

Press Release

Under embargo until 19 May 2023 - 2 pm



Official launch

at the French Residence in London on 19 May 2023

On 19 May 2023, Mme Hélène Duchêne, French Ambassador to the United Kingdom, officially launched *Lumière !*, a new initiative bringing together under a single banner all our actions to support mobility to the UK in the fields of cultural and scientific cooperation.

“Speak to peoples, speak to young people, overhaul, renew ourselves, do more, engage in outreach. In a word, we must modernize. That means defining innovative models for a diplomacy of influence. For example, in the United Kingdom, where I’ve come from, we’re launching the Lumière ! programme.” – Catherine Colonna, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs.

“Lumière ! is a timely and necessary initiative which is part of a drive to give our cultural, scientific and academic diplomacy a new lease of life” – Hélène Duchêne, French Ambassador to the United Kingdom.

This framework programme brings together and spotlights the many **artistic, cultural, academic and scientific cooperation activities** carried out by the French Embassy in the UK, the *Institut français du Royaume-Uni* in London, the *Institut français d’Ecosse* in Edinburgh and the *Maison française d’Oxford*.

Developed in collaboration with numerous **British partners**, the programmes also draw on a network of **host venues and residencies** such as the *Maison française*, the European Bioinformatics Institute and Churchill College, Cambridge.

Aimed at **artists, writers, students, researchers and professionals in the cultural and creative industries**, the Lumière ! programme deploys a broad spectrum of provision, detailed in the (non-exhaustive) list below.

Visual arts and design

- Franco-British fund **Fluxus Art Projects**, for exhibition venues and curators
- **Magnetic** artists’ residency programme, launched in 2022 under the aegis of Fluxus
- Meet-the-professionals sessions **Art Matters, Design in an Expanded Field, Look-Out** and **(Re)thinking pedagogies**

Theatre and dance

- **Cross-Channel Theatre** programme for the translation into English of Francophone playwrights' texts
- **En Scène !** programme to support French performances

Music

- **Diaphonique** trilateral support fund (France/UK/Ireland) for contemporary classical music
- **Les Salons en Musique**, a series of concerts involving chamber music and contemporary experimentation

Publishing

- **Burgess** publication assistance programme, which supports the release of some 15 titles translated from French in the UK every year
- discussion series **Books For Thought** in the field of humanities and social sciences
- **B2B meetings** organized with the *Bureau international de l'édition française*, particularly during the London Book Fair

Cinema and broadcasting

- **broadcasting discussion** and immersion programmes in partnership with the CNC and BFI
- **ICC Immersion** programme

Student mobility

- **scholarships** at the *Maison française d'Oxford* and the **European Bioinformatics Institute** in Cambridge
- **France Alumni** networks

Research

- **seed meetings** to initiate or strengthen bilateral cooperation projects between research-team coordinators
- **Hubert Curien programme** for developing scientific and technological exchanges between French and British laboratories
- **Churchill College Fellowship**, a programme for hosting French researchers
- **French Education and Research Network**

Further information

[Lumière ! brochure](#)

[French Embassy website](#)

[Institut français du Royaume-Uni website](#)

Press contacts

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