities can do without management. The humanities bring humanity to management. We have gained a 40-year one-of-a-kind experience at the service of people and society, helping humanely the human being with humanities.

International/global education is in our blood

Ircom preceded the trendy, *a la mode*, phenomenon of internationalization of higher education. Ircom's international policy is an integral part of its identity. Ircom has long been engaged in international activities, has a long history of global/education education. From its beginnings Ircom has had an international inflection. In 1986, the school took part in the

activities of the International Flying University in a dozen countries, including the U.S.S.R. in 1989. From the outset, Ircom welcomed exchange and foreign students.

The Patron saints of our degrees are emblematic names borrowed from great world figures: the visionary American Marshall Mac Luhan, describing the globalized communication of the world *global village*; the German Albert the Great, European ahead of his time; the Spanish-Guatemalan Pedro de Béthencourt, initiator of multifaceted social and humanitarian aid in Central America.

As a catholic higher education institution – the word «catholic» comes from a Greek word *katholikos* meaning «universal» – Ircom has a Christian worldview with inquiring mind and the desire for encounters.

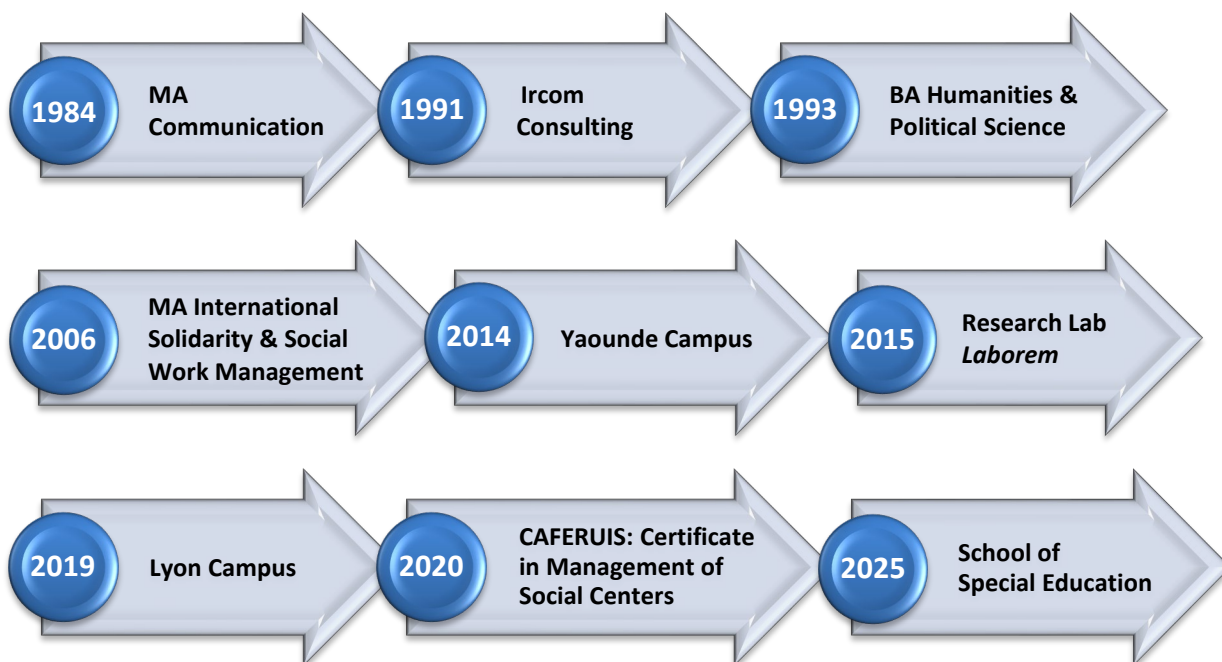
So Ircom placed growing emphasis on internationalization since its establishment and has partnership around the world with about 50 universities and colleges.

In 2023-2024 our students completed internships or studied in 32 different countries. These study experiences and internships foster an understanding of the people and cultures.

In 2023-2024 about 30% of our students had an abroad experience during their studies at Ircom.

Ircom belongs to 3 international federations: the European Union of Private Higher Education (EUPHE) with about 700 non-state higher education institutions and about 1,4 million students; the International Council of Universities of St Thomas Aquinas (ICUSTA) with 32 members; and the *Association Européenne des Facultés Libres* (AEFLIB) with 10 members.

History





Academics/Programs/Study

Ircom offers 4 undergraduate programs and 2 graduate programs.

Master in Communication Management since 1984

We provide students the opportunity to complete a *Master in Communication Management* in 2 years.

40 years' recognized expertise in Communication and in Management.

Students can pursue a communication management generalist and focus the degree in 1 of our 3 concentrations/specialisms (*parcours*):

- Public and Political Communication
- Digital Marketing
- Ecological and social transition

This master was founded in 1984 in response to the wishes expressed by Pope John Paul II who was encouraging Christians to get involved in social communications. At that time communication was rarely taught.

BA in Humanities & Political Science since 1993

We offer since 1993 a selective and intensive curriculum in Humanities and Political Science in 3 years. Students graduate with a *B.A in Humanities and Political Science*.

How to make politics without questioning the nature of man? How to make politics without thinking about right, wrong or truth? How to make politics without studying the masterpieces bequeathed to us by humanity? Early specialization makes impossible a unitive conception of man.

This program with a broad general knowledge and focusing on academic and human excellence is the first and still unique French program combining such academic subjects (Humanities and Political Science).

We propose to our students a blend of courses in these two academic cores with in-depth work and ideas wrestling to learn to be thinkers in their own right. But human formation, not only academic formation, matters to us. We offer to our students vocational training workshop, and they have to be socially and culturally engaged during their Academic years. Our tutoring enhances student's ability to work and also helps them to accomplish their long-term goals.

These BA students represent over 70% of our total student body.

This creation responded to the pressing need for humanities, general culture. Concerns were raised by business leaders regarding the effects of this lack of humanistic knowledge in companies.

For the moment our interdisciplinary program, with wide range of academic subjects, doesn't include sciences courses but we will introduce one or two subjects in the near future.

In the two first years, students therefore take classes in French Literature, Comparative Literature, Theater (we organize our own theater festival each year in May), Linguistics, Foreign languages, Latin, History of European Civilization, History of art, Philosophy, metaphysics, Theology, Patristic, Economics, Law, History of Political Thought, Political philosophy, European institutions, French Public Institutions, Geopolitics and International Relations. All these attended courses are taught in French. We offer two kinds of French Language courses: spelling and language tandems.

Each year in second year BA we have our annual Academic student symposium during 4 days which delves into an interdisciplinary theme. All our scholars propose several research topics directly related to the year theme. Students write a research essay/paper and defend and share it with an audience filled with scholars, special guests and all first and second year BA students. Exchange students can access to this academic experience which resembles medieval *disputatio*.

With this small-scale program our objective is to give our students a well-rounded academic and human experience, the necessary background in learning through the study of the classics and tradition of Humanities. We aim, as well, to impart to students social and cross-cultural skills with internships and one compulsory stay abroad in third year. All our 3rd year BA students have to study abroad during the 1st semester and they have to do an internship in France or abroad during the 2nd semester. In France, we have pioneered this style of overseas studies program.

Master in International Solidarity & Social Work Management since 2006

Founded in 2006 our *MA in International Solidarity and Social Work Management* proposes a 2-year degree in social work and humanitarian management.

Our Master prepares, shapes humanitarians, social workers, humanitarian and social leaders to respond to the increasing and continuous needs for qualified workers and managers in humanitarian and social relief, international and social development. The program strives to enhance the skillset of humanitarian and social sector.

Seasoned humanitarian and social professional train our students in qualifications suited to addressing, tackling complex humanitarian and social needs and challenges. Critical thinking, identification and resolution of ethical issues, career-ready skills, practicum/field experience (2 long immersive internships enrich the coursework) are emphasized.

Our graduated students are alumni who stand out, who make an impact. They manage humanitarian and social efforts holding positions of responsibility. The MA propel them into such management positions.

Students gain deeper knowledge and competencies in 4 specific areas with 2 optional concentrations/specialisms in the 1st year MA and 2 optional concentrations/specialisms in the 2nd year MA:

- 1st year MA
 - Humanitarian health program management
 - Project management in childhood and education
- 2nd year MA
 - Logistics and humanitarian strategy
 - Social and Solidarity Economy

Our Master is recognized as one of the best for preparing frontline humanitarian and social managers and as the unique of its kind dedicated to humanitarian and social responses.

We have nearly 20 years renowned and worldwide expertise in Humanitarian Action, International Solidarity, Social Work recognized by NGOs and government agencies involved in humanitarian operations and/or social work.

Certificate in Management of Social Centers since 2020

Since 2020 we issue another professional education/training degree which is *Certificate of Aptitude for Management of Social Intervention Unit* or shorter: *Certificate in Management of Social Centers* (*Certificat d'Aptitude aux Fonctions d'Encadrement et de Responsable d'Unité d'Intervention Sociale – CAFERUIS*).

School of Special Education to open in 2025

Our School of Special Education (3-year degree) will train specialized educators to support young people with physical or mental disabilities, behavioral problems, social difficulties. They will help them to become independent. They will contribute to their personal development and to their integration into society.

Teaching methods and pedagogy

Our wholistic and innovative teaching methods and pedagogy are conducive to the development of human being in all his dimensions.

Our pedagogy is grounded in:

- tutorials, face-to-face contacts with professor and Progress tutors/advisers;
- workshops;
- dedicated top-notch Faculty and Staff: responsiveness, timely replies and achievements; reduced red tape, adaptability and flexibility;
- evolving (continuous improvement) and innovating programs with speedy implementation for 40 years;

- standing back from day-to-day pace of life;
- self-awareness seminar/self-Knowledge workshop;
- fine critical thinking and commitment;
- well-rounded academic and human experience;
- multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary studies applied to tackle questions and to solve problems;
- common core day: inter-degrees day gathering the whole Ircom's people (faculty, staff, students) to work towards building a more united community, fulfilling better our school's mission, infusing the sense of commitment;
- extensive hands-on and real-world experience;
- internships and apprenticeships;
- student projects;
- academic Field Trips;
- simulations, case studies;
- learning weeks/creativity week.

Quality and recognition

With reference to **Employability** the rate is 80 % for Graduate Employability. Graduates are employed within 6 months of graduation.

We can rely on a **network of partner companies** that may or may not be our clients /customers. In addition, Ircom has always been able to enlist the help of **local politicians**.

Thanks to a high-quality teaching, individual attention, personalized tutoring and academic advising, our **examinations pass rate** is nearly 100%. Our cohorts do not exceed 65 students which it provides closeness and interactions with teachers.

Ircom holds **accreditation** from French Ministry of National Education, Higher Education and Research (EESPIG), from Ministry for Labour, Employment, Vocational Training and Industrial Relations (RNCP: national directory of professional certifications) and from Ministry of Social Affairs.

Research

In 2015 we launched **our research activity** with our laboratory *Laborem*.

Our top-tier research areas are:

- **Labor/work** with a chair in « Living Labor/Work Management»
- **Culture and Heritage** with a chair in «Living Culture and heritage»
- **Humanities / Political science / Communication / Education / International solidarity and social work.**

Ircom is committed to basic and applied research on **Work** – with collaborative approach – and with particular strengths in management, leadership, «Living Work (*travail vivant*)» concept, the person at work, well-being at work, work meaning, meaningfulness at work, ethics and anthropology, workplaces, working communities, work psychology, social

psychology, career guidance, organizational strategy, HR strategy, interpersonal communication.

This research of our laboratory Laborem is focusing on providing solutions to companies many of which with international outreach. We carry out research in their workplace with cutting-edge proposals steeped in human dignity/a Christian meaning of man. Our research bridges the gap between theory and company's reality and enriches our ongoing training/Lifelong learning offer in Management, Communication, Humanitarian and Social fields.

Ircom develops a conception of the human being based on the concepts of unity, dignity, openness to transcendence, intelligence and vulnerability. Ircom is led by a personalist anthropology rooted in social ties and in the best of the full-fledged catholic intellectual tradition. Our school draws from catholic social teaching to contribute to providing solutions to the ever-growing challenges. This guiding force influences our quest for truth and assumes consent to reality.

It is therefore a living anthropology in pursuit of the common good that drives us.

Our «**Living Culture and Heritage**» Chair is an endowed chair designed to study, to highlight and enhance the European culture and heritage. Is dedicated to fostering cross-disciplinary cutting-edge cultural projects and contemporary creations combining accessible research, performing arts with the aim of better understanding the reality, the current society and in order to better act in the future. In short, cultural research and performance arts for the general public.

Our other research areas:

Humanities. Currently Faculty engage in 3 research focuses/topics: catholic literature (Péguy); philosophy (Chesterton); theology (Saint Gregory the Great).

Political science. Currently Faculty engage in 1 research focus/topic: yellow vest movement.

Communication. Currently Faculty engage in 2 research focuses/topics: Catholic Church's thinking on communication; The papal conclave (1958-2013): rite and communication.

Ircom consulting and tailor-made trainings

In **1991**, at the request of companies, we created **Ircom Consulting**.

This activity partly finances our operations.

This Ircom's department came into being not only striving to meeting the demands of our friend companies and organizations but also to share with the outside world our human adventure of educational transformation.

Ircom has been provided tailor-made training programs in **management** – with a vast scope of expertise – designed to and aligned with the needs of communities and organizations for almost 40 years. We offer not off-the-shelf, ready-made, programs but a fully bespoke training course.

Our faculty and consultants work toward **evidence-based solutions** that can generate short-term enhancements.

Our **guiding principles** are:

- Personalist approach,
- Listening to and taking into account reality,
- Asserting that people are responsible actors,
- Taking complexity into account,
- Interdisciplinary approaches, blurred lines between disciplines, teaming up,
- Harnessing the results of research,
- Research and trainings feed on each other,
- Seasoned consultants,
- A deep-seated passion for helping organizations drawing inspiration from Christian humanism.