

# LAURA COOLS

PHD RESEARCHER - LAW

Date and place of birth:  
25/07/1996; Torhout (Belgium)

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## EDUCATION -

### Certificate Children's Rights

(post-graduate course – 2021;  
UCLouvain e.a.)

### Bachelor and Master of Laws

(2014-2019; Ghent University)

### LLM Master of Laws (Partly)

(2018; Exchange at University of  
Waikato, New Zealand)

### Masterclasses Debating

(2017; Debatunie NL)

### Museum Guide Training

(2014; Syntra West)

### High School (ASO)

(2008-2014; Sint-Rembert  
Scholengroep Torhout)

### Music Academy

(2006-2013; STAP Roeselare;  
Guitar and Music theory)

## Professional experience

### Guardian unaccompanied minors • FPS Justice

*June 2021 - Present*

- ✓ Legal representative of unaccompanied minors

### Debate and public speaking coach • Freelance / Volunteer

*January 2021 - Present*

- ✓ Training high school and university students in public speaking and debating skills
- ✓ Organising debating tournaments for schools and universities

### PhD Researcher • Migration Law • UCLouvain

*January 2020 – present*

- ✓ PhD research in the field of migration law (subject: the application of the best interests of the child principle in migration matters).
- ✓ Teaching assistant for the methodology course in the Bachelor of Law programme.
- ✓ Affiliated researcher to Ghent University and Université de Namur
- ✓ List of publications: see p. 3.

### Policy and Communications Advisor • Trainee • European Parliament

*September – December 2019*

- ✓ Policy and communications advisor to Kathleen Van Brempt, member of the European Parliament.

### City Councillor • Koekelare

*January 2019 - Present*

- ✓ (Youngest) Elected member of the city council in Koekelare. People's representative for the social democratic party.

## Student jobs and engagements

### Vice-president • Jongsocialisten België

*2019 – Present*

- ✓ Jongsocialisten is the Youth organisation of the Belgian political party "Vooruit".

### Founder and president debating society • Debatclub Gent

*2016-2019*

- ✓ Debatclub Gent is a student association organising debate and public speaking workshops and taking part in (international) debating competitions.

### Co-Founder Students for Climate Belgium

*2019*

- ✓ Climate movement, taking part in the mass climate school strikes in Belgium.

## LANGUAGES –

- ✓ **Dutch:** mother tongue
- ✓ **French:** very good (High Laureate French Olympics 2014 and PhD Research in French)
- ✓ **English:** very good (Thesis in English + Exchange in New Zealand)
- ✓ **German:** basic knowledge
- ✓ **Latin:** passive knowledge

## SKILLS –

- ✓ Very good communication skills
- ✓ Positive-minded
- ✓ Excellent language skills
- ✓ Motivated teamworker
- ✓ Enterprising and energetic
- ✓ Good sense of leadership and responsibility
- ✓ Politically engaged
- ✓ Very good legal analysing and legal research skills
- ✓ Excellent academic writing skills
- ✓ Proficiency in pleading, debating and public speaking.
- ✓ Autodidact

**Inter-American Human Rights Mootcourt Competition** • American University – Washington College of Law (US)

*September 2017 – June 2018*

- ✓ As a member of the Ghent University team, I took part in a international mootcourt (pleading) competition in Washington DC.
- ✓ In preparation, I took the intensive 1-year pleading course 'Mootcourt Human Rights' (15 ECTS), taught by professor dr. Y. Haeck and Belgian lawyer and diplomat A. Van Pachtenbeke.

**Senator** • JPJ Federal Youth Parliament Belgium

*2017 - 2018*

**Legal internship law firm,** • Landuyt-Vandeberghe (Beernem)

*Summer 2017*

**Assisting in academic research** • Prof. dr. I. Claeys (Ghent University)

*01/02/2016 – 30/04/2016*

**Praeses 'debate'** • Minos Gent

*2016 - 2017*

- ✓ Minos Gent is a student society focussing on European politics.

**Children's animator** • Campsite Soleil Levant (France)

*July and August 2014*

- ✓ Providing animation and activities for families and little children in French, Dutch and (sometimes) English.

**Museum Tour Guide and Receptionist** • Käthe Kollwitz Museum and Office of Tourism (Koekelare)

*01/04/2014 – 30/06/2014*

- ✓ Providing guided museum tours and serving as the first point of call for tourists, usually also communicating in French, German or English.

**Semi-professional soccer player** • KSKV Zwevezele, Club Brugge etc.

*Youth – 2017 and 2019 - 2020*

## Publications (until June 2021)

### ACTIVITIES –

- ✓ Climate and social activist
- ✓ Politically engaged
- ✓ Former member of several student societies
- ✓ Soccer player
- ✓ Debating coach
- ✓ Traveller
- ✓ Guitar player
- ✓ Passionate about national, European and international politics

### Articles in peer-reviewed journals

- L. Cools, « Les dimensions matérielles et procédurales du principe de l'intérêt supérieur de l'enfant dans la loi de 1980 sur le séjour des étrangers », *Act.dr.fam.*, à paraître.
- L. Cools, « Kafala, 'descendant direct' et 'autre membre de la famille' : commentaire de l'arrêt S.M. contre Entry Clearance Officer, UK, Visa Section de la Cour de justice de l'Union européenne du 26 mars 2019 », *J.dr.jeun.*, 2019, n° 394, pp. 3 – 10.

### Book chapters

- L. Cools, « L'enfermement d'enfants migrants à la lumière de la jurisprudence belge et strasbourgeoise », in S. Saroléa et A. Sinon (dir.), 20 ans après l'affaire Tabitha. De nouvelles plumes pour analyser la détention d'enfants migrants à la lumière des droits humains, Wavre, Anthémis, pp. 259-289.

### Caselaw commentaries

- L. Cools, « [L'affaire M.A. : la Cour réaffirme la portée large du principe de l'intérêt supérieur de l'enfant dans le contexte de la directive retour](#) », *Cahier de l'EDEM*, avril 2021.
- L. Cools, « [La reconnaissance d'un droit subjectif au rapatriement dans le chef des enfants belges retenus en Syrie : un grand pas en avant](#) », *Cahiers de l'EDEM*, décembre 2020.
- (Co-author) J.-Y. Carlier, L. Cools, E. Frasca, F. Gatta, S. Sarolea, « [Humanitarian visa: does the suspended step of the stork become a hunting permit?](#) », *Cahiers de l'EDEM*, June 2020.